



US Biochar Initiative Newsletter

April 2023

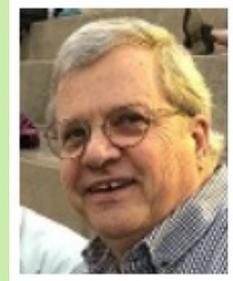
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Spring Markets, the Farm Bill, & New Projects

by Tom Miles, Executive Director

Biochar is bursting into Spring with retail garden products hitting the shelves in local and regional stores. USBI receives many calls from farmers, and landscaper contractors looking for biochar. Get a [USBI directory listing](#) so that we can help them find you and let's build markets and awareness of biochar.

Help your customers apply biochar with [USBI factsheets on manure management, compost, soil media, stormwater, and carbon markets](#).



Join the new US Biochar Coalition to promote biochar in the upcoming Farm Bill. The coalition will complement the Biochar Policy Project of the National Center for Appropriate Technology which has led to biochar support in important legislation. This is an opportunity for industry to support policies that favor biochar use. Subscribe to the coalition at usbiocharcoalition.org

USBI's Biochar in the Woods Project, in collaboration with the US Forest Service, will demonstrate small mobile carbonizers in Utah at the [Charpalooza, April 19](#). See the CharBoss mobile carbonizer, Big Box Biochar, and Ring of Fire processes in person. There are now three CharBoss carbonizers being field tested in the west and southeastern US. Northern Arizona State University will demonstrate the [CharBoss April 25 through 27](#). Join the monthly USBI [Biochar in the Woods](#) discussion led by Kelpie Wilson.

Your state solid waste management department may not know about biochar and wood ash from mobile carbonizers. USBI has helped state agencies learn about the beneficial uses of biochar.

USBI is seeking a full-time Project Manager to help with many biochar events and projects. The two-year commitment will include agricultural and environmental projects to promote standards, markets and uses with several collaborating organizations. [See job description here](#).

With biochar carbon removal credits increasing in value and demand, biochar was a major highlight at **North American Carbon World**, March 21-23 in Anaheim, California. Thanks for the industry's support at the USBI booth.

Watch for USBI at the upcoming Charpalooza, April 19 in Utah, and at the [Center for Watershed Protection \(CWP\) Conference](#) in San Diego, April 24-27. USBI will support CWP with several demonstrations in conjunction with the Chesapeake Bay Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction Project funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

USBI will promote the NRCS soil carbon amendment as a sponsor of the free US Composting Council webinar on April 20 [NRCS 336: Selling More Compost to Farmers](#)

BIOCHAR EVENTS CALENDAR

April 19 Field Day in Utah to test emissions of the Conservation Burn, Ring of Fire, Big Box Kiln and Char Boss organized by the US Forest Service and Utah State. Check out Charpalooza for more details on the Biochar in the Woods discussion group. [Join the group here - it's free!](#)



April 24-27 2023 CWP National Conference, San Diego, California This is an important forum where watershed and stormwater professionals learn about innovative restoration approaches from expert. [Register here](#).

April 20 [NRCS 336: Selling More Compost to Farmers](#) (1 pm EST webinar) Join a panel of industry and policy experts to learn how zoning regulations across the country impact new compost facilities, site selection and operational standards. [Register here.](#)

April 27 [Biochar in Urban Vegetated Applications](#) (11am - noon EST) Free Monthly Biochar Webinar featuring Ann Mari Fransson PhD, Senior lecturer at the Department of Forestry and Wood Technology Faculty of Technology of Linnaeus University, Sweden. Hosted by the US Forest Service in partnership with USBI and The Southern Regional Extension Forestry. [Register here.](#)

May 15-18 [American Biogas Council's 2023 Conference](#) Come to Chicago and attend the biggest gathering of the US Biogas industry this year to learn about the production and use of biogas from organic waste. [Register here.](#)

May 25-26 [Chesapeake Bay Program's \(CBP\) Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee \(STAC\) Workshop](#) (in-person with virtual option) [Using Carbon to Achieve Chesapeake Bay \(and Watershed\) Water Quality Goals and Climate Resiliency](#), Hummelstown, PA [Register here.](#)

May 27 [Concrete + CDR: The 4 Corners Carbon Coalition's 1st Awardee Showcase](#) (free 8 - 11pm EDT webinar) - Learn more about each of the "anchor projects" that were selected for nearly 400K in grant funding and how you can get involved in a diverse set of multiplier campaigns in support of these projects. All welcome to attend and ask questions! [Register here.](#)

June 19-30 [IBI Biochar Academy](#) Led by IBI Board Chair Kathleen Draper and other upstate NY biochar experts and practitioners as well as world-renowned experts from around the globe, this two week, in-person program will provide a unique opportunity to quickly connect with and contribute to scaling the biochar industry. The event has sold out but stay tuned for the availability of recorded sessions.

