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Biochar In The News

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May 5, 2010 [Toil to improve soil](#)

Former farmer Russell Burnett is developing a machine that he hopes will produce biochar to build soil carbon content.

May 5, 2010 [Proposed Cornell University Renewable Bioenergy Initiative](#)

Biochar is generating attention at the White House and in Congress because it enriches soil and locks-in carbon in its charcoal-like structure; that makes slow pyrolysis potentially a carbon "negative" energy technology, sequestering more carbon on balance than it releases into the atmosphere during production. There is tremendous research interest in biochar, but currently no production capacity exists in the United States, the feasibility study found.

May 4, 2010 [Biochar Stove Tests](#)

Sarah Carter at Biochar Innovation has been testing some biochar producing stove designs.

May 4, 2010 [Albert Bates III: The Biochar Solution](#)

Albert Bates discusses his book in this video.

Apr 29, 2010 [WorldStove: Transforming Haiti and the World](#)

WorldStove founder Nathaniel Mulcahy has just completed two months of work in Haiti, setting up a pilot project that will provide biochar-producing stoves and jobs for the Haitian people.

Apr 22, 2010 [High Efficiency, Clean Burning Cook Stoves](#)

WorldStove receives a special mention on this press release from former President Clinton's website as the Special Envoy for Haiti.

Jan 6, 2010 [The Great Pacific Garbage Patch](#)

Walsh's research uncovered inOvate, LLC, a robotics developer that has an ocean sweeper on the drawing board that can be deployed from a ship or airplane to make plastic and chemicals bubble to the surface. Once this debris is collected, the Bal-Pac machine, a technology developed by Balboa Pacific Corporation of San Diego, CA, can convert the toxic materials into beneficial byproducts including electricity and biochar (a charcoal-like material used as a soil amendment to sequester carbon from the atmosphere) without generating any pollution.

Jan 5, 2010 [Terra Branco to Terra Preta](#)

One of the most exciting new strategies for restoring carbon to depleted soils and sequestering significant amounts of CO₂ for 1000 years and more is the use of biochar.

Jan 5, 2010 [Using biochar systems to sequester carbon](#)

Last month we introduced biochar and the multitude of benefits it may provide. This month we will look specifically at the ability of biochar to sequester carbon. In fact, we will examine the entire biochar production system and its ability to sequester carbon through biochar and other methods in the system.

Dec 26, 2009 [Biochar Experimental Farm in Cambodia](#)

This research will investigate using crop trials the impact of biochar on soil.

Changes to the chemical and physical properties of the soil will be measured before and after biochar addition, and also the yield of crop will be measured. Biochar trial plots will be located in the North West of Cambodia, in Siem Reap

Dec 24, 2009 Amazonian Terra Preta

"Terra preta" (Portuguese for "black earth") are anomalous deposits of deep, rich soil found in large pockets of land throughout the Amazon. Once thought to be 100% comprised of thin, fragile soil that would immediately desertify if the trees were removed, it now turns out there are significant sections of Amazonia where this terra preta is abundant.

Dec 21, 2009 The Dirt on Climate Change

Could soil engineered specifically to maximize carbon storage dampen some effects of climate change? Very possibly, while rejuvenating depleted agricultural soils. "We have 6.7 billion people now. We'll have 10 billion in a few more decades. How are we going to feed them if we don't take care of our soils?"

Dec 15, 2009 Progress on Biochar at Climate Summit in Copenhagen

Representatives of IBI and many other biochar supporters have been attending the UNFCCC COP15 meetings in Copenhagen Denmark, which began last week and continue to December 18. As of today, Tuesday 15 December, the draft negotiation text that has been released by the Conference Chairs and Parties is very short on details pertaining to agricultural sector solutions and technologies, but placeholder text is included for domestic agricultural and land use activities of industrialized countries as well as for the financing of cooperative agricultural sector mitigation activities between developed and developing countries.

