

## China sets land use limits on housing, coal

Thursday, November 19, 2009  
Bloomberg

BEIJING -- China's land ministry said it is imposing limits on how much land can be used for residential development, government offices and some industrial projects to support economic policy and curb overcapacity.

Housing projects in small cities will be limited to no more than 7 hectares each, those in medium-sized cities to 14 hectares and large cities to 20 hectares, according to a statement posted on the Ministry of Land Resources Web site today. There were previously no size restrictions.

The ministry won't grant land-use permission for new coal mines with annual output capacity of less than 1.2 million tons; the limit comes into effect after the government's current five-year economic plan ends next year. Curbs apply to provinces including Shanxi, Inner Mongolia and Shaanxi, the report said.

New polysilicon projects won't be granted land-use permits unless they have capacity of more than 3,000 metric tons a year and use fewer than 6 hectares per thousand tons of output. Polysilicon is used in the manufacture of solar power modules.

Land-use curbs will also be imposed on dairy processing, textiles and construction materials the report said, without providing more details.

