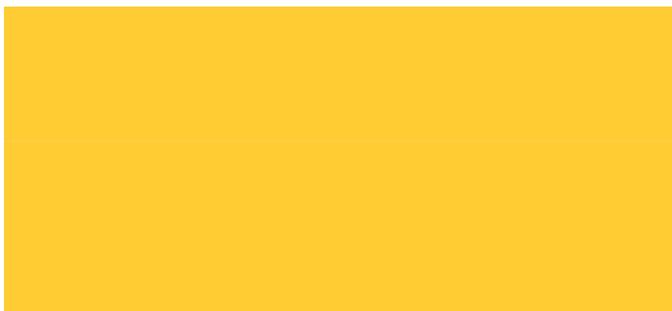


## December 2008 International Biochar Initiative News



### **Micronesia Backs Biochar as Carbon Mitigation and Storage Strategy at the UN Climate Meeting in Poznan, Poland**

IBI is pleased to announce that Micronesia filed a submission at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) proceedings in Poznan, Poland last week to introduce biochar as a technology for consideration as a "fast-start" strategy to "mitigate climate change in the immediate near-term." The submission places biochar on the draft agenda to be considered during UNFCCC negotiations in Copenhagen in 2009.

Micronesia's proposal follows the filing of a submission by the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) also endorsing biochar for consideration as a climate change mitigation technology. The UNCCD, a sister convention to the UNFCCC, identified biochar as a unique opportunity to address soils as a carbon sink, in line with its 10 year strategic program that calls for the promotion of low-carbon footprint sustainable practices and technologies that assist affected countries in the implementation of their National Actions Programs to Combat Desertification and Drought.

IBI Executive Director Debbie Reed said, "This is an incredibly important achievement, since Micronesia, as a UNFCCC country party, has officially positioned biochar as a mitigation technology for adoption even prior to the post-2012 framework. The UNCCD submission was an excellent start to what we sought here in Poznan, but the Micronesia submission offers a chance to jump-start efforts to adopt biochar as a climate change mitigation technology."

For more details on the submission as well as biochar in the UNFCCC process, please see: <http://www.biochar-international.org/ibimaterialsforpress.html>. This page contains all press releases as well as new 1 page printable materials and other fact sheets on biochar for use by network members.

### **IBI Selects 9 Countries for Biochar Projects**

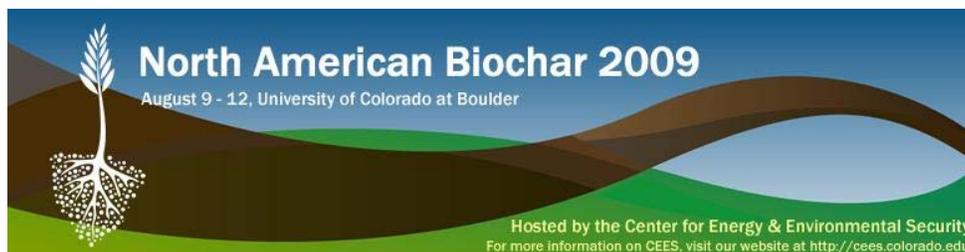
IBI is working with developing countries on production and utilization projects to develop and evaluate cost effective approaches for the widespread introduction of biochar. The major aims of the project are to: introduce biochar and pyrolysis technologies at the household and village/neighborhood level through the use of biochar cookstoves and small-scale biochar units; develop common schemes to evaluate the performance of the cookstoves and the pyrolysis units; develop common procedures to analyze biochar and monitor application and plant growth response; and develop a methodology to assess the environmental, economic, social and cultural costs and benefits of introducing biochar technology and biochar to soils.

After reviewing the many proposals, IBI increased the number of initial country projects from six to nine. The first set of projects will take place in Belize, Cameroon, Costa Rica, Chile, Egypt, India, Kenya, Mongolia, and Vietnam. Project descriptions and more information can be found on the IBI website at:

<http://www.biochar-international.org/projectsandprograms/9countryprojects.html>.

