

China's green drive creates country's first carbon-negative island

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Lingshan Island in the eastern Chinese city of Qingdao has launched an all-out war against carbon emissions, converting farmland into forests, adopting clean energy, and creating a "carbon credit bank."

By achieving carbon-negative status, the island on the West Coast New Area of Qingdao now stands as China's first carbon-negative sea island, demonstrating the country's commitment to environmental preservation.

By 2030, China aims to achieve a carbon peak and become carbon neutral by 2060, playing a crucial role in the global fight against climate change.

The milestone came following the West Coast New Area's decision to build itself into a "dual carbon" demonstration zone in 2020, in response to the country's "dual carbon" goal. Lingshan Island was chosen as a pilot site after assessments, and 2020 was set as the duration for carbon accounting.

CQC has confirmed that Lingshan Island generated 5,668 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent from energy consumption, agricultural activities, and waste management. The greenhouse gas removal from forest carbon sinks amounted to 7,001 tonnes. Therefore, the net CO₂ emissions equivalent was negative 1,333 tonnes.

Furthermore, the island has been actively converting farmland back into forest since 1986 as part of its green drive. Local authorities have afforested more than 233 hectares of land, accounting for over a third of the entire forest on the island.

The island has made other efforts to reduce fuel energy consumption and environmental pollution, such as promoting photovoltaic power generation and new energy vehicles and launching waste sorting and recycling.