Dec 8, 2009 Cap and Fade - James Hansen

There is a better alternative than cap and trade, one that would be more efficient and less costly: "fee and dividend." Under this approach, a gradually rising carbon fee would be collected at the mine or port of entry for each fossil fuel (coal, oil and gas). All of the collected fees would then be distributed to the public.

Dec 8, 2009 Biochar Side Events in Copenhagen

Dec 7, 2009 Copenhagen: Focus on the (Carbon) Negative

To offset the increasing CO2 levels, we urgently need to go beyond the goal of achieving carbon neutrality. We must actually become carbon negative, removing CO2 from the atmosphere faster than we are putting there. A number of companies are already developing such carbon-negative technologies that capture CO2 directly from the air. A couple of the more promising innovations include biochar.

Dec 6, 2009 Energy Spotlight: January panel to explore forest biofuels as energy option

For renewable energies, forest waste materials can be burned, chemically converted into liquid fuels such as ethanol, or heated without oxygen to produce bio-oil, bio-char and gasses. Last summer, the Umpqua and Umatilla National Forests coordinated experiments to test one technology, called fast pyrolysis, to heat waste wood chips to produce useful products.

Dec 5, 2009 Cornell Sends Delegation to COP15

Sustainability scientists from Cornell University will attend the 15th United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark. Johannes Lehmann, associate professor of soil fertility management and soil biogeochemistry and head of Cornell's delegation, will speak about carbon-sequestering and soil-amending biochar at three panels Dec. 7, 9 and 12.

Nov 30, 2009 Ten ideas to save the planet: the growing problem

Instead of allowing the plant matter to decompose, pyrolysis can be used to seize and store carbon in a much more stable charcoal form known as biochar. Biochar is used to absorb atmospheric CO2 and stores it virtually permanently

in a carbon negative process.

Nov 30, 2009 German factory to mass produce ancient Amazonian fertilizer

The Palaterra project will use waste product from the nearby biogas facility to recycle tons of material into useable feedstock. As a self-proclaimed solution to both global climate change and human hunger, Terra Preta hopes to take the simple act of "composting" to a commercial scale using a rediscovered formula that was thought to be lost with the great Amazonian cultures.

Nov 30, 2009 Turning corn stubble into biochar

Agricultural Research Service scientists have found that it might be more cost-effective, energy-efficient and environmentally sustainable to use corn stover for generating an energy-rich oil called bio-oil and for making biochar to enrich soils and sequester carbon.

Nov 27, 2009 Bio-Oil and Biochar May be Future of Corn Stover

Researchers around the world are trying to economically convert cellulosic biomass such as corn stover into "cellulosic ethanol." But Agricultural Research Service scientists have found that it might be more cost-effective, energy-efficient and environmentally sustainable to use corn stover for generating an energy-rich oil called bio-oil and for making biochar to enrich soils and sequester carbon.

Nov 26, 2009 juwi and areal to build world's first Terra Preta plant

The juwi Group and Joachim Böttcher, head of areal GmbH, today founded the joint venture Palaterra GmbH&Co.KG at juwi's company headquarters in Wörrstadt, Germany. In this joint venture, juwi and areal together will produce and market a groundbreaking new product, which will make an important contribution not only toward solving world hunger but also to climate protection: Terra Preta, or "dark earth".

Nov 21, 2009 Green hype, or is biochar the key to carbon control?

In the world of climate change solutions, biochar is the celebrity option ... The industry acknowledges the need for further study, but argues the basics are proven.

Nov 9, 2009 Al Gore's newest book highlights solutions to the climate crisis, including biochar

In order to combat certain farming practices, he believes governments should subsidize no-till farming and other carbon sequestration technologies. For example, Gore thinks biochar, which is basically porous charcoal, may be able to sequester 40 percent of annual carbon dioxide emissions. He also believes that most of the solutions should be enacted on their merits alone, regardless of their effect on the climate.