



September 2026 Newsletter

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**In this issue | Letter from ABI Leadership • North American Biochar Conference • Biochar Spotlight
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In every issue of this newsletter, we try to highlight what's moving this industry forward and many times, it comes back to the same thing: partnerships.

Biochar doesn't scale because one company gets it right. It scales because producers, landowners, foresters, technology providers, buyers, policymakers and so many more start working from the same set of facts and trust each other enough to build together. That's the real story of this industry right now, it is less about any single breakthrough, more about the connective tissue forming between people across the value chain who don't always talk to each other.

This issue includes a story out of Rapid City, South Dakota, where a city government, a local biochar producer, and a public works department found their way to each other over a landfill problem. It's a real example of something we see constantly in this industry: progress starts when the right people end up in the same conversation.

ABI's mission is to deliver education, independent, science-based information, technical assistance, and standards for biochar. None of that happens in isolation. Collaboration is what makes standards credible and markets durable: producers and buyers working from shared information, together.

So, I want to ask you directly: *Do you know who your partners are in the biochar industry?* Not just your customers or suppliers, but the people a step or two removed from you in the value chain who are solving a piece of the same problem. It could be the researcher validating a new application, the feedstock supplier you haven't met yet, the composter across the state, or a newly announced statewide grant program.

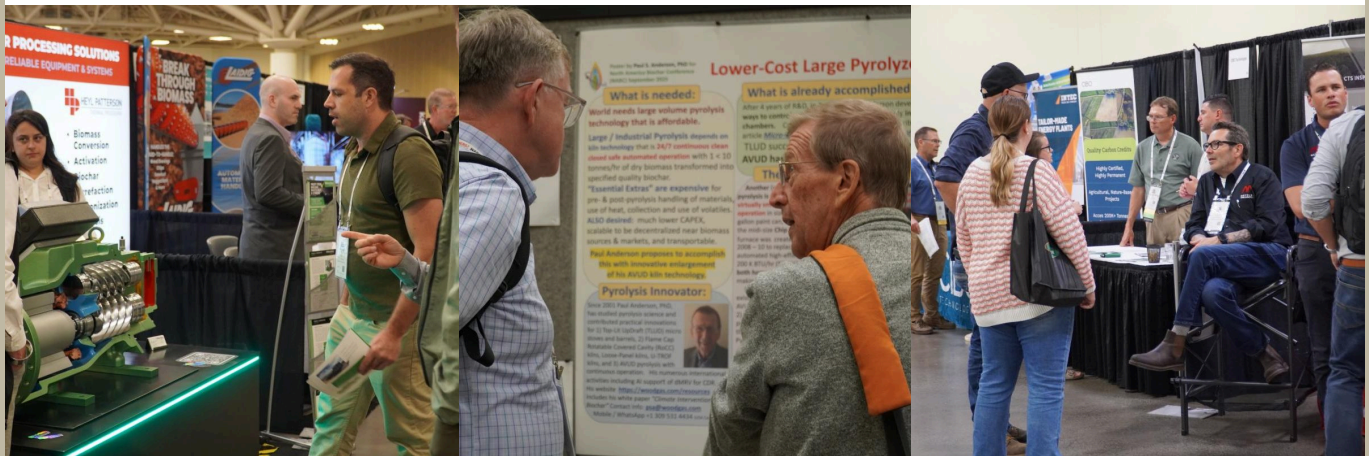
These are the types of conversations that move biochar from promising to proven and they rarely happen by accident.

That's one of the true values of this November's conference. Three days of putting the right people in the same room (producers next to buyers, researchers next to policymakers, longtime members next to first-time attendees). If you're coming to New Orleans, come ready to make a few new connections and continue those conversations long after the conference is over.

See you in New Orleans!



Tina Metzger
Director of Projects & Partnerships



Setting the Standard for Biochar

Trust • Scale • Adoption

November 16–18, 2026

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

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

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.

ANNOUNCING

Biochar Product and Art Gallery at NABC

We're turning part of the NABC 2026 Exhibit Hall into a biochar art and product showcase!

From raw biochar and products built with biochar to artwork inspired by it, this is a chance for conference attendees to see, take photos, and talk about what's possible with this material and a dash of creativity — and share it with the world. Producers are also invited to display your biochar in a labeled pint jar as we create a true representation of what biochar looks like.

