



American
Biochar
Institute

May 2026 Newsletter

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Developing standards is one of our key focus areas at American Biochar Institute. Standards underpin trust and increased use of biochar in end use markets, especially those that operate at the largest volumes like soil amendment, fertilizer products, and concrete.

To date, standards for biochar have been developed by private organizations in closed development processes. While these standards helped grow the use of biochar, they are limiting. They lack the cross-industry recognition that formal, open standards development processes provide. At American Biochar Institute, we are leading the development of ANSI biochar standards through these formal processes.

Over the next two months, ABI will launch formal technical committees to develop a biochar safe use standard and a biochar production standard. Suzanne Allaire of **GECA Environment** will lead both committees on behalf of ABI, which will be developed in collaboration with the **American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers** (ASABE), an ANSI accredited standards development organization.

The safe use standard will establish minimum quality standards for biochar use in applications across agriculture, consumer products, water filtration, concrete and other materials, as well as animal feed and bedding. This standard will focus on safety over performance, supporting product-market fit work already underway, led by companies, farmers, and researchers.

The production standard, developed in collaboration with the United States Biochar Coalition, will establish minimum monitoring and compliance requirements for biochar production. It will also help evaluate batch to batch material consistency that is critical to large volume market development.

Combined with the standard published late last year, **ANSI/ASABE/USBI S668: Methods for the Analysis and Testing of Biochar**, the completion of these two

new standards will further support the scaling biochar industry.



Myles Gray
Executive Director



Setting the Standard for Biochar

Trust • Scale • Adoption

November 16–18, 2026

**Hosted by American Biochar Institute.
in partnership with U.S. Biochar Coalition**

Last Call for Speakers and Posters

Submission deadline is May 20.

The program for the 2026 North American Biochar Conference (NABC) is built around the theme *Setting the Standard for Biochar: Trust. Scale. Adoption*. We're accepting submissions across markets, finance, standards, forestry, policy, production, and [more](#).

Speakers benefit from reduced cost registration, an opportunity to contribute to industry conversations, and increased visibility at the largest biochar conference in the United States.

[Submit a proposal](#)

*Please keep in mind: All abstracts must be submitted through the official conference portal (Whova). Email submissions **will not** be accepted.*

Visit the NABC website



Sponsor and Exhibitor Packages Available

Position your organization as a leader in the biochar industry.

NABC is the premier gathering for the biochar industry, uniting every part of the value chain to move toward full-scale deployment. Join as a sponsor or exhibitor and get the most out of it for your business!

✨ **New this year!** Exhibit Hall F is the heart of the event, housing registration, the main stage, exhibitor booths, meals, and the reception all in one central location. That means: more foot traffic, more networking, and unmatched brand visibility throughout the day.

NABC2026 Sponsor & Exhibitor Packet

Biochar Spotlight - News in biochar policy

The 2026 Farm Bill passed the House of Representatives — **and biochar was mentioned 53 times**. The bill now awaits Senate consideration.

The bill would create several specific pathways for biochar research, demonstration, and commercialization:

Demonstration and Commercialization

Section 8434 would establish a *Biochar Application Demonstration Project* to support the development and commercialization of biochar through partnerships with eligible entities. Projects could include feedstock testing, production system development, biochar facility



development, forest residue utilization, forest health applications, and market opportunities for biochar and biochar-based products.

Regional Projects and Feedstock

To the maximum extent practicable, the bill directs that at least one demonstration project be carried out in each U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management region. It also includes a feedstock requirement: at least 50% of feedstock should come from forest thinning and management activities, including mill residues, from National Forest System lands or public lands.

Funding and Priorities

Funding may support testing feedstocks, developing mobile and permanent production units, building or expanding facilities, and demonstrating market opportunities. Federal support for establishing a biochar facility is capped at 35% of capital cost. Project selection prioritizes jobs, rural economies, market viability, forest health and resiliency, wildfire-risk areas, available feedstock, and demand for biochar products.

Research and Reporting

The bill includes biochar research and extension language focused on soil health, water retention, carbon sequestration, best management practices, and regional applications. It also requires reports to Congress on commercialization barriers, research needs, and recommendations to expand biochar use.

The House-passed Farm Bill would put real structure around biochar demonstration, research, and commercialization.

The strongest emphasis is forestry, with agricultural applications clearly included through soil health, water retention, carbon sequestration, productivity, and best management practices.

[Take me to the Bill](#)

Read the Biochar Summary

ABI's Director of Agricultural Technology, Brandon Smith, created a summary that highlights the biochar-relevant sections of the bill.

