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FINANCING LOW CARBON ELECTRICITY IN CHINA

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Financing low carbon electricity in China is critical, since Chinese carbon emissions are growing rapidly due to a combination of strong economic development with a primary energy provision overwhelmingly dominated by coal. The paper characterises the economic and policy framework within which investment decision are made. We interview key opinion leaders in industry, government, and banks to understand their role in investment decisions. The objective is to complement conventional financial measurers with metrics to capture governmental influence and comprehensive decision making process within firms.
The paper characterises major Chinese power companies in terms of ownership structure (state-owned, municipally owned, domestic private, foreign private, and mixed) and size (measured in terms of total assets) and then identifies the general and specific decision making processes found in each category. Set in this context, we also analyse potential opportunities for investment in low carbon electricity in China from the perspective of foreign-stakeholders including plant operators, financial service suppliers, and equipment manufacturers, as well as governmental entities such as bilateral development agencies, export credit agencies, and multilateral development banks. In so doing, the study offers an empirical analysis that can shed light on the sometimes opaque decision-making process associated with the financing low-carbon electricity technologies.