

1. CE translation 50%

玉米田裡有黃金——談生質酒精¹燃料

玉米是影響人類歷史的重要作物。玉米不僅是提供果腹的食糧，也是蓄養牲畜的飼料，而在玉米桿、葉乾燥後，更成為農業社會中的主要燃料，是生活中重要的能源。而在今日，玉米的功用已更上層樓，成為再生能源的要角之一。

地球石油枯竭的情況如同緊箍咒²般，緊緊的套在現代人的頭上，而因使用石油所產生的溫室氣體，更是全球一致亟欲消滅的公敵。然而，世界對於石油的需求量，仍然節節上升，以今日的成長速率對照於新能源技術的開發情況，未來世界能源的遠景，實在不能用「樂觀」兩字來形容。

在此情況下，能有效協助降低石油消耗，減緩使用速率的輔助性能源，是為新能源技術爭取更多時間的重點；如果能對於環境污染、抑制溫室氣體有所幫助，那將會是目前最適切的選擇。此時，玉米即被視為輔助能源的新希望。

¹ Bioethanol fuel.

² An allusion to the magical headband Sun Wukong was forced to wear in *Journey to the West* that would tighten when Monkey misbehaved.

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What does the Green Economy look like?

One of the easiest ways to reduce the use and waste of increasingly rare resources, McKinsey's report³ suggests, is through greater energy efficiency - in particular steps like insulating homes so they require less energy to heat and cool.

The institute calculates that the worldwide benefit of a global energy efficiency push would be close to a whopping three-quarters of a trillion dollars by 2050.

An added benefit? Insulating homes is labour intensive, and would create plenty of new jobs, as well as improving people's lives and cutting their expenses, experts at the Chatham House conference⁴ said.

Similar clustered benefits could come through measures like cutting food waste, repairing municipal water leaks, increasing urban density, improving the yields on small farms, promoting electric and hybrid vehicles, reducing land degradation and improving irrigation techniques.

However, political will and good policy are critical to driving all of those shifts. Fossil fuel subsidies - especially for particularly polluting fuels like diesel - need to be phased out.

3 麥肯錫全球研究所報告.

4 漆咸樓會議. Chatham House is a British think-tank that holds debates (conferences) on controversial issues. Also called the Royal Institute of International Affairs.