Institute for Governance & Sustainable Development

China's new Urban and Rural Development Carbon-Peaking Plan contributes to energy-efficiency improvements & measures to curb emissions of non-CO_2 greenhouse gases

30 June 2022 — China Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development and National Development and Reform Commission jointly released the *Implementation Plan for Carbon Peaking in Urban and Rural Development* (hereinafter referred to as "the Plan"). The Plan guides China's measures to peak carbon emissions before 2030, including actions to reduce the emissions of non-CO_2 greenhouse gases, including methane.

In general, the Plan lays out the overall targets for achieving urban and rural-development carbon peaking, including:

- Significantly improving building energy efficiency and increasing waste resource utilization by 2030;
- Reaching "international advanced levels" of energy efficiency and resource utilization by 2030; and
- Achieving comprehensive green and low-carbon transition in urban and rural development by 2060.

Specifically, in the area of energy efficiency, the Plan provides key targets for energy efficiency improvement in public buildings, including:

- Completing public building energy efficiency retrofit projects for all key cities above the prefectural level and raising overall energy efficiency by over 20% by 2030; and
- Improving the energy efficiency of key energy-consuming equipment, including air conditioners, lighting, and elevators, and raising the overall energy efficiency of electromechanical systems in public buildings by 10% by 2030.

Notably, certain of the urban and rural development targets in the Plan would also contribute to non-CO_2 greenhouse gas emissions reduction, particularly involving methane emissions from the waste sector. These targets include:

- Comprehensively implementing the waste classification, recycling, and resource recovery system, and increasing the resource reutilization rate of urban domestic waste to 65%; and
- Promoting urban sewage collection, treatment, and reutilization, and raising the national average utilization rate of urban recycled water to 30%.

Additionally, the Plan highlights the implementation-supporting mechanisms to ensure the achievement of the above targets, including improvements in government green procurement, tax incentives, and regulatory and standardization systems. The government will conduct annual

reviews of the Plan's implementation status. To that end, the Plan requires that all provincial-level departments of housing and urban-rural development and departments of development and reform report on the Plan's implementation status to the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development and the National Development and Reform Commission by the end of November each year.

Additional IGSD Resources:

- Xiaopu Sun, Pu Wang, Tad Ferris, Hui Lin, Gabrielle Dreyfus, Baihe Gu, Durwood Zaelke & Yi Wang, *Fast Action on Short-lived Climate Pollutants and Nature-based Solutions to Help Countries Meet Carbon Neutrality Goals*, Advances in Climate Change Research (23 June 2022).

- China's Plan on Energy Conservation and Emission Reduction Guides Action to Address non-CO_2 Climate Pollutants (24 January 2022).

- China's Zero-Waste Cities Plan to Mitigate Methane and Other Waste-Sector Emissions During the 14th Five-Year Period (15 December 2021).

- China announces next steps on methane emissions control during the 14th Five-Year period (25 November 2021).

- China's Industry Green Development Plan Incorporates Actions to Address Non-CO_2 Climate Pollutants (15 November 2021).