

Energy & Environment

Why China?

As the world's largest producer, importer and consumer of energy, and the biggest investor in renewable energy and cleantech, China bears a significant responsibility of empowering the energy transition and meeting its climate commitments to a greener economy. China's green transformation is being pushed forward by advances in energy-related technologies. China has been investing heavily in green technologies such as electric vehicles, energy storage systems, and carbon capture and storage.

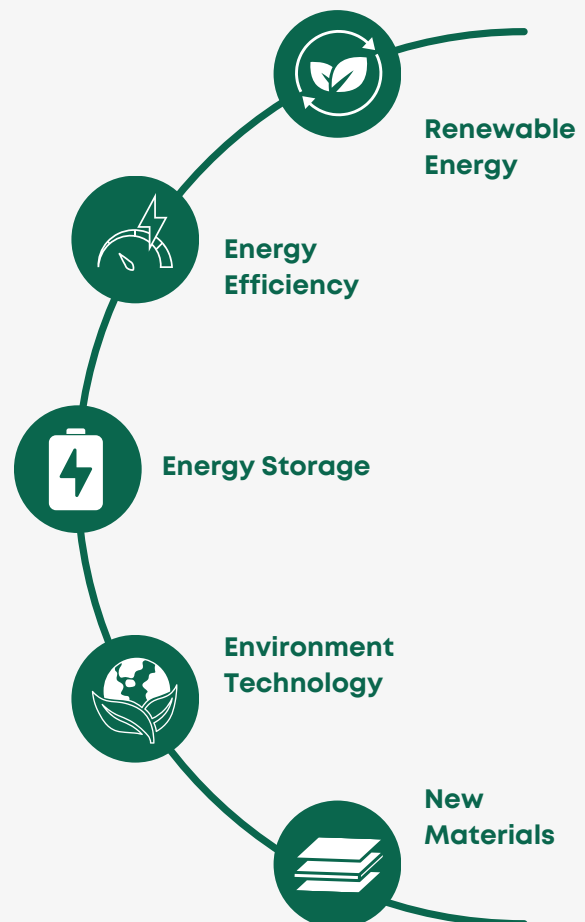
In 2022, China spent

USD **546** billion

on investments that included solar and wind energy, electric vehicles and batteries.

The European Union was second to China with USD 180 billion in clean energy investments. As China's green industry continues to grow and evolve, there will likely be increasing opportunities for innovation actors to engage to this sector and to drive innovation and sustainable development.

Opportunities for Swiss startups, corporate innovators and academic researchers in the Chinese market come from, but not limited to, the following subsectors:



Key Drivers in the Ecosystem

Policy

China has launched a process to develop plans to meet the carbon peak and neutrality targets, building on existing energy and environmental policies. The government announced that the period of the 14th Five-Year-Plan (2021-2025) will be critical and has identified a group of key areas, including limiting fossil fuel consumption, improving energy efficiency, promoting renewables, and encouraging low-carbon technology innovation.

Corporate

China's SOEs are the biggest clean energy investors and developers, especially in the deployment stage. Several major SOEs also made clear plans to provide headway for advanced clean technologies, such as Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage. Multinational corporations have announced their plans to invest in China's energy sector, and a significant number of them have formed collaborative partnerships with Chinese entities.

Entrepreneurship

An increasing number of startup hubs and incubators focused on energy and the environment are sprouting up across Chinese cities. In recent years, China's startups have attracted more than 1/3 of global early-stage energy venture capital. VC investment in Chinese cleantech startups reached nearly USD 8.7 billion invested across 211 deals in 2021.

Academia

Universities and research centers in China are actively engaged in energy and environment research, and are collaborating with international partners to advance scientific knowledge and develop new technologies. Among all, as a leading institution in China, the Chinese Academy of Sciences and its branches have a strong focus on energy and environmental research.

Contact

Swissnex in China offers our services to Swiss startups, corporates and academic partners looking to dive further into the energy and environment ecosystem in China. Please reach out to Philippe Roesle at philippe.roesle@swissnex.org for any inquiries.

Sources

China Invests \$546 Billion in Clean Energy, Far Surpassing the U.S.
(<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/china-invests-546-billion-in-clean-energy-far-surpassing-the-u-s/>)
Government policy spurs investment in Chinese climate tech
(<https://www.greenbiz.com/article/government-policy-spurs-investment-chinese-climate-tech>)