



August 2015 News from the International Biochar Initiative

Preparing for the 2015 State of the Biochar Industry Report—Survey coming soon

Building on the feedback and results from our 2013 and [2014 State of the Biochar Industry reports](#), IBI is preparing an online survey to collect data in order to continue reporting on 2015 biochar industry trends. In the coming weeks, we will be requesting feedback from companies currently operating in the biochar space. It is our goal to deliver this survey of biochar business activity and a *State of the Biochar Industry* report annually to lead the communication of overall trends in the industry. We encourage you to participate in this survey if you are part of the biochar industry—all data collected (other than company name and website) will be reported in aggregate format so that your personal information will remain private. If you are on our mailing list, you will receive an announcement when the survey is released; we will also post this announcement on our website.

The 2014 *State of the Biochar Industry* report (published May 2015) was the second annual report to provide a broad overview of the commercial biochar sector as identified in surveys and other data from 2014. The report presents information on feedstocks, biochar uses, costs, volumes transacted, production equipment, policies and regulations, barriers to expansion, and market trends and outlook. With the 2013 data to serve as a baseline comparison, the 2014 report highlighted initial trends and changes in the industry; the results from the 2015 survey will build on prior years. For more information, see http://www.biochar-international.org/State_of_industry_2014

Did you know that IBI's Online Biochar Training Course is Ongoing?

If you are interested in gaining more in-depth knowledge on biochar and biochar systems, consider registering for IBI's recently launched online course, [Biochar Training for Environmental Sustainability and Economic Development](#). This ten week, ongoing course provides participants an intensive training series on all aspects of biochar, presented by leading biochar experts. Participants have the opportunity to learn about best-science updates on biochar to promote the uptake of biochar production and use, and actions necessary to overcome the barriers to commercialization of the biochar industry. The course contains 19 separate lessons—each with a subject overview, a recorded audio/video presentation lasting 30 – 45 minutes (some lessons contain more than one video), and quizzes to test comprehension and retention. There is also an optional introductory presentation on the basics of biochar and the IBI so that all participants start the course with a common understanding of both. Course materials are presented in a user-friendly online format and participants can access the course at their convenience over ten weeks and will receive a certificate of completion at the conclusion of the course.

Course materials are based on presentations from the June 2014 in-person biochar training course titled, "*Biochar for Environmental Sustainability and Economic Development*," hosted by the University of

Santiago de Compostela, Spain, and developed and presented by IBI and collaborators. For more information on member and non-member pricing and registration, please see www.biochar-international.org/online_course.

2014 – 2015 IBI Annual Report Available September 1, 2015

On September 1, IBI will be publishing online (and emailing a link to our full community) our 2014 – 2015 annual report which highlights accomplishments during our fiscal year ending June 30, 2015. We especially thank all our members and supporters who have contributed to our work this year. The report provides highlights from our programs including the *IBI Webinar Series*, *IBI Biochar Certification Program*, *IBI Biochar Classification Tool*, the *2014 State of the Biochar Industry Report*, and our Communications Program.

States Debbie Reed, IBI's former Executive Director: "I thank our community for making this last year such an exciting year for us as an organization and the biochar field as a whole. We could not have accomplished any of our programs without our financial supporters—both members and organizational funders. In particular, I thank the David and Lucile Packard Foundation for their strong and continued support of IBI. I want also to thank IBI's entire network—our members, followers, contributors, and enthusiasts who make up the core of our organization. And finally, I give thanks to our dedicated staff, our Board of Directors, and the various supporting committees and individuals that we turn to for feedback, advice, information, and direction as we work to bring biochar further into the mainstream." To read prior Annual Reports, please see: <http://www.biochar-international.org/about>.

Renewing IBI Business Member: Control Laboratories

A listing of all current IBI [Business](#) and [Organization](#) Members can be found on our website. For more information on membership opportunities and benefits, or to join, please see: <http://www.biochar-international.org/join>. Please note, Business and Organization descriptions are submitted by each individual entity, and are not developed or written by IBI.

Control Laboratories has been in business since 1955 and in 2006 extended their vast organics testing to include Biochar research and testing. The extensive speculation of the promising benefits of Biochar sparked their interest to aid in putting actual numbers and data behind the claims. Control Labs has become one of the top Biochar testing facilities in the nation with innovative research and unique tests, as well as expertise in the *IBI Biochar Standards*. They have developed test packages for all sectors ranging from the producer to consumer to researcher to aid in better understanding the impacts of biochar for its varying applications. They currently offer Biochar tests for biomass feedstock assessment, general characteristics, carbon sequestration, plant germination, metal retention, agricultural nutrient retention, pellet fuel, swale formation, potting mix, plant available agricultural related constituents, soil sediment removal, water retention, soil compression, soil shrinkage and many more. For more information, contact Mike through www.biocharlab.com.



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September *IBI Webinar Series* Event: Dr. Hailong Wang presents "Using biochar for reducing the bioavailability of heavy metals in contaminated soils"

IBI is proud to welcome Dr. Hailong Wang of Zhejiang A&F University in China for our September *IBI Webinar Series* event. Dr. Wang will discuss how the contamination of soil with heavy metals is a concern in many parts of the world because of its potentially adverse effect on the ecosystem health and food safety. Typically, biochar is an alkaline material and has a large surface area. Biochar can potentially be used to reduce the bioavailability of heavy metals in soils through adsorption. Many studies have been conducted to evaluate the interactions between soil heavy metal bioavailability and a range of biochar parameters, such as feedstock material, pyrolysis temperature, particle size, application rate. This webinar will discuss the mechanisms of the effect of biochar application on heavy metal immobilization and bioavailability in soils, which will be supported by a few case studies.



