



FACT SHEET: WATER REUSE

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China is one of 13 countries with extreme water shortages. It is home to 20% of the world's population but only holds 6% of the world's water resources. The water resources are also affected by severe water pollution due to the rapid and unbridled economic growth. With population growth, accelerated industrialization and urbanization, and global climate change, China's water crisis is worsening. Insufficient water supply has become a major obstacle restricting China's economic development.

To meet the growing demands of water use, water reclamation, recycling, and reuse are key components for China to sustain growth. In many regions, great efforts have been made to maximize benefits of utilizing reclaimed water. With advanced wastewater treatment technologies, the reuse potential of reclaimed water has been significantly increased. Meanwhile, the number of issues rose sharply with respect to complexity of implementing water reuse programs. There is still a long way to go in terms of expanding beneficial utilization of reclaimed water while minimizing the public health and environmental risks.

The Minister of Environment Protection has made an effort to push new policies to stimulate the water reuse market and attract investors and financial services. The infrastructures for implementing the water reuse are costly to build and maintain. In the *12th Five Year Plan for Water Pollution Control of Key River Basin* announced by the China's State Council, the expenditure on environmental protection before the end of 2015 is 3.4 trillion RMB (536 billion USD), of which 380 billion RMB (60 billion USD) will go to urban wastewater systems. Water reuse is one of the major components with estimated expenditure of over 22 billion RMB (3.5 billion USD). The *12th Five Year Plan* implies a 14% increase in municipal wastewater investment compared to the previous five-year period. 191 billion RMB (31 billion USD) will be spent to build 2705 new urban wastewater treatment facilities. The projected water reclamation facilities will provide 949 m³/day treatment rates. The utilization rate of reclaimed water will be increased to over 15% before the end of 2015 comparing less than 10% in 2010.

In April 2015, China issued Water Pollution Prevention and Control Action Plan, aiming to curb water environmental quality problems with 10 major measures and sub-measures. By 2020, the milestone targets shall be achieved in terms of reduction of polluted water bodies, improved drinking water quality, control of groundwater pollution, coastal area water quality protection and restoration of environmental ecology in water system. The new plan puts tough control on polluting industries and provide strict supervision over the targeted sectors including: paper & pulp, coking, fertilizer, pesticide, textile dyeing, food processing, leather, pharmacy, electro-plating, and so for. Those industrial sectors also demand waste treatment technological upgrade, emission reduction and achieving clean production.

For years China has continuously improved water reclamation and reuse technologies, introducing a series of encouraging and stimulus policies. The new policies stimulate the growth of domestic business on water reuse and reclamation. It also helps put the focus on wastewater treatment systems using less energy to be used in small community and facilities in remote areas exclusive from municipal sewage network. That creates room for American companies with rich experience to tap into the market. With that reality, more and more invest in new water treatment technologies will unlock a trillion RMB market with plenty of opportunity for all. It is time for American companies with advanced water treatment and reuse technology to respond the call.