

China

Top – 100 – 1 000 – 10 000 Initiative

OBJECTIVE

The Top - 100 – 1 000 – 10 000 Enterprises initiative aimed to enhance energy efficiency and management among major enterprises in China. It sought to address energy use across the economy by targeting the largest energy consumers and imposing energy intensity targets and total energy consumption caps, an approach referred to as the “dual-control policy”.

COUNTRY

China,
2006-2020

SECTOR AND APPROACH

Industry; Regulation and Information

SOURCE

[Top 10,000 initiative](#) and [Notice of the State Council on the Issuance of the "13th Five-Year Plan" Comprehensive Work Plan for Energy Conservation and Emission Reduction](#)

DESCRIPTION

The first iteration of this initiative was introduced in 2006 and was known as the [Top – 1 000 initiative](#). This national-level initiative targeted the top 1 008 energy-consuming enterprises across nine industries. In 2011, a follow-up was launched as an expanded version of its predecessor at the provincial level, known as the Top – 10 000 Programme.

The Top – 100 – 1 000 – 10 000 initiative builds on the two previous programmes, expanding their scope within the framework of the [13th Five-Year Plan \(2016-2020\)](#). The initiative sets energy efficiency and consumption targets for the top 100 national, 1 000 provincial, and 10 000 municipal enterprises within each government jurisdiction. Each designated enterprise is required to install energy metering equipment, conduct audits in line with government-defined standards, report consumption data, and implement measures to improve energy efficiency.

UNIQUE ASPECTS OF THE INITIATIVE

This initiative is unique in both its scale and scope, targeting the largest energy-consuming enterprises at national, provincial, and municipal levels. Unlike in many other countries, companies in China are not merely encouraged but are legally required to comply, with state-led performance evaluations enforcing these standards. Enterprises are also mandated to establish internal systems to manage and monitor their energy consumption.

RESULTS

The initial [aim](#) was to achieve an absolute energy saving of 250 megatonnes of carbon equivalent (Mtce) by 2015, representing a 16 percent reduction in energy intensity relative to the 2010 baseline. [Since 2019](#), China has also worked to raise the efficiency standards for its phase 3 asynchronous motors from IE2 (high efficiency) to IE3 (premium efficiency).

LESSONS LEARNED

China's industrial sector continues to face several challenges, including widespread reliance on outdated and inefficient equipment, and a lack of standardisation across technologies, which has hindered the adoption of energy-saving solutions. Additionally, the unique requirements of different industrial sectors can lead to delays in implementing energy efficiency measures, often resulting in missed targets. To tackle these challenges, the initiative introduced a variety of strategies, such as implementing energy audit systems, conducting industrial energy efficiency assessments, and offering technical support and financing options.

ALIGNMENT WITH REGULATORY AND POLICY FRAMEWORKS

The initiative complements China's broader energy policies and has played a key role in helping the country meet its energy intensity reduction targets, the most recent being the [14th Five-Year Plan 's](#) goal of a 13.5% reduction. By implementing energy audits, assessments, and management systems for major energy consumers, the initiative helps ensure these industries meet their energy-saving targets, thereby supporting the broader plan to reduce energy consumption per unit of gross domestic product (GDP).

IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT

The core mechanism of this initiative is the Energy-saving [Target Responsibility Contracts](#) (TRCs), negotiated between the [National Development and Reform Commission](#) and individual enterprises. These contracts establish energy-saving targets based on a projected growth baseline for a specific year and set out the actions required to meet these goals. TRCs are implemented across all levels of government, from provincial to township, and formalise agreements between the authorities and enterprises to ensure accountability.