Additional reading: IBI whitepaper titled "Biochar for the remediation of soils contaminated with potentially toxic elements" by H. Wang, X. Zhang, and M. Camps-Arbestain. IBI members can login at <https://ibi.memberclicks.net/login> to download and read this whitepaper published July 2015 or to become a member to view it, [please click here](#).

[Registration is open now](#). The webinar will be held on **Thursday, September 24th at 1:00 GMT** (which is Wednesday, September 23rd at 9:00 p.m. Eastern Time or the time in New York City). Note: Please convert the 9:00 p.m.ET start time to your [local time by using this time converter tool](#). You must be a dues-paying member to participate in these special events.

IBI members can view this and all prior *IBI Webinar Series* presentations by logging into the IBI member's only site at <https://ibi.memberclicks.net/login>. If you are not an IBI member and would like to join in order to view presentations, [please click here](#). For more information on *IBI's Webinar Series*, please see: http://www.biochar-international.org/webinar_series.

Opportunities in Biochar

- Support the implementation of clean cookstoves by contributing to Servals India cookstove project; for more information, see <http://www.biochar-international.org/node/7120>
- Propose a special session for the upcoming Asia Pacific Biochar Conference 2016; for more information, see <http://www.biochar.co.kr/>
- Take advantage of a free subscription to Biomass Magazine. More information is available at <http://www.biochar-international.org/node/5537>
- Download the open access biochar book: *Biochar Culture*, by Dr Sai Bhaskar Reddy Nakka. The text highlights the use of biochar in communities and its potential for increased sustainable agriculture in smaller scale farmsteads and homes, focusing on work in India. The book can be accessed at <http://www.biocharculture.com>

- Job postings in biochar (as well as research/educational opportunities) can be accessed at <http://www.biochar-international.org/network/jobs>
- Looking for potential grant funding? Check out the Terra Viva Grants Directory which develops and manages information about grants for agriculture, energy, environment, and natural resources in the world's developing countries at <http://www.terravivagrants.org/Home>

Upcoming Workshop on Biochar and Water Treatment in Thailand

The training course: *Low Cost Water Treatment with Biochar: 10 Day Intensive Training Course for Practitioners* will take place January 3 – 12, 2016 in Pun Pun Centre for Self Reliance, Chiang Mai Province, Thailand. This workshop will provide participants with comprehensive practical training in the generation and application of biochar adsorbent for control of organic chemical contaminants in low cost household and community water treatment. The ten day English-language course will combine lecture/discussion sessions with a great deal of hands-on activities. Participants will gain technical competence in generation of biochar adsorbent using common local materials and tools, as well as methods for integration of biochar adsorption in multi-barrier treatment systems that address both biological and chemical water contaminants.



The course cost (US\$750 per person) covers food and housing during the workshop, along with all instruction and project materials. Participants are responsible for travel to and from Pun Pun Centre.

More information is available through Aqueous Solutions (aqolutions.org), including details on how to apply to attend the workshop. Registration will open September 1, 2015.

Upcoming Calendar Events

- September 7 – 11: One week trial for in-farm biochar production. Location: South Australia. For more information: <http://www.biochar-international.org/node/7118>
- September 12 – 13: Byron Bioenergy Conference. Location: Tyagarah, NSW, Australia. For more information: <http://www.biochar-international.org/node/7022>
- September 17 – 18: Advanced Compost and Biochar Processings: Solution for Economical Phosphorus Recovery Conference. Location: Toledo, Spain. For more information: <http://www.biochar-international.org/node/6995>
- September 20 – 24: 5th International Symposium on Soil Organic Matter (SOM) 2015. Location: Göttingen, Germany. For more information: <http://www.biochar-international.org/node/5246>

- September 28 – 30: Joint International Biochar Symposium 2015. Location: Geisenheim, Germany. For more information: <http://www.biochar-international.org/node/6886>
- November 15 – 18: 2015 American Society of Agronomy meeting (includes 5 biochar sessions). Location: Minneapolis, MN, USA. For more information: <http://www.biochar-international.org/node/6553>

See the [IBI Calendar page](#) for more events. To add an event to the calendar, send the information to info@biochar-international.org.

Regional Biochar Group Update: The British Biochar Foundation

The British Biochar Foundation (BBF) recently [published their first newsletter](#). The BBF concept was set up by a small group who met in Oxford. This small group eventually ended up as just three volunteers including two biochar scientists and a social entrepreneur. Those volunteers include: Dr. Simon Shackley (School of GeoSciences, University of Edinburgh); Dr. Cecile Girardin (ECI, University of Oxford); and Darren Hopkins. Its aim is to provide a place for developers, producers, enthusiasts and anyone else who is interested in a low carbon economy, to come together to share knowledge, experience, ideas and contacts; for more information on the organization, please see: <http://www.britishbiocharfoundation.org>.

Recently Published Biochar Research

IBI tracks all published research on biochar and includes it in our [online bibliography](#). The following articles were added in the last month. Please visit the website bibliography for more information on any of these articles. Due to copyright infringement laws, we cannot provide full copies of articles unless we have permission from the publisher. If you have published work that is not included, [please email us](#).

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