

Kingdom Report

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Climate Policy: Regenerative Farming and Bio-Fuels

There will be no financial help for South Africa's "Just Energy Transition". There is no world shift out of carbon. Southern Africa needs a policy shift to Regenerative Farming, renewable fuels and Flex-fuel vehicle manufacture.

This morning's Business Day headlines is emblematic of the world reality...

US leaves SA with \$1.56bn climate financing hole

Trump administration's withdrawal from Just Energy Transition Partnership likely to extend to other developing nations

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Reality check: There are more fossil fuels being burned this last year than the year before and will continue to be the world reality. Renewable energy from wind and solar will only augment a small portion of world energy production. America, China, India and the global south are all burning more fossil fuels than ever and there is no actual "carbon neutral" or "just energy transition" actually happening. It's all talk. Only China actually have made the biggest investment while building 2 new coal plants a week. And Germany and the UK who have the highest percentage of wind and solar have the highest electricity prices in the world and are rapidly de-industrializing.

The South African government's commitment to starting an electric vehicle manufacturing program is pure fantasy. Neither Europe or America can compete with Chinese EV's and obviously we don't have the electricity to make this viable.

Here at Kingdom Vision we have a two part strategy for a true renewable fuel program, a major new auto manufacturing industrial program and rural agricultural job creation. It goes something like this:

Grow lots of plant biomass in all forms...grass, bagasse, waste paper, trees, crop residues. Turn all that carbon chain cellulose, hemi-cellulose and lignin into glucose and pentose sugars. Feed those sugars into new genetically modified yeasts, algae's and bacteria to ferment purpose designed chemicals like ethanol, methanol, butanol, ethylene etc (and the lignin to aromatics) We demand that all cars and diesel engines be manufactured as "flex-fuel" vehicles meaning they can run on any combination of petrol or diesel and ethanol. Like in Brazil. We mandate a 25% ethanol inclusion in the petrol supply which would require about 2-3 billion liters of ethanol (like in Brazil). We start a massive job creation program in rural areas of the country for people to grow grasses, trees, collect agricultural residues off the farms, collect waste paper in the cities (paper is pure cellulose).

We thank the Lord for providing us with abundant sources of coal, oil, gas which we can use for cheap energy production to industrialize our nation and create work and eradicate poverty. The effluent of this fossil fuel burning is to place more CO₂ in the air. But the more CO₂ in the air is more food in the air for plants to produce biomass. Plants thrive on CO₂, it's their food. And when they ingest CO₂ for food they expel pure oxygen into the air as waste.

Our job is to make sure that the amount of plants we have on earth is sufficient to absorb the amount of CO₂ we put into the atmosphere. That is God's "Carbon Neutral" growth plan.

Now I want to make two more points that are important.

- 1) We need to spend more on generational care of our precious farm land through generative farming.
- 2) And as encouragement for actually changing our industrial policy just a few facts of where it is actually being done in Brazil.

First Brazil.....

Brazil has a long history of promoting ethanol as a renewable fuel, primarily sourced from sugarcane. The country's ethanol program began in 1975 with the **Proálcool Program**, which aimed to reduce dependence on imported crude oil and stabilize the sugar market. This initiative provided subsidies for distilleries, mandatory ethanol blending targets, and tax breaks for ethanol-fueled vehicles. Over time, the program evolved into a global model for biofuel production and consumption.

- Mandatory Blending:** Brazil requires gasoline to be blended with ethanol at levels like E25 (25% ethanol) or higher, depending on market conditions.
- Flex-Fuel Vehicles :** FFVs, which can run on any mix of ethanol and gasoline, dominate the market. By 2011, 83% of new cars sold in Brazil were FFVs.
- RenovaBio Program :** Launched in 2016, this program set annual carbon intensity reduction targets and incentivized biofuel production through mechanisms like decarbonization credits.
- Environmental Benefits:** Ethanol use has significantly reduced greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution. For example, between 1975 and 2009, ethanol fuel prevented over 600 million tons of CO₂ emissions.

Caring for our Farming Environment

By making biomass plant production our chief source of carbon to be used in manufacturing fuels and organic chemicals we will also need to be taking special care of our farmland and our biodiversity. We share this planet with God's creatures. We cannot pollute the soil or the environment for quick money and leave a mess for our grandchildren's generations.

For this I am an enthusiastic supporter of the emerging science of "generative farming".

