



US Biochar Initiative Newsletter

April 2022

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Carbon Market Finance Tools to Access Capital

by Tom Miles, Executive Director

"I can't get financing for a new facility based on my biochar sales because nobody will give me an offtake agreement," complained one producer "but when I started selling carbon credits with a future sales agreement the banks got interested." Are carbon markets the key to finance facilities and reduce the cost of biochar to farmers? Some producers think so. They are looking for financing tools like advanced, multi-year, market commitments, revenue sharing, project-based financing, and loan guarantees. Can a biochar trade association help develop these tools? Let's find solutions to discuss at the [North American Biochar & Bioenergy Conference](#), "Decarbonizing our Economy—Bioenergy and Biochar" August 8-10, 2022, in Morgantown, West Virginia.



BIOCHAR EVENTS CALENDAR

April 27 Biochar and Soil Health Field Day, Las Cruces, New Mexico, 7:30 am - noon PST hosted by the New Mexico State University Extension Service. Participants will learn how to make biochar and about different soil health practices such as cover crops and soil amendments. See details and [register here](#).

April 28 Biochar Production and Job Promotion for Civilian Corps Integration, 11am - noon EST webinar featuring engineer and analyst Kelpie Wilson who develops systems for making biochar from waste biomass. The webinar is hosted by USBI and the Southern Regional Extension Forestry's Forest Service Research and Development division. [Click here to join](#). (Until webinar start time, a "This site can't be reached." message will be displayed.)



June 21-23 Managing Carbon through Healthy Forests and Forest Products, Wichita, Kansas - regionally focused workshops to discuss emerging trends in forestry and climate, including biochar. This in-person event will feature expert panels on the latest insights and break-out sessions to collect participant feedback on needs and the future of Great Plains forestry. See agenda and [register here](#).

August 8-10 North American Biochar and Bioenergy Conference 2022, Morgantown, WV
[Click here](#) for information on opportunities for vendors and exhibitors. Stay tuned for registration details.

Oct 24 - 26 Sustainable Energy for a Sustainable Future, San Jose, Costa Rica, third in a series. This ASABE (American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers) Global Initiative Conference will promote interdisciplinary dialogues and present regional energy innovations with a global perspective. [More details are available here](#).

**MEET KRISTIN TRIPPE PhD,
RESEARCH MICROBIOLOGIST**

USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS)
Corvallis, Oregon
USBI Board Member



Kristin Trippe and her team have built the online [Pacific Northwest Biochar Atlas](#), a robust decision-support tool kit that helps consumers, agricultural service providers, and farmers make decisions about biochar-based amendments. The site also provides case studies, a producer directory, and has received 35,000 visitors from 92 countries to date.

Q What were your greatest challenge in building the Atlas?

During the year-long project, we discovered a vast knowledge base in the scientific literature but almost no guidelines for making decisions about biochar-based amendments. The lack of guidelines and recommendations is linked to the incredible variability in physicochemical properties that result from feedstock and production conditions. Our biggest challenge was designing an interface that could help users match the right biochars for a wide variety of soil deficiencies with the goal of improving yields or soil function.

Q What kind of content/info do audiences most often seek?

Our case studies draw the most traffic, followed by our decision support tools and our producer directory. Our site stats also indicate that visitors tend to visit multiple pages. Over the next few years, we'll be seeking direct feedback. I'm excited to learn how we can improve the interface and make it more informative and useful!



Q What new tools are you working on now?

We went through a major update last summer and are just embarking on a project to expand Atlas functionality and geographic relevance to include the entire US, including Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands. We are also working on building an interface that can help users, conservation planners, and farmers estimate how biochar additions can increase soil carbon and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. We are also hoping to

expand our producer directory and biochar library to increase the number of biochar and biochar-based blends that are commercially available.

Q Can our readers be listed or share their story in the Atlas?

Yes! We are looking for producers that would like us to list their biochar-based products in our database. If you're a farmer or user who has a story to tell, we would like to share it in our case study library or if you are someone who has general feedback about the site, [please reach out](#).

The Pacific Northwest Biochar Atlas was funded by USDA Climate Hub and the US Geological Survey's NW Climate Science Adaptation Center and the project team members were Claire Phillips (ARS) and Adam Lindsey (OSU).

**SCROLL ALL THE WAY DOWN TO SEE
THE LATEST!**

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WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU.

Our volunteers and board are chock full of great ideas this spring to help your business grow. We need your help to bring them to life.

Learn about the Cares Act Relief Tax, your employer match program, or an IRA distribution to reduce your taxable income.



