American Biochar Institute







October 2026 Newsletter

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What is the American Biochar Institute and what does it actually do?

These are questions I've been thinking about a lot over the past month as we work to expand our programs and increase our impact — and as I continue building connections with philanthropic funders to support our work.

Internally, our team knows what we do and the value of that work, but communicating that value externally is critical to our ability to continue delivering strong results in the long term.

Simply put, ABI is the catalyst that sparks broader use and deployment of biochar by creating standards, developing markets, and convening the industry.

Building robust demand means making sure that biochar delivers real, consistent benefits to the folks who use it, which is why we take a market-oriented approach in all of our work. That means we consider biochar from the perspective of users and buyers, such as farmers, engineers, landscape architects, potting media companies, and others.

As an independent non-profit with a highly technical team, we are uniquely positioned to deliver science-based guidance, technical assistance, education, and standards. That's needed so end-users can confidently use biochar in their projects, products, and on their farms, and then become regular users and buyers.

By working closely with the biochar sector but also maintaining our independence, we are able to work on commercially relevant projects and markets — and we're still able to be honest about when and where biochar does not work.

Lastly, we are a group of dedicated and talented individuals who believe in the promise of biochar, but who also understand the challenge of making it work.



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.

Conference Agenda Preview Available

Start planning your time at NABC.

Three days of panels, roundtables, networking, and more! Take a first look at the conference schedule with more exciting sessions and speakers still to come.

Bring me to the agenda

Speakers and session details are subject to change.

Register now to connect with people working across biochar markets, research, policy, and production.

Coming as a team? Buy 4 all-day passes and get the 5th free! And it keeps scaling as your group grows: 7 passes get 2 free, 10 passes get 3 free, and so on.

Register

*Reach out to **conference@biochar.org** for group registration.*

🚨 Upcoming NABC deadlines

- Hotel block discounts - **October 23 & 24 | Book now**
- Product & Art Showcase submission deadline - **October 31 | Submit entry**
- Standard registration price increase - **November 2 | Register**

Sponsor and Exhibitor Packages Available.

The lineup for NABC 2026 keeps growing (we're over 50% sold!) and the exhibit hall is filling up quickly. Now's the time to reserve your spot and maximize pre-conference visibility.

Booths start at $2,500, and space is going fast. Contact **emily@biochar.org** to reserve yours.

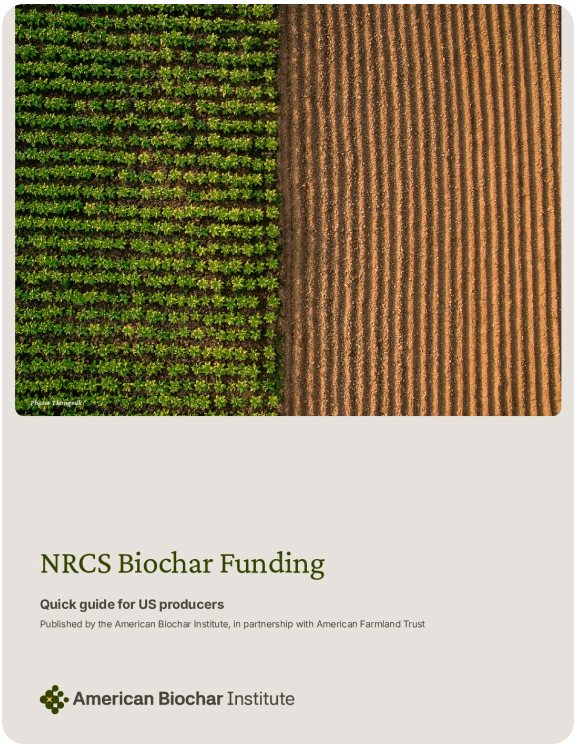
Sponsor & Exhibitor Packet

Featured Resource - NRCS Biochar Funding: Quick Guide for U.S. Producers

Access practical guidance for securing USDA NRCS funding to apply biochar on agricultural lands.

This fact sheet, published in partnership with American Farmland Trust, is designed for U.S. producers looking to integrate biochar into their operations while leveraging the Code 336 Soil Carbon Amendment funding from the USDA's NRCS.

Learn the eligibility criteria for using biochar, how to begin the NRCS application process, and what to expect when developing a Conservation Plan. The resource also includes strategic tips to strengthen your application, helping you navigate the process with clarity and improve your chances of approval.



Download the guide

Request for Information - Product category rules for biochar in North America

The American Biochar Institute is issuing this request for information to help scope a project that will develop consistent life cycle accounting rules for biochar used in products in North America, with an emphasis on the United States.

ABI will lead the project and has funding committed for its initial phase. We will use responses to develop a request for proposals (RFP), which will be issued in Q4 2026 with work expected to begin in early Q1 2027.

View the Project Details



Upcoming Events

Connect and collaborate at in-person or online events!

October 21
Webinar. USBC & ABI: Inside NABC 2026: Join the US Biochar Coalition (USBC) and the American Biochar Institute for a live, slide-free virtual roundtable about the full blueprint for NABC 2026. *Live attendees will receive a 15% registration discount code during the session.
Virtual

October 26-28
California Stormwater Quality Association Annual Conference: CASQA is the premier stormwater management conference in California and a leading forum for new management concepts that propagate across the country. ABI Executive Director Myles Gray will be presenting on key findings and recommendations in the new Guidance Manual for Biochar in Stormwater Management.
Sacramento, CA

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. ABI Directors Myles Gray and Tera Lewandowski will be at the event to promote biochar and research partnerships.
Portland, OR

November 4
Webinar. Research and Development Presents: Biochar Composite Panels for Improving Water Quality: Join this webinar to learn more about biochar composite panels and their uses directly from Forest Products Laboratory scientists.
Virtual

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.

Delano plant begins producing biochar made from almond shells. A Delano operation with ambitions to bury carbon while also generating renewable energy from ag waste says it has achieved a first step in the process by producing biochar for sale to farmers as a soil amendment.

BP Picks Myno Carbon for Biochar Trial to Tackle Oil-Contaminated Soil. BP's Remediation Management Services Company (BP RM) has selected Myno Carbon to participate in a multi-year landfarming remediation trial.

University of Florida Selects Myno Carbon for Innovative Sargassum-to-Biochar Water Quality Research. Collaboration with University of Florida researchers explores a holistic solution that transforms problematic coastal biomass into beneficial, enhanced biochar for water treatment.

Kentucky State researchers take a longer look at biochar's benefits for farmland. At Kentucky State University, researchers are returning to a soybean field year after year to learn whether biochar can help farmers protect it. Their latest study adds a third year of evidence to a question that takes time to answer.

Turning Crops into a Tool for PFA's Remediation. Chemical Engineering Progress magazine's (CEP) September edition reports on a novel process for getting rid of PFA's, the pervasive "forever chemicals" contaminating soil and groundwater.

Georgia Wood Char Scales Waste-Wood Biochar for Global B2B Buyers. Georgia Wood Char, a biochar producer in Commerce, Georgia, founded by Scott Ledford, is scaling waste-wood biochar for business buyers around the world.



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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.

ABI is supported in part by The United States Endowment for Forestry and Communities, Inc. The Endowment is a not-for-profit corporation that works collaboratively with partners in the public and private sectors to advance systemic, transformative, and sustainable change for the health and vitality of the nation's working forests and forest-reliant communities.

American Biochar Institute | 1120 SE Madison Street | Portland, OR 97214 US

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