

## Choosing our fighters



**From** Sherrell <sherrell@sherrelldorsey.com>

**To** Steve <sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org>

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## Weekly Notes On Crafting A Beautifully Meaningful Life

**America has a long history of burning its trash.** Today, [72 municipal waste incinerators](#) are still in operation, causing air quality issues and environmental health impacts on the vulnerable communities they surround.

In 2014, I served as a fellow in Bridgeport, Connecticut, in the office of then-Mayor Bill Finch. I worked adjacent to the city's economic development and planning department—then led by a young hot-shot urban planner, [David Kooris](#), who envisioned alternative energy projects like trash-to-energy plants and fuel cell plants in the city's downtown industrial core.

Kooris wasn't my direct manager, but he often let me tag along to presentations from engineers explaining the technology and even tours of facilities that would be transformed from formerly aging edifices into what he'd hoped could create jobs and the ability to power the homes of the 100,000+ residents the city held.

*I've been fascinated by the power of trash ever since.*

My second encounter with the power and capabilities of waste was meeting Kwaku Jyamfi (KJ) last week during the [Horizon's Conference](#) presented by Jobs for the Future (a client of mine).

Kwaku is the CEO and co-founder of [Farm to Flame Energy](#)—a smokeless, odorless 10–30kw generator powered by plant-based feedstock. His tech is proven and he's already secured millions in contracts from municipalities and a [furniture company](#).

These last few years, I've been meeting entrepreneurs like Kwaku, who are finding ways for us to reduce waste and move away from our deep reliance on dirty energy toward a clean future. Despite the genius-level products and devices these people have developed, I'm fascinated by how long it can take to get the headwinds they need to grow and scale.

### **Presidential Influence on Climate and Tech**

With the many [Zoom meetings](#) circulating over the last week to mobilize hundreds and thousands of people to get geared up for the next presidential election, the tech industry appears to be hedging its bets. [Andreessen Horowitz](#), chief among VC firms who have already decided they'll be backing Trump, could be indicative of the sentiments across Silicon Valley that what's good for business will decide their vote.

For those on the opposite end of the spectrum [within the tech and investor space](#), a vote for VP Harris is a step toward equitable business solutions and a commitment to expanding innovation. Not to mention a few [resume items](#) that include environmental justice initiatives.

While I won't try to convince any of you who is better for climate, I am concerned about the long-term play for those like Kwaku who will need much more leadership in the higher levels of government to go from concept and a handful of clients to a long-standing solution that can become a mainstay and create the very jobs needed to keep people at work as artificial intelligence continues to narrow the playing field.

My eyes are on green job creation, climate, and green tech investments, and how the funders and powers that be are supporting the charge.

### **I Need Your Feedback**

I wanted to end this newsletter with references and resources to green incubators, fellowships, and maybe even job opportunities. If this kind of information is helpful, let me know and I'll start compiling lists of companies I think could be of interest.

If you have other suggestions or ideas for the newsletter, hit reply and share them. I'm always listening and looking to add value to your inbox.

## **TODAY'S SPONSOR: SIDEBAR**

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