Biomass energy is gaining popularity with the developing world and without dispute it has positive economic, environmental and social effects. It has promises of a better future. The process entails new production and consumption patterns and it is also called ecological modernisation. While the issues around climate change and global warming have largely become the compelling factors for developed countries to consider reducing the negative environmental impacts of economic growth, production and consumption; the interest in developing countries is also to be found in promises to access development aid more than to merely mitigate the environmental effects of global warming. In this regard, biomass energy has also become an attractive avenue for a greener economic future. However, this search for new forms of energy also poses fundamental challenges particularly to the indigenous peoples as it at the same time happens at the expense of local peoples’ livelihoods as they lose their lands from which they produce food and graze livestock. This means that the process is likely to have potential impacts on the marginalised indigenous peoples and their sovereignty including food sovereignty. In that way, biomass energy has the potential to raise anew old paradigms and narratives in development. Using Afrocentricity as a theoretical framework, I argue that ecological modernization, under the guise of sustainable development, has a liberal flavour for adoption, but it also has the potential to marginalise local livelihoods and cultures. I argue that developing countries such as South Africa which are characterised by mass poverty, unemployment and high levels of inequality caused largely by colonial land dispossessions will have to be even more cautious in providing land to grow crops and forests that cater for the biomass energy industry which is dominated by foreign multi-national companies from the developed world. I conclude emphasising the negative impacts of unguided biomass production public policy on the livelihoods of indigenous peoples especially in South Africa where the land question has also once again come to dominate the political landscape.