

Investigation reveals pollution in supply chain of Chinese bike-share companies, new Chinese government guidelines will open waste treatment facilities to the public, Blue Map app integrates English function and worldwide air quality data & more [View this email in your browser](#)



As we continue our review of the Corporate Information Transparency Index (CITI) with the aim of improving the tool's clarity and effectiveness, we're also **taking a look at supply chain environmental risks in specific industries**. This month, we conducted an investigation into [supply chain pollution behind the swarms of bicycles being manufactured for bike-share programs](#) that are painting China's streets yellow and orange. The results revealed that **low-carbon products might not necessarily have environmentally-friendly origins**. In coming months, we'll be continuing to look into other industries that pose severe impacts on China's environment, such as household & personal care products, paper and pharmaceuticals.

In this month's newsletter:

- [Investigation reveals pollution in China's bike-share supply chains](#)
- [Chinese government guidelines to open waste treatment plants to the public](#)
- [Blue Map app adds English function, worldwide air quality data](#)

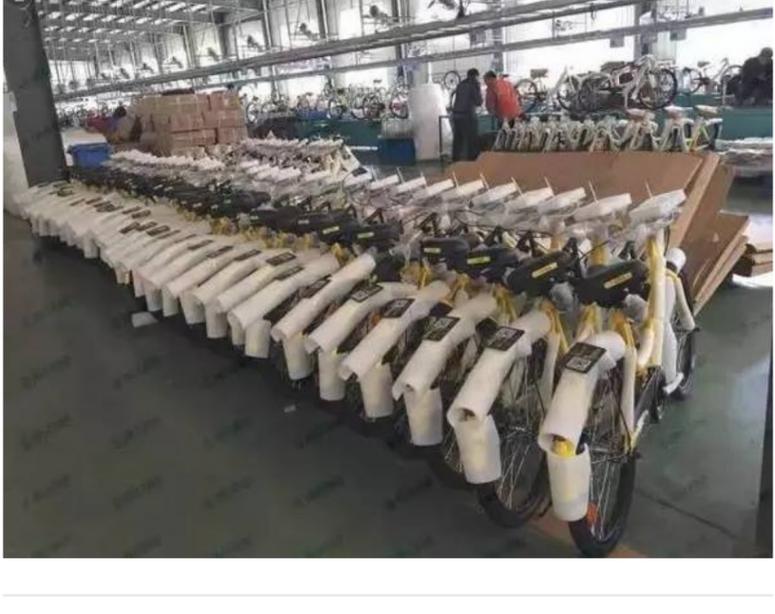
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**Investigation reveals pollution behind 'low-carbon' bike-share startups**



Bike-share startups Ofo, Mobike and others have recently [taken China by storm](#), littering the country's cities with rainbows of public-share bicycles that can be parked free of a docking station and require only the click of an app to unlock. Many of these companies claim that the bikes are eco-friendly by helping to reduce pollution and carbon emissions from motor vehicles. But ironically, **the massive scale of production required to sustain the flow of bikes to urban sidewalks may also bring about detrimental consequences for China's environment**.

A [recent investigation by IPE revealed environmental violations](#) at known suppliers to Ofo, one of the two main market players and producer of the "little yellow bikes," as their cycles are known in Chinese. One of Ofo's main suppliers is Tianjin Fushida Bicycle Col., Ltd., located in Tianjin's Dongli district. The factory recently **received a number of complaints from local residents due to pungent nighttime odors of spray paint and rubber**. Following an investigation by environmental authorities, **three of its six workshops were shut as a result of not having updated air emissions control equipment**. This is not the first time the factory has been penalized: in 2016, the factory was punished for beginning construction before receiving approval of its Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). Apart from this factory, IPE found violations at a number of other bike-share suppliers to Ofo and Mobike for issues ranging from improper mixing of hazardous and domestic waste to air emissions exceeding legal limits. As bike-shares continue to grow in China and even expand internationally, we hope to see these companies also begin paying attention to controlling environmental pollution at the source -- in the [manufacturing segment](#) of the supply chain.