[Take me to the Biochar Summary](#)



Upcoming Events

Connect and collaborate at in-person or online events!

May 23

Biochar Field Day in Milan, MN: A field day demonstrating small-scale biochar production will be held at the Don and Bev Struxness Farm on Saturday, May 23.
11AM – 12 PM | Milan, MN

May 28

USBC Webinar Forever Chemicals, Real Solutions: This roundtable discussion explores the critical role of biochar and pyrolysis in addressing the "forever chemical" (PFAS) crisis following recent EPA hazardous substance designations.
2 PM Eastern | Virtual

June 3

Biochar on Site: Monthly Biochar on Site video meetup.
12 – 1:30 PM Pacific | Virtual

June 30

Webinar: Developing ANSI Standards: The American Biochar Institute Program and Laboratory Methods. Join the International Biochar Initiative and Myles Gray of American Biochar Institute (ABI) to explore the need for standards across the biochar industry, and to learn about ABI's specific approach to this critical need.
8 – 9:30 AM Pacific | Virtual

September 29 - October 1

Soil and Mulch Council Annual Meeting: This event is the main annual gathering for the mulch and substrate industry in the United States. ABI Director of Agricultural Markets will be attending and presenting on biochar to this key end-use industry.
New Orleans, LA

September 30 - October 1

2026 Mid-Atlantic Soil and Water Summit: This first-of-its-kind regional event will bring together professionals, practitioners, regulators, and innovators dedicated to advancing effective solutions in erosion and sediment control, stormwater management, and environmental compliance.
Gaithersburg, MD

October 6-9

SAF National Convention: This event will bring together foresters, researchers, and policymakers to reflect on the rich history of forestry, share current advancements, and look ahead to the future of sustainable forest management.
Tacoma, WA

November 1-4

CANVAS: The annual meeting for the Agronomy Society of America, the Soil Science Society of America, and the Crop Science Society of America. It is a core event for emerging and applied science in these fields, including for biochar. American Biochar Institute Directors Tera Lewandowski and Brandon Smith will be at the event to promote biochar and research partnerships.
Portland, OR

November 16-18

North American Biochar Conference: The North American Biochar Conference will return in 2026 for another year of in-depth learning, collaboration, and market-driven conversation focused on advancing the biochar industry
New Orleans, LA

Biochar Roundup

The latest industry developments in the US.

Pyronexus Announces Licensing of ARTi's Pyrolysis Technology. PyroNexus, LLC announced that it has entered into an agreement to licensed ARTi's pyrolysis technology and intellectual property as part of its strategy to accelerate the development of next-generation biochar production systems.

Mangrove Systems Acquires Biochar Carbon Removal Platform Grain Ecosystem. Carbon removal measurement, reporting, and verification (dMRV) platform Mangrove Systems announced the acquisition of operating assets from biochar-focused digital solutions provider Grain Ecosystem.

How Quonset Soil Solutions turns woodchips into garden gold. The plant uses a high-heat process to turn woodchips into a carbon-rich soil amendment, and QSS wants to use the same technology to process sewage sludge.

Boeing Buys 20,000-Ton Portfolio of Biochar, ERW Carbon Removals. Carbon removal marketplace Supercritical announced a new agreement with Boeing for the purchase of 20,000 tons of durable carbon dioxide removal (CDR), sourced from a series of suppliers pursuing biochar and enhanced rock weathering (ERW) projects in developing countries.

Wakefield Biochar™, a Professional-Preferred Soil Amendment to Help Gardens and Lawns Thrive with Less Watering, is Now Available for Gardeners and Homeowners at Walmart Stores Across the U.S. Wakefield's Biochar Pro Garden Mix is now available at Walmart stores nationwide.

Construction to begin on Douglas County Biochar facility after \$8 million contract is awarded. Roughly nine months after breaking ground on Douglas County's Biochar facility, a contract has been awarded to begin construction.

Verde and Isometric Aim to Scale High Integrity Carbon Credits Through Infrastructure. Verde and Isometric aim to accelerate the certification and commercialization of engineered biochar for use in Verde's BioAsphalt™ technology across North American and global markets.

Soil Amendments Improve Water Use in HLB-Affected Citrus. Soil amendments, such as biochar and compost, can be effective in helping sandy soil retain water and nutrients while increasing organic matter, which is naturally very low in the citrus-growing regions of Florida.



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ABI thanks the USDA Forest Service, Wood Innovations Program for continued partnership for its activities and publications. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

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