Updates will be posted as the work progresses in each project.

## Upcoming Regional IBI Conference of North America: August 9 - 12, 2009



The Regional Conference of the IBI Americas Region is planned for August 9 - 12, 2009 at the University of Colorado, Boulder CO, USA. The Center for Energy and Environmental Security (CEES) at the Colorado Law School will host the event. Tours will be available to the US National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) and the three Colorado Universities actively engaged in alternative energy and sustainability research.

More information on the conference, registration, and lodging options are posted on the conference website at: [Americas Regional Conference August 2009](#). Additionally, the site has information on a call for abstracts covering all aspects of biochar from scientists, engineers, users, producers, students, policy analysts, and policy makers. The deadline for submission is March 21, 2009, notification of acceptance will be provided by April 21, 2009.

Sponsorship interests as well as other questions are welcome and should be sent to [biochar@colorado.edu](mailto:biochar@colorado.edu).

## IBI and Biochar in the News

The last month has seen a ramp up in major media coverage for biochar and the International Biochar Initiative. IBI's presence in Poznan, Poland for the UN climate talks and the successes there generated some of this coverage. Much of the news coverage we are now seeing comes from the steady efforts of individuals in the IBI network telling the story of biochar and the successes of particular projects. Here is a quick roundup of biochar in the news:

### Farm and Trade News

<http://fw.farmonline.com.au/news/state/forestry/general/oil-mallee-plan-released/1364777.aspx>

11-19-08, Farm News Online, Oil Mallee Plan Released - Australian Forestry Minister Terry Redman announces a plan for the oil mallee industry that includes biochar.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/ethicallivingblog/2008/nov/21/organics-carbonemissions> 11-21-08, The Guardian, Finding a Solution to Soil's Carbon Problem - blogger Bibi van der Zee reports on the Soil Association conference, saying "If you'd told me a week ago that I would spend two days listening to people talk about soil carbon sequestration (and be gripped by it!) I would have laughed in your face."

<http://www.wickedlocal.com/orleans/fun/entertainment/dining/x776455263/>

11-21-08, Wicked Local Orleans, Backyard Grower Preserves Eastham Turnip Tradition. A Cape Cod organic grower uses biochar to produce impressive heirloom turnips.

<http://southeastfarmpress.com/news/agricultural-research-1128/>

11-26-08, Southeast Farm Press, Manure Shows Promise for On-Farm Fuel. Summary of a US Agricultural Research Service (ARS) study on producing biochar and other products from manure.

[http://cornandsoybeandigest.com/corn/black\\_gold\\_soil\\_1108/](http://cornandsoybeandigest.com/corn/black_gold_soil_1108/)

11-30-08, The Corn and Soybean Digest , Black Gold - Susan Winsor's article is a general information piece on biochar and soil carbon that quotes scientists Bruno Glaser, David Laird and Johannes Lehmann.

[http://www.biomassmagazine.com/article.jsp?article\\_id=2217](http://www.biomassmagazine.com/article.jsp?article_id=2217)

December 2008 Issue, Biomass Magazine, New Zealand Company Converts Wood to Charcoal. Anna Austin tells us of a new "microwave-assisted pyrolysis" technique called "Black Phantom," developed by New Zealand-based Carbonscape Ltd.

<http://www.theobserver.ca/ArticleDisplay.aspx?e=1325256>

12-02-08, The Observer, Plant Targets Farm Waste. Report on University of Western Ontario's launch of a pilot plant to turn agricultural waste into useful products, including biochar.

### **Top Tens**

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2008/nov/27/renewableenergy-energy>

11-27-08, The Guardian, The 10 Big Energy Myths. Businessman and climate-change commentator Chris Goodall has written a book called Ten Technologies to Save the Planet. Biochar is one of them and it commands a whole chapter in the book. This article is Goodall's summary of his book.

<http://www.newscientist.com/article/dn16179-ten-ways-to-save-the-world.html>

12-02-08, New Scientist, Ten Ways to Save the World. Journalist Tamsin Osborne provides this summary of Chris Goodall's book.

