



State of the World Report: China and India Hold the Balance

The growth of China and India is the biggest threat facing the world, says the Worldwatch Institute in its *State of the World* report. The choices we make now will lead the world either towards a future of more problems—or towards better control of our resources.

Meanwhile, the US (and Canada) still uses three times as much grain per person as China and five times as much as India. We also give off six times the Chinese level and 20 times the Indian level of carbon dioxide. If China and India were to use as much as us, they would require two planet Earths just to sustain them.

More and more, leaders in China and India know that using so many resources can't last forever. Already, China's solar power can give enough water heating for 35 million buildings, and India's re-use of rainwater brings clean water to thousands of homes.

China and India are already set to become leaders in sustainable energy.

“Rising demand for energy, food, and raw materials by 2.5 billion Chinese and Indians is already having ripple effects worldwide ...”

Last year, China used 26 percent of the world's steel, 32 percent of its rice, and 47 percent of its cement. With huge populations, China and India are joining the US and Europe as superpowers who will use more energy and resources than other countries.

The report calls for China, India, Europe, and the US to work together to solve the problem. It is important that China and India be invited into international meetings such as the G-8, says the report. "The rise of China and India is the wake-up call ..." said the report. People around the world need to take our overuse of energy and resources very seriously.

ST