SCROLL DOWN TO SEE MORE NEED-TO-KNOW BIOCHAR NEWS!

■ USBI Program Director job opportunity

■ USBI at North American Carbon World

■ Biochar Newslinks

■ USBI Learning Center - Biochar in Water Quality Management

OUTREACH & EDUCATION

BIOCHAR ALL THE RAGE AT NORTH AMERICAN CARBON WORLD!

by John Webster, USBI Communications Director

"At last year's NACW (North American Carbon World) Conference, I didn't hear the word biochar even once." This year, biochar was all the rage as enthusiastic attendees visited our booth and walked around the halls and presentations!

Hosted by the Climate Action Reserve, NACW is where carbon professionals working in North American carbon markets and climate policy to learn, collaborate, and network. USBI had a very successful booth staffed by Kathleen Draper (USBI Board Member) and myself.

The booth was so busy our team almost our voices! Conversation topics ranged from the basic "What is biochar?" to the advanced topics of carbon markets and industry forecasting. You saw our "I ♥ biochar" buttons everywhere!

Kathleen was in high demand, participating on two



Do You Need Funding? Many fantastic connections were made between USBI and NACW attendees. We are having on-going conversations with groups looking to finance biochar projects, social engagement teams focused on carbon messaging, and industrial agriculture distributors interested in helping bring biochar to the larger retail market.

There are now even funding groups looking to back creative utilization of biochar in products and not just new biochar production facilities. So if you have a biochar pipeline for a new production facility or innovative product and need help with funding, please connect with us.

We can make introductions and will be adding



Kathleen Draper (2nd from L) and John Webster (2nd from R) at USBI-IBI booth at NACW in Anaheim, CA in March

It's clear that we are on the precipice of significant and meaningful advancement in the biochar industry. As more and more changemakers enter the space, we'll see adoption of biochar grow beyond carbon markets and into the practical everyday wonder material we all know it to be.

Look for more information coming from USBI as these relationships mature.

panels - the first at the Climate Action Reserve "Leveraging the Voluntary Carbon Market to Improve Forest Health" and then for the standing room only, "Biochar: Emerging Opportunities for Carbon Project Development" panel hosted by SouthPole & Grain Ecosystem. Biochar is clearly the hot topic as the financial market looks to go deeper in the industry.



Connect with me by emailing john@biochar-us.org and LinkedIn @john801

BIOCHAR NEWSLINKS

- [**Inflation Reduction Act \(IRA\) Climate Change Provisions Spur Ambitious Renewable Energy Projects**](#) The US has never before regarded farming as a primary energy producer. That's changing as a result of the IRA's \$140 billion in tax incentives, loans and grants to replace fossil fuels with cleaner renewable energy.
- [**Minnesota Research Institute and Power Company Find Common Biochar Ground**](#) Balsam fir is being collected, converted to biochar, and used by Minnesota Power to improve revegetation of caps that cover their coal ash landfills.
- [**Agreement on Policies for Building A Pyrolysis Biochar and Bioenergy Industry that Enhances Soil Health and Sequesters Carbon.**](#)



USBI, the American Farmland Trust, and the National Center for Appropriate Technology have collectively developed policy recommendations for growing the biochar industry.

- [**Former Oil Field Engineers Launch Climate Startup Using Biochar**](#) Myno Carbon will build their first biochar plant in Kettle Falls, Washington, alongside an existing biomass and gas power plant operated by Avista Utilities. Myno will use 183,000 tons of timber waste per year as feed stock, producing 40,000 tons of biochar as well as 18 megawatts of steam power. The company says it has 10 other potential sites in Washington, Oregon and California.
- [**\\$390,000 In Catalytic Awards for Carbon Removal**](#) Two Colorado companies have received an award for building their hemp structural insulated wall panel system for an 1,800 ft., 2 two-story office warehouse. The project, one of four awarded, will also store carbon in the form of biochar in cementitious building materials.

