

Green Aluminium and China

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Abstract

China's President Xi Jinping made a commitment to the world in February, that China would achieve peak emissions by the year 2030, and carbon neutrality by 2060. Since then, he has pledged that these targets would be achieved before those dates.

In the context of the growing demand for low-carbon or so-called "green" aluminium, China's aluminium industry faces pushes by the government and pulls by consumers. But 90 % of China's aluminium is produced using coal-fired energy. With many other aluminium sectors spruiking their green credentials, how will China respond? On the other hand, China produces almost 60 % of the world's primary aluminium. If China cannot "get to green", what hope is there for the global aluminium industry to meet the demands of the future. And anyway, how can we as the aluminium industry solve the fundamental problem of the future – namely that millions more tonnes of aluminium must be produced to construct the products of the future, from electric vehicles to next generation communications devices, but that meeting that demand will only cause more global carbon emissions.

Keywords: China, Carbon neutrality, Green aluminium, Products of the future, Carbon emissions.