Regenerative Farming : Multi-Generational Farming

Industrial agriculture is built on dependency—on chemical fertilizers, pesticides, and genetically modified seeds. It thrives on monocultures that strip the land of nutrients, requiring even more chemical intervention just to sustain itself. Companies make billions selling these inputs, and governments subsidize the entire system. Regenerative farming, on the other hand, restores soil naturally—through cover cropping, rotational grazing, and composting. When farmers build fertility through natural cycles instead of synthetic inputs, chemical companies lose customers.

Chinese farmers have been doing this for 4000 years!

This is why you don't see billion-dollar ad campaigns promoting regenerative farming. There is no corporate giant profiting from farmers planting cover crops or integrating livestock with row crops. Instead, money flows to industries that keep farmers dependent on fertilizers, patented seeds, and ever-expanding government subsidies.

The Climate Narrative

The same forces that created our industrial food system also control the climate narrative. It's a lot easier to sell wind turbines, solar panels, and electric cars than it is to fundamentally change the way we farm. The entire renewable energy sector has been built into a multitrillion-dollar industry, with subsidies, government incentives, and global investment pouring into its expansion.

Meanwhile, regenerative agriculture—the one approach that could actively reverse environmental damage and sequester carbon on a massive scale—is barely mentioned. Why? Because it's nearly impossible for big corporations to monetize regenerative agriculture the way they can monetize other industries.

When a company sells an electric vehicle, a solar farm, or a wind turbine, they make money. When a farmer plants diverse crops, rotates livestock, and stops using chemical fertilizers, no one gets rich—except the farmer and the community that benefits from healthier land and food.

If climate change were truly about reducing emissions and restoring balance to our ecosystems, regenerative agriculture would be front and center. Instead, it's pushed to the margins because it doesn't generate profits for those who control the narrative.

Carbon Markets and Technocratic Fixes

Many of the climate solutions we hear about today—carbon credits, lab-grown meat, renewable energy offsets—aren't about solving the problem. They're about monetizing it. Instead of reducing emissions at the source, carbon markets allow big polluters to buy their way out of responsibility, trading credits rather than actually regenerating land.

Lab-grown meat is another example. We're told it will "save the planet" by reducing methane emissions from cows. But what they don't tell you is that properly managed livestock are essential for healthy ecosystems. Grazing animals, when rotated properly, rebuild soil, increase carbon storage, and promote biodiversity. Yet, the push is toward industrialized lab-created food controlled by a handful of corporations.

Rewarding the Wrong System

If regenerative farming is so effective, why aren't more farmers doing it? Because government policies push them in the opposite direction.

Farm subsidies overwhelmingly support industrial monocultures like corn, soy, and wheat—crops that deplete the soil and require heavy chemical inputs. Instead of incentivizing soil regeneration, farmers are encouraged to produce as much as possible, as cheaply as possible, regardless of environmental cost.

The Real Solution for Southern Africa

I admit that regenerative farming is very labour intensive. It requires hands on land, animal and plant management. Lots of personal care and lots of farming space.

And that is why it is good policy for Southern Africa. We have an enormous amount of land. The South African government itself holds 2,5 million hectares. All unused. Because traditional rural African farmers cannot compete in the market place with large industrial farming operations. And I do thank the Lord for those mega-farmers who supply our nation with most of the food we eat,

But we can make space for regenerative farming for the rural small scale African farmer to supply us the masses of biomass we need for a truly renewable "carbohydrate economy". It will create hundreds of thousands of rural farm jobs and tens of thousands of industrial jobs. All based on generational renewable farming methods that balance the output of CO₂ into the atmosphere with the absorption of that CO₂ on the ground with generative farming.

The most powerful climate solution isn't something we need to invent. It already exists. It's healthy soil supporting a healthy plant biomass that supports a diversity of animal species.

Regenerative agriculture restores the land, builds resilience, and reduces emissions naturally. It doesn't require synthetic fertilizers, massive subsidies, or corporate patents. It simply requires a return to what works.

But for this to happen, we must stop waiting for top-down solutions from the same industries that caused the problem in the first place. We need to take food and farming back into our unused rural regions. We need to support regenerative farmers, demand policies that reward soil health, and reject the illusion that technology will save us from the destruction caused by industrial industries that pump CO₂ into the air but does not balance this with generative farming to capture that CO₂ back into biomass.