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International Biochar Initiative Releases 2011 – 2012 Annual Report Detailing an Impressive Year

Thursday, September 27, 2012 – The International Biochar Initiative (IBI) posted its annual report today covering the period from July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012. In what was a busy year for the organization, IBI successfully completed the first-ever universal standards for Biochar, *The IBI Standardized Product Definition and Product Testing Guidelines for Biochar That Is Used in Soils* (the *IBI Biochar Standards*). Additionally, IBI supported the global biochar community via a searchable biochar bibliography and a website with detailed information on the international scope of biochar; participation and presentations at regional and national biochar conferences; and by continuing to spread the word on biochar and IBI globally. IBI increased and enhanced the organization's communications and outreach materials through a frequently updated website and newsletter program and completed a transition to a new membership management system. As part of IBI's project support work, IBI assisted two biochar projects in Costa Rica and Kenya to receive funding through the National Geographic Great Energy Challenge.

IBI Executive Director Debbie Reed, referencing the *IBI Biochar Standards*, stated: "Since our vision is to help attain the commercial viability of sustainable biochar production and utilization at all scales, it has become increasingly clear to me in the 6 years that I have been with IBI that before the industry can succeed in these efforts, we must define and be able to succinctly communicate what biochar is, as well as what it is not. To do this, we established the *IBI Biochar Standards* to provide the tools needed to universally and consistently define the material characteristics of biochar that is safe for use in soils. We look forward to launching a full *IBI Biochar Certification Program* in the next year, and to continuing our work aiding in the development of global *IBI Biochar Sustainability Guidelines* and a Biochar Offsets Protocol for carbon markets."

To read the document in full, please see:

http://www.biochar-international.org/sites/default/files/IBI_Annual_Report_2011.2012.pdf

About IBI

The **International Biochar Initiative** (IBI) is an international non-profit organization working to promote the development of sustainable biochar systems that follow cradle-to-cradle sustainability guidelines. Founded in 2006, IBI is the world's foremost authority and source of credible, balanced information on biochar, and has amassed a global information platform and

network of members and supporters for the exchange of information on biochar, and is leading the industry by creating the first-ever biochar standards to enable commercialization and market development. www.biochar-international.org

Biochar is a fine-grained, highly porous charcoal that helps soils retain nutrients and water. The carbon in biochar resists degradation and can sequester carbon in soils for hundreds to thousands of years, providing a potentially powerful tool for mitigating anthropogenic climate change.

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