

A CATHOLIC RESPONSE TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS

“Where profits alone count, there can be no thinking about the rhythms of nature, its phases of decay and regeneration, or the complexity of ecosystems which may be gravely upset by human intervention” Laudato Si paragraph 190

“If we look at the larger picture, we can see that more diversified and innovative forms of production which impact less on the environment can prove very profitable.” Laudato Si paragraph 191



The Time Is Now

Every year, the UK spends £10 billion subsidising coal, oil, and gas. Meanwhile, climate disasters, caused by global warming driven by fossil fuels, hit the poorest countries hardest.

UK subsidies make it cheaper to extract and trade coal, oil and gas – the very fuels that threaten the planet. Continuing to subsidise fossil fuels makes it harder for cleaner, renewable energy to succeed. And it makes stopping climate change less likely.

New trade rules that tackle climate change and fossil fuels – that’s the plan being worked up by New Zealand, Norway, Iceland, Switzerland, Costa Rica and Fiji. These 6 countries have endorsed a green trade agreement – ACCTS-the Agreement on Climate Change, Trade and Sustainability.

ACCTS

ACCTS re-shapes trade in favour of greener industries by supporting people and the planet - which is exactly what trade needs to do.

It is an ambitious, modern and green trade agreement. It levels the playing field so that businesses can be eco-friendly without feeling that other less ethical businesses will leave them behind.

Here’s the good stuff about ACCTS:

- ACCTS commits countries to stop subsidising fossil fuels.
- ACCTS makes it easier and cheaper to sell eco-friendly goods and services that help tackle climate change.
- ACCTS will lead to a shared system for labelling the goods we buy with their environmental impact.

The UK has signed a lot of trade agreements recently. It could join this one too. Write to your MP, and to the Secretary of State for Trade, the Rt. Hon. Elizabeth Truss MP: [elizabeth.truss.mp@parliament.uk] asking for the UK to join ACCTS.

Keen to delve into climate, trade, and ACCTS in a bit more detail? Have a read of Traidcraft Exchange’s new [Report](#)



LAUDATO SI ANIMATORS UK

Dedicated to spreading the teachings of the Pope's Encyclical Laudato Si