We've seen biochar ink, fabric prints, ceramics, watercolor paintings, and more — and we know there are ideas out there we haven't come across yet and we'd love to see it all. Or do you perhaps have a ✨ beautiful piece of raw biochar ✨? We want to see that, too!

Sign up below to join the showcase.

[Submit your entry](#)



BIOCHAR PRODUCT +
ART SHOWCASE

How it Works

1. **Submit your entry** on our online form.
2. **Wait for your showcase confirmation** from our team.
3. **Drop off your biochar or product** during the Exhibit Hall move-in on Monday, November 16.
4. **Showcase!** Your materials will be on display through November 18.

biocharconference.com
November 16–18, 2026



Biochar Award Nominations - Open through September 30

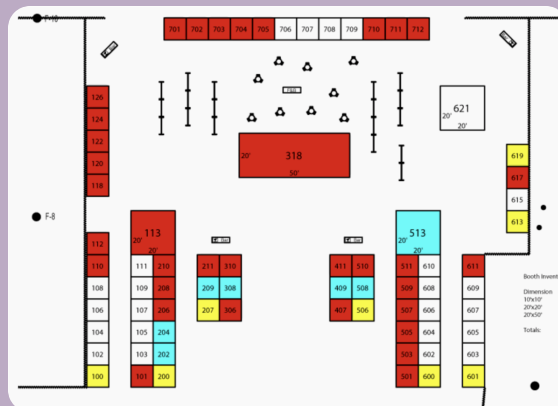
Know someone driving progress in biochar leadership, research, innovation, or industry impact — or maybe that someone is you? Nominate them (or yourself!) for one of four categories that best fits their contributions and help us recognize the people shaping our industry's future.

[Submit a nomination](#)

Exhibitor Hall 50% Sold

Sponsor and Exhibitor Packages Available.

The lineup for NABC 2026 keeps growing and the exhibit space is filling up quickly. Now's the time to grab your spot in the exhibit hall!



[Sponsor & Exhibitor Packet](#)

[View the Exhibitor Floor Plan](#)



Reservation deadlines for our hotel block are almost here!

We're just about a month out from our hotel block deadlines. New Orleans is a bustling city with a constant stream of tourists and November is one of the best times to visit.

Prices for other hotels will rise as we get closer, and spots in the hotel block are *very limited*, so don't put it off any longer.



[Book your stay](#)



Biochar Spotlight - Industry news

Biochar's local economic value is making headlines in South Dakota.

Rapid City, South Dakota, is exploring a partnership with Dakota Biochar that would turn thousands of tons of woody biomass into biochar, instead of sending it to the landfill. The city has been managing woody debris left by a major storm in December 2025.

The partnership could help extend landfill capacity while creating biochar for use in local agriculture and composting. City officials are also looking at whether biochar could help address herbicide contamination.



Credit: Brad Walton, Dakota News Now

“What we’re working with Dakota Biochar on is turning our wood waste into biochar, which can be used for anything from additional supplement to animal feed to putting into yard compost and things like that to deactivate some of the herbicides and things like that that are in the compost,” said Mike Theis, Rapid City’s Public Works Director.

“The opportunity for us to look at diverting waste from the landfill and working with a local company here in South Dakota, Dakota Biochar... I just wanted to emphasize this and just let you know how much I appreciate you thinking outside the box and coming up with alternative solutions for landfill diversion,” said Councilwoman Lindsey Seachris before Public Works Committee's vote.

[Read the story](#)



Featured Resource - Biochar Application Rate Conversion Calculator

Recently added to our website, the Conversion Calculator will help you determine biochar moisture levels and convert between wet weight and dry application rate (tons/acre). No more doing pesky conversions manually!

You may already know that biochar is very porous. It readily holds or loses water, and is often stored in an open barn, under tarps, or outdoors where it is exposed to rain, humidity, and heat. By the time a batch of biochar is delivered and spread, its actual “as-delivered” moisture content can be well above or below what the lab measured previously.

💡 This comes in extra handy since a lab report provides biochar moisture content at the moment of analysis—not the moisture content of the biochar as delivered.

