



AFD AND

Sustainable Urban Development in China



30%
of AFD's commitments
in China are devoted to
cities

**More than
€400 million**
allocated to sustainable
urban development

More than 10
urban development projects
funded in China

The record urban development which has accompanied China's economic growth has raised huge challenges in terms of access to urban amenities and the limitation of the environmental footprint of cities. The promotion of sustainable, low-carbon urban development forms one of the cornerstones of AFD's action in China. It enters into the framework of a French-Chinese partnership around this issue.

OUR ACTION IN China

1

Contributing to urban energy transition

A focal point of economic activities, cities are big consumers of energy and thus producers of greenhouse gases.

Since the 2000s, the Chinese authorities have undertaken the modernization of the urban heating sector, the world's second largest market. We are assisting several cities in the creation or rehabilitation of heat networks, promoting the adoption of innovative technical solutions to enable significant energy savings or the use of clean energies.

We have funded a project to **recover the heat generated by treated wastewater** in Jinan and a project to **recover residual industrial heat** in Zibo, in order to feed the urban heating network of these cities. These projects enable a reduction in carbon intensity while improving air quality for inhabitants.

As the building sector also represents a considerable source of energy saving, we have supported a **thermal rehabilitation programme** for 25 public buildings, managed by the municipality of Wuhan. This pilot project was the first thermal rehabilitation program for public buildings in China to be funded by a loan from a foreign donor.

2

Strengthening water, wastewater and waste management

To accompany the growth of its urban population, China is in great need of water and wastewater treatment plants, in addition to waste management facilities.

In response to these needs, AFD is funding several projects for water supply and wastewater treatment, using **energy-saving technologies** and ensuring **cutting-edge treatment processes** and **high-quality services**. For the new Dongjin district in Xiangyang, AFD is funding a collection and treatment system, equipped with the best technology for enhanced protection of water resources.

AFD is also supporting the city of Shaoyang, Hunan, in the implementation of an energy recovery system for the food waste sector, to reduce its environmental and health impact.

3

Supporting 'sponge cities'

As a consequence of global warming and urbanization, China is facing a rise in floods and landslides. To limit flooding, the Chinese government has launched a 'sponge city' policy, aimed at the creation of 16 pilot cities by 2022.

In this framework, AFD is funding a 'sponge city' pilot project in Mianyang, Sichuan, which aims to **improve water management and urban resistance** through the building of sponge facilities: a green corridor, a draining road enabling runoff storage and rainwater drainage. We also provide support in the form of French expertise for local and central authorities in implementing the national flood management policy.

4

Protecting cultural heritage

In China, the articulation between protecting outstanding cultural heritage and its economic and social enhancement is a major challenge. Chinese authorities are taking a keen interest in the French approach, which is to 'bring life' to heritage. AFD is thus supporting several projects aimed at **boosting regional attractiveness** and **fostering local economic development** through tourism and heritage promotion.

In Shanxi province, we are funding the restoration and revitalization project for the historical center of Qixian, which boasts significant heritage, along with the renovation of urban infrastructures. Several French experts have been called upon. In Fengxiang, Shaanxi, we are supporting a new regional movement for the city, which will draw on its archaeological and natural wealth to improve the living standards of its inhabitants.

5

Promoting eco-districts

In close collaboration with the economic departments of the French Embassy in China, AFD has implemented a programme to promote initiatives in sustainable urban development in the framework of the Vivapolis initiative, which brings together French players in the field of sustainable cities. In particular, the programme has provided its support for the design phase of **two 'French-Chinese eco-districts'** in Wuhan and Chengdu.