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A High BAR for BIG Ideas: Belt And Road for a Black Into Green Future - PART 2

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Alexander Slocum is the Walter and Hazel May Professor of Mechanical Engineering at MIT and a member of the US National Academy of Engineering. He has 130+ patents and has helped develop 12 products that have received R&D 100 awards for "one of the one hundred best new technical products of the year". He has helped start several successful precision manufacturing equipment companies and has a passion for working with industry to solve real problems and identify fundamental research topics. For the past decade his prime focus has been on renewable energy systems.

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Increased energy demand will accompany the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, but if this recovery is met by hydrocarbons, the subsequent acceleration of climate change and accompanying domestic, international, and migration conflicts will dwarf the damage caused by COVID-19. This paper presents a means by which development of renewable energy systems can meet energy and employment needs and be financed through investments by hydrocarbon companies in lieu of carbon taxes and long-term visionary governments. The oceans figure prominently in sustainably emerging and setting a course to a bright future for all. Specific technology examples are provided with suggestions for short- and long-term development projects and strategies.