

The Western Development Plan during the 12th Five-Year Plan Period Was Formally Approved

The National Development and Reform Commission (“NDRC”) announced on 20 February that the State Council has formally approved *The Western Development Plan during the 12th Five-Year Plan period* (The Plan). The Plan mainly includes the below development goals: the growth rate of the economy and residential income of western regions will both outpace the national average; about 15,000 km of railways will be open to traffic; the percentage of forest cover will reach to around 19%; energy consumption per unit of GDP will be reduced by 15%; water consumption per unit of the industrial added value will be reduced by 30%; the consolidation rate of nine-year compulsory education will reach to over 90% and the urbanization rate will exceed 45 %, etc.

According to the local conditions, The Plan mainly focuses on the following points:

- Promoting the leading development of key economic regions
- Promoting the optimization development of main production areas of agricultural products
- Promoting the sustainable development of key ecological zones
- Promoting the intensive development of resource-rich areas
- Promoting the accelerated development of border development zones
- Promoting the leap-forward development of the regions with special difficulties

It’s also noted that infrastructure construction is the main guarantee to the Western Development. The relevant NDRC officials indicated that the government will continue to focus on transportation and water conservancy projects in infrastructure construction during the 12th Five-Year Plan period, including the construction of railway, highway, airport and water allocation projects, etc.

Source: Digital Cement Net