

Jenna Kay

From: Monica Zazueta <zazueta0813@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 5, 2024 3:19 AM
To: Jenna Kay; Amy Koski; Ben Duncan; Salas, Vicky; Dana Hellman; tlunsford@parametrix.com; Nicole Metildi; Harrison Husting
Subject: Net positive for the planet and policy ideas

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Tom Chi: "Net Positive for the Planet – from Beavers to Bionics" | The Great Simplification

<https://youtu.be/AjGOGfzAvyc?si=HnYhclLCMouuQ23U>

Here are the key points about being net positive for the planet:

Beavers:

- Beavers are a keystone species that can have a very positive impact on the ecosystem. Their dam-building creates wetlands that sequester carbon, reduce wildfire risk, and support biodiversity.
- Beavers were once much more abundant in North America, with over 100 million before colonization. Their populations were drastically reduced, leading to negative impacts.
- Investing in and protecting beaver populations could be a very effective nature-based climate solution.

Bionics/Technology:

- The video discusses how technology like autonomous electric tractors, robotic farming, and precision agriculture can reduce emissions and resource use compared to traditional industrial agriculture.
- The focus is on developing technologies that are "disruptive deep tech" - providing radically better unit economics and environmental performance.
- The goal is to find technological solutions that are economically viable without requiring major policy changes, though supportive policies could further accelerate adoption.

Policy Ideas:

- Regulations and incentives to protect and restore wetlands and other natural carbon sinks.
- Policies to accelerate the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices and technologies.
- Transitioning away from an "extractive economy" focused on resource depletion towards one centered on material productivity and ecosystem health.
- Long-term, patient investment in solutions that may take decades to fully implement and scale.
- Framing climate and environmental goals in a positive, aspirational way (e.g. "net positive to nature") rather than just focusing on emissions reductions.

The overall emphasis is on working with natural processes, developing innovative technologies, and taking a long-term, systems-level view to create a more sustainable and regenerative economy and society.