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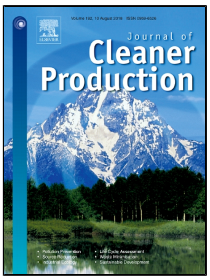

There are 8517 words in this paper China's urban minerals policies: Evolution, problems and countermeasures—A quantitative research

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China's urban minerals policies: Evolution, problems and countermeasures—A quantitative research

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Abstract: Policy ideas associated with the urban minerals industry in China have shifted focus from environmental protection to industrial development in recent years. A key factor influencing the development of this industry is whether the policy system can adapt to changing policy ideas. This paper analyzes a series of policies on urban minerals issued by the central government and related departments and ministries from 1987 to 2017. Using the content analysis method, which is a quantitative methodology, the paper proposes a framework of policy tools and objects of policy intervention to analyze the evolutionary characteristics and problems associated with the development of the urban minerals industry. The research results show that the policy system of urban minerals in China has changed from the germination stage, in which urban minerals policies were embedded in environmental protection policies; to an introduction stage, in which the urban minerals policy system initially took shape; to a development stage, in which the effects of urban minerals policies have stabilized. The changing trend of urban minerals policies can be summarized as follows. First, the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) gradually became the dominant policymaker. Second, the policy tools were enriched via restructuring. Third, the objects of policy intervention were continually extended to the whole industry chain. Although the policy system of urban minerals in China has promoted industrial development, certain problems remain to be resolved, such as the conflicting policies from different departments, the unreasonable combination of policy tools and improper object of policy intervention. To this end, we have proposed corresponding countermeasures and suggestions to better improve the development of the urban minerals industry.

Keywords: urban minerals policies; policy evolution; China; quantitative research

1. Introduction

As an inevitable product of industrialization and urbanization, urban minerals that are energy-carrying, circular and strategic could be of comparable economic valuable as recyclable secondary resources from the city. Generally, urban minerals fall into two categories: one is the consumer products that are now out of use, such as waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE), end-of-life vehicles (ELVs); the other one includes ferrous, non-ferrous metals and other waste materials with high value generated from municipal solid waste and industrial waste. Narrowly, urban minerals refer to waste metals and other valuable resources generated from urban residential life. With China's rapid increases in industrialization, urbanization and consumption, China's municipal waste has grown at an average rate of 10% per year, and its annual production has

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