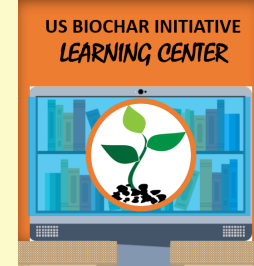
GIVE GENEROUSLY

USBI LEARNING CENTER

[Video presentations are now available for last January's Biochar in the](#)

Woods Webinar that featured over 15 speakers on project logistics and economics, environmental and social impacts, and technology development.

So much is happening in our industry now! USBI's Learning Center makes it easy to stay up to date on the latest news. [Take our digital database for a spin!](#) There's sure to be a media format that will be a good fit for your busy schedule.



BIOCHAR NEWSLINKS

➤ [Big California Biochar Model](#). A new report from Pacific Biochar shows the way for the company and other biochar producers, such as Corigin, to bring beneficial changes to California agriculture and enhance its ability to adapt to climate change.



➤ [This Ancient Fertilizer Is a Skeleton Key for Saving Earth](#). Fluffy compost, better Britta filters, charcoal buildings and capped oil wells are just a few of the treasures that biochar can unlock. Biochar has been used in agriculture for millennia but industrial applications and a growing climate crisis mean it's in new demand.

« Photo courtesy of Jeff Hutchens/Getty Images

➤ [Cal Fire and Takachar Demonstrate New Biofuel Reactor Technology](#). In March, Cal Fire and Jackson Demonstration State Forest staff held a public demonstration on Takachar's technology designed to convert woody materials left over from timber harvests into fertilizer or biofuel.

➤ [Out with The Old - In with the New](#). Edgewood Forest Products in Carrot River, Saskatchewan, CAN is planning to phase out its beehive burner, replacing it with a biorefinery to convert sawmill waste into bioproducts like biochar, wood tar and essential oils.

➤ [Forests and Wood: The Path to a Sustainable, Negative-Carbon World](#). Forester David Atkin travels in time to 2050 to explore the future role of forests and their products, including biochar, in building a sustainable society.

Trees store carbon and filter air, reduce stormwater, pollution, »
cool urban landscapes, and support social connections.
Incorporated into the environment, the aesthetics of urban trees can be stunning.



➤ [Biochar: Because Manure Happens Webinar](#). Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service's March webinar informed producers, academics, industry representatives and the public about their research producing biochar from dairy manure.

➤ [NASDAQ Launches Carbon Removal Indices](#). Carbon Removal Certificates (CORC) are tradable digital assets provided by NASDAQ majority-owned Puro.earth. The CORC Biochar Price index (CORCCHAR) reflects the price of removing one tonne of carbon from the atmosphere as biochar.

➤ [Biochar Continues to Gain Traction with Microsoft](#). Microsoft just identified six biochar projects for its medium-durability term solution, which it estimates will sequester carbon for between 200 and 1,000 years.

➤ [Microsoft Partners with Carbonfuture on Carbon Removal Purchases](#). Microsoft has selected Carbonfuture to be an integral part of its carbon removal portfolio. Carbonfuture is a tracking service for carbon removals through biosinks and other negative emission technologies. Carbonfuture has chosen to work with Pacific Biochar, a long-term partner and innovator in the biosink industry.

➤ [Oregon Wood-Fired Power Plant Repurposes Wood, Trees Burned in Past Wildfires](#). A Southern Oregon power plant is repurposing the wood burned in past wildfires in the region to make renewable energy and biochar, a material that contains carbon and helps supplement soil.

Biomass One Managing General Partner Gregory Blair said



the White City plant supplies 20,000 homes with energy and produces 50,000 cubic yards of biochar by processing wood waste annually.

Biomass One in Southern Oregon produces renewable energy. (KTVL)

► **Zurich Insurance Accelerates Its Net Zero Target and Invests in Carbon Removal.** The chosen carbon removal providers include Oregon Biochar Solutions from the US. Zurich said its participation in these projects, facilitated by the Puro.earth carbon removal marketplace, is essential for the projects to start up and expand their operations.

► **Neighborhood Group Targets Water Quality in Catherine and Channel Lakes.** Friends of Catherine and Channel Lakes in Antioch, IL will be working with residents to deploy biochar “socks” from Biochar Now to clean up the algae-filled lakes.

Runoff containing phosphorous can lead to algae blooms ► in local lakes. Courtesy of Amy Littleton.



► **Oil Sands Water Reclamation Materials Put to Commercialization Test.** Most life cycle analysis is done on products already commercially developed, but University of Alberta researchers are using LCA for novel materials like biochar that haven't yet been commercialized or produced on a large scale.

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Decarbonizing our Economy

North American Biochar & Bioenergy Conference 2022



August 8 - 10, 2022

Morgantown, West Virginia

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