[**'Reversing' Coal Mining: Minnesota Startup Uses Plants to Trap Carbon Emissions**](#) Carba has developed an inexpensive and energy-efficient method for capturing carbon emissions using a portable reactor that converts plant waste into biochar. The company was recently named a finalist for an incubator program by Minnesota clean energy accelerator Grid Catalyst, and is partnering with trash and recycling giant Waste Management to deploy its first reactor at a



Twin Cities waste facility. Andrew Jones, Carba's co-founder and CEO, is a University of Minnesota chemical engineering professor and former student.

« Andrew Jones, Carba founder and CEO. Photo courtesy of Carba, Inc.

► **Students Get Deep into Biochar and Manure** Students at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville are studying the use of biochar to reduce ammonia emissions and odors from manure collected from the university farm. The students were inspired by professor Joseph Sanford, a Dairy Innovation Hub researcher focused on agricultural-waste management.

Student Zach Flitsch tests an analyzer and determines how to prepare an experiment studying the use of biochar to reduce ammonia emissions and odors from manure. »

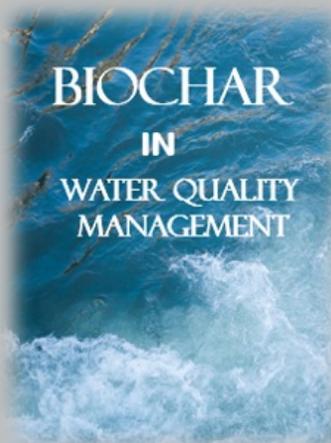


USBI LEARNING CENTER

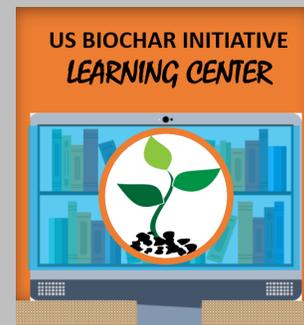
- ◉ **University of Minnesota National Resource Research Institute** researchers are working to understand what it takes to use biochar effectively to filter stormwater pollutants.
- ◉ **Porous Biochar Materials for Sustainable Water Treatment: Synthesis, Modification, and Application** This article discusses the application potential of biochar for wastewater treatment.
- ◉ **Call for Biochar-derived Composites for Water Treatment** articles by the *Recent Progress in Materials Journal*. Submissions due by September.

◉ **Biochar for Wastewater Treatment and Soil Improvement in Irrigated Urban Agriculture: Single and Combined Effects on Crop Yields and Soil Fertility** This article discusses the potential for biochar-filtered wastewater to make agroecosystems more efficient.

◉ **Iron-Modified Biochar Enables Recovery and Recycling of Phosphorus from Wastewater Through Column Filters and Flow Reactors** This



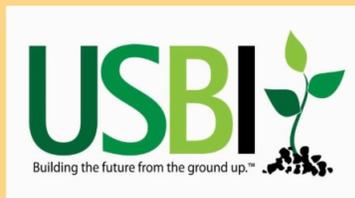
January 2023 articles



study provides the technical basis for a sustainable wastewater treatment strategy that can capture the full values of water, P, and biochar.

◉ **A Ball-milled Biochar Alginate Filter: A Novel Approach to Water Quality** Watch this amazing video to learn how Maya, a High School senior, uses biochar and ball milling – a mechanical technique that grinds substances into fine particles – to clean water! Special thanks to Sciencecoach.org for guidance.

- biochar suppliers
- equipment manufacturers
- researchers
- consultants
- organizations



Listings are more than just an ad - they include information about your sector, products, applications, technology, and scale of your operation.

DIRECTORY LISTING

Only \$25

Welcome to the USBI Directory! California Climate Exchange, Blue Sky Biochar of California, and FlowCarbon of New York recently joined our group!

GET YOUR LISTING

----- promotional section -----

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USBI PROGRAM DIRECTOR JOB OPPORTUNITY - USBI engages the scientific, agriculture, and biomass communities to use safe, stable, sustainable biochar through collaboration to learn, educate, inform, demonstrate, and develop markets, policy incentives, and quality standards. The Program Director will focus on the following areas - 1) Organizational Capacity Building 2) Markets and Standards 3) Technical Assistance 4) Education and Outreach 5) Special Initiatives 6) 5-year Strategic Planning and development of a 1–2-year Action Plan. [See details.](#)



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