STEP 1

Weigh your material

Fill a known-volume bucket with biochar as it sits in the pile, at field moisture.

Empty bucket weight

lbs

Full bucket weight

lbs

Bucket volume

gallons

Calibrate this. A 5-gallon bucket usually holds a little more than 5 gallons.

STEP 2

From the lab

Dry bulk density

LAB REPORT

 lbs/ft³

STEP 3

From the recommendation

Dry application rate

AGRONOMIST

 dry tons/acre

STEP 4 - OPTIONAL

Your field

Field area

acres

Add your field size to also see whole-field totals.

Clear all fields

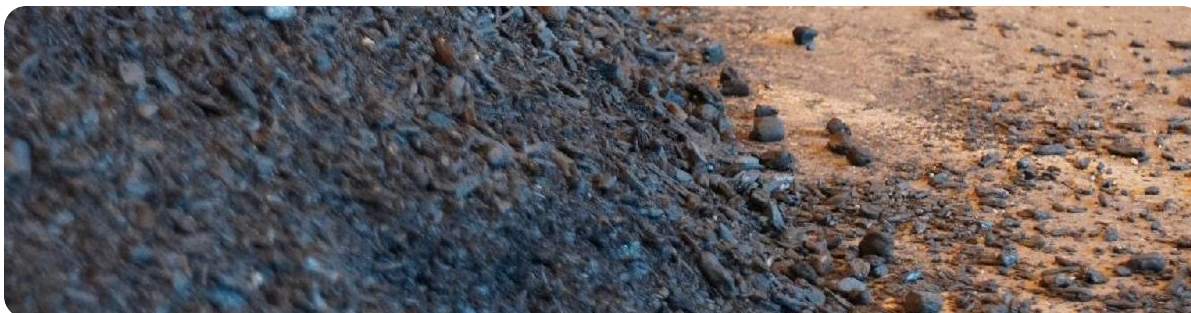
➦ How this is calculated

RESULT

What to load, based on your measured moisture.

Enter a number in every field to see results.

[Bring me to the Calculator](#)



Upcoming Events

Connect and collaborate at in-person or online events!

September 16, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

On Farm Biochar Production Demonstration & Field Walk: Join an on-farm biochar production demonstration. You'll watch a mobile biochar kiln in action, discuss use of biochar in agriculture, and visit biochar trials hosted on farms. Lunch will be provided.
Freeport, Maine

September 29

Webinar: USBC & ABI: Inside NABC 2026:

Join ABI and USBC for an insider preview of the North American Biochar Conference coming to New Orleans this November.
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 what soil and mulch professionals need to know to evaluate, source, and incorporate biochar into their product lines.
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

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. American Biochar Institute Directors Myles Gray and Tera Lewandowski 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.

Placer's Planning Commission approves use permit for Cabin Creek Biomass

Facility project. The project is designed to convert locally, sustainably sourced woody biomass and other eligible organic waste materials into biochar and other renewable or beneficial-use products to assist in the reduction of catastrophic wildfire risk.

Local study shows biochar improves soil moisture content during drought. After four years of study, a local farmer and researcher at Colorado State University says biochar has shown it significantly increases soil moisture, especially under drought conditions.

U.S. Bank Makes Its First CDR Investment, Backing Carba's Biochar Approach. U.S.

Bank has made its first carbon dioxide removal (CDR) investment, backing Carba on its biochar-centered deployment at a Minnesota landfill.

Plantd converts a construction waste problem into revenue with new biochar line.

The company moves a step closer to a fully closed-loop manufacturing process for its alt-construction materials.

Buyers Are Moving Faster On Biochar This Year, With 81% Of High-Quality Supply Already Locked In. In a new biochar market report, Supercritical points out that buyers are locking in larger carbon removal volumes earlier in the year, noting that 81% of the high-quality supply was committed by July 2026.

Breaking Even on Biochar: Expanding Biochar Adoption in Nebraska. Nebraska researchers are expanding biochar research from experimental plots to producer fields, pairing ranchers removing eastern redcedar with farmers who can put the locally produced biochar to work.

Permits, Plans, and Possibility: A Public Prescribed Fire Discussion. On August 19, the Duluth Township Town Hall on Homestead Road filled with people who had one thing in common: they were thinking seriously about fire.



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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.

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