### **Time Magazine**

<http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1864279,00.html>

12-04-08, Time, Carbon: The Biochar Solution. Lisa Abend produced a report on biochar, its origins in the Amazon and on IBI's recently profiled practitioner, Josh Frye, who is making biochar from chicken manure. The article quotes Bob Hawkins of Eprida, and scientists Tim Flannery, Dominic Wolfe and Johannes Lehmann. A letter has been sent to the editor to correct some inaccuracies in the article.

### **Projects and Initiatives**

<http://www.thestar.com/article/548658>

12-06-08, The Toronto Star, A 'revolutionary' remedy for global warming. Reporter Peter Gorrie has a story on the inaugural meeting of the Canadian Biochar Initiative: "Next week, as 10,000 delegates in Poland wrap up another inconclusive United Nations conference on climate change, a small group will gather in Montreal to try to actually do something about the problem."

<http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/headline/metro/6158073.html>

12-10-08, Houston Chronicle, Team from Rice wins \$10,000 in 'Recycle Ike' Contest. Carolyn Feibel reports that a team of students and scientists from Rice University has won a \$10,000 prize for finding a way to use all the wood waste generated by hurricane Ike. The winning idea is biochar. The Rice team will use the money to build a pilot bioreactor for making biochar.

### **Poznan**

<http://www.novanewsnow.com/article-275289-White-Rock-student-heads-to-Poland.html>

11-23-08, King County Advertiser, White Rock Student Heads to Poland. Biochar in Poznan coverage kicked off with this article about Canadian Youth Delegation member Thea Whitman. Thea is doing post-graduate work on biochar at Cornell University and is starting a biochar cook stove project in Kenya "with a view to incorporate this process into the Kyoto protocol (or its successors) Clean Development Mechanism."

<http://www.reuters.com/article/scienceNews/idUSTRE4B45KB20081205>

12-05-08, Reuters, Scientist Says Ancient Technique Cuts Greenhouse Gas. Gerard Wynn reports from Poznan with a basic background piece on biochar and the IBI.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/environment/climate-change/ancient-skills-could-reverse-global-warming-1055700.html>

12-07-08, The Independent, Ancient Skills 'Could Reverse Global Warming.' Geoffrey Lean, Environment Editor, reports on a new biochar project by Craig Sams and Dan Morrell planned for Belize and Sussex, and discusses biochar in the context of the climate talks in Poznan.

<http://www.treehugger.com/files/2008/12/betting-on-biochar-to-break-the-co2-imbalance.php>

12-07-08, Treehugger, Betting on Biochar to Solve Our Super CO2 Imbalance. This top eco blog has a report from April Streeter on the scene in Poznan covering biochar, the IBI, and a new biochar venture.

<http://news.mongabay.com/2008/1210-africa.html>

12-10-08, Mongabay.com, Africa Calls for "Full-Range" of Bio-Carbon as Climate Solution. This article says, "The African Climate Solution - a partnership launched at the current climate talks in Poznan, Poland - seeks payments from industrialized nations for efforts by developing countries to sequester carbon through land use practices." Biochar is identified as one of the practices.

<http://www.marketwatch.com/news/story/Dangerous-Sea-Level-Rise-Imminent/story.aspx?guid=4A4237D2-E49F-4E36-BF6F-632232ED133E>

12-11-08, MarketWatch.com, Dangerous Sea Level Rise Imminent Without Large Reductions of Black Carbon and Implementation of Other Fast-Action Mitigation Strategies. MarketWatch ran this report from the Institute for Governance & Sustainable Development on important developments at Poznan regarding fast action on climate change and the role of biochar. As an island nation facing rising seas, the Federated States of Micronesia has called for the use of biochar as a "key piece of the fast-action strategy" that can be deployed immediately to begin backing away from climate tipping points.

## Coming Up in Next Month's Newsletter

News, Articles, and More

The Second Practitioner's Profile

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