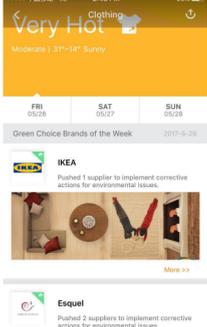


**Chinese government issues guiding opinion for municipal wastewater treatment and environmental protection facilities to be opened to the public**

China's Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP) and Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development (MOHURD) recently issued the [Guiding Opinion on Promoting Environmental Protection Facilities and Municipal Wastewater and Waste Treatment Facilities to Open to the Public](#) (hereafter referred to as the "Guiding Opinion"). The Guiding Opinion **requires local authorities to regularly open four types of environmental protection facilities to the public**, in order to "enable public understanding, support participation in environmental protection, and incite public awareness of environmental responsibility." The four types of facilities include municipal treatment plants for wastewater, household waste, hazardous waste and electronics waste.

The Opinions **build on the basis of 2015 amendments to China's Environmental Protection Law that enshrine the public's environmental right to know and to participate into national policy**. The requirements are set to be implemented before the end of 2017. As reflected in indicators 2.3 and 3.1 on the [Corporate Information Transparency Index \(CITI\)](#), many of these treatment facilities accept wastewater and solid waste from factories that produce for multinationals, thus increasing public supervision toward a segment of the supply chain that represents an environmental hotspot for many companies that source from China.

**Blue Map App adds English function, worldwide real-time air quality data**



We're excited to announce that [the newest upgrade IPE's Blue Map app](#) -- the mobile companion to IPE's online database -- for the first time incorporates an English-language function, as well as global air quality data. The app, which was initially launched in June 2014, provides the public with comprehensive and authoritative information about air and water quality and real-time industrial emissions, and visualizes this data via dynamic maps, to help inform users in making everyday decisions.

Newer versions of the app include modules for public participation, facilitating citizens to report pollution and polluters and giving consumers the data they need to implement green consumption. Consumers can now use the app as a means of accessing concrete data about [brands' efforts to push their suppliers to comply with local environmental laws and regulations](#). The app is updated each week with new data showing which brands have pushed suppliers to issue public feedback toward existing environmental violation records in the past week. Within China, the public can also report polluted bodies of water directly to the government via the "Foul & Filthy Rivers" module to receive an official response in seven working days or less. The app is [available for download for both iOS and Android platforms](#).



**POLICY UPDATES & RESOURCES**

**Policy Updates**

- [One Belt One Road Ecological and Environmental Protection Cooperation Plan](#) (Chinese) (Emphasizes key areas for cooperation surrounding environmental protection in One Belt One Road, including green finance and green supply chain)
- [Interpretation of Three Items in Self-Monitoring Technology Guidelines for Pollution Sources - General Rule](#) (Chinese)
- [China to issue revised set of soil quality standards this year](#) (article - English) (Standards will be revised for the first time since 1995)

**Policy Resources**

- [Environmental Protection Tax Law of the P.R.C.](#) (English)
- [Soil Pollution Action Plan \("Soil Ten"\)](#) (Unofficial English translation)
- [Amendments to China's Air Law \(passed in August 2015\)](#) (English translation)
- ["Water 10" Action Plan \(issued in April 2015\)](#) (English translation)
- [Made in China 2025](#) (policy summary)
- [EU-China Environmental Governance Project Policy Resource Center](#) (Bilingual)
- [China Hazardous Chemicals Management Resource Center](#) (Bilingual)
- [China Law Translate](#) (crowd-sourced English translations of Chinese laws)

**RELATED NEWS AND REPORTS**

[The Future of Sustainability Reporting](#) - *China Water Risk*, May 18, 2017

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IPE's Blue Map 4.0 now available in English! Download by scanning the QR code below:

*Disclaimer: Links are provided for reference only. IPE assumes no responsibility for false or inaccurate information in the materials provided in this newsletter.*

[China is cracking down on air pollution from shipping](#) -- *chinadialogue*, April 20, 2017



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