The International Biochar Initiative (IBI) is an international non-profit organization working to promote good industry practices, stakeholder collaboration, and environmental and ethical standards to foster economically viable biochar systems that are safe.
Selected Accomplishments from our Programs

**IBI Biochar Certification Program** – One year after the launch of the first ever biochar certification program in the U.S. and Canada, IBI has two certified biochar producers: Cool Planet Energy Systems, Inc. and Vertrolysis, LLC. The *IBI Biochar Certification Program* creates further essential assurances for manufacturers and consumers of biochar, and is another important step in helping to grow the biochar industry. More information can be found at [http://www.biochar-international.org/certification](http://www.biochar-international.org/certification).

**Biochar Carbon Offset Methodology** – IBI and its partners, The Climate Trust and the Prasino Group, developed a voluntary carbon market methodology to facilitate biochar projects participation in GHG mitigation and carbon trading markets. IBI’s primary focus in developing the methodology was working with a team of experts to develop a stable carbon methodology for the quantification of stable carbon in biochar that can be conservatively assured to remain in soils at least 100 years post-application. The methodology has been submitted to the American Carbon Registry (ACR) for public and expert review and, ultimately, acceptance, and publication. More information can be found at [http://www.biochar-international.org/protocol](http://www.biochar-international.org/protocol).

**2013 State of the Biochar Industry Report** – This first-of-its kind report provides a broad overview of the current state of the biochar sector as identified by surveys and other data throughout 2013 and gives the expert as well as the layperson a snapshot of commercial and non-commercial biochar-related operations and activities. IBI found evidence of early successes in biochar commercialization in some areas and the emergence of a biochar supply chain—from equipment manufacturers to biochar purveyors to production and use consultants. Based on the survey findings and research, IBI assesses the future success of the industry depending on the convergence of factors relating to research, investment, policy, innovation, and public education. More information can be found at [http://www.biochar-international.org/State_of_industry_2013](http://www.biochar-international.org/State_of_industry_2013).

**IBI Communications Program** – IBI’s communications work is the primary vehicle through which we engage biochar stakeholders, and in many cases, introduce new stakeholders to biochar—through our website, newsletter, conference attendance, and digital materials. This year we updated our website to a cleaner, more accessible information platform and had 24% more visitors compared to last year. These visitors came from 227 countries and territories using/representing 188 different languages. Although most of our information is in English, we have increased materials in other languages to more fully serve our global network.

As of June 2014, IBI listed 56 regional biochar groups that we work with. Regional biochar groups help support and organize local biochar communities, including research activities and projects applicable to that geographical area; see the map at right. More information can be found at [http://www.biochar-international.org/network/communities](http://www.biochar-international.org/network/communities).

One of the most visited sections of our website is our biochar bibliography. This electronic bibliography allows users to search for any peer-reviewed publication on biochar. The volume of research continues to increase, with 66 papers published in 2008, 140 in 2009, 169 in 2010, 212 in 2011, 283 in 2012, 379 in 2013, and 300 through the end of June, 2014. More information can be found at [http://www.biochar-international.org/biblio](http://www.biochar-international.org/biblio).
A Letter from IBI’s Executive Director, Debbie Reed

This year has been a big year not only for us as an organization but also for the biochar field as a whole. I have the opportunity to observe and participate in many projects, discussions, and conferences on biochar and meet with a range of biochar stakeholders, seeing firsthand the growth in knowledge surrounding biochar as well as the acceptance of it not only for a soil amendment but also for its many other uses including air and water filtration, waste management, renewable energy, climate change mitigation, and agricultural sustainability.

We could not accomplish any of our programs without you, our network and supporters. In particular, I thank the David and Lucile Packard Foundation for their strong and continued support of the organization. I want also to thank all of IBI’s paying members, followers, contributors, and enthusiasts who are the heart of the biochar movement and the core of IBI—from our Advisory Committee Members to those on our Expert Panels as well as the many of you who contributed information to the State of the Biochar Industry Report or offered comments to the proposed policy revisions to the IBI Biochar Standards V2.0.

As a recap of IBI’s achievements and accomplishments during the 2013 – 2014 Fiscal Year, which ended June 30, 2014, I would like to highlight the following specifics in addition to our program accomplishments mentioned on the previous page:

- IBI enhanced the utility of IBI Biochar Certification Program, which is based on the IBI Biochar Standards. It is our continued belief that the IBI Biochar Standards and IBI Biochar Certification Program will add necessary certainty and credibility to the marketplace, and help to remove some of the critical barriers to commercialization of sustainable biochar systems. Based on feedback from our stakeholders, Expert Panels, and new research, we proposed policy revisions to the IBI Biochar Standards which will be voted on by our membership this upcoming fall. The proposed revisions address: 1) testing requirements for weathered biochar; 2) timing of testing for post-processed biochar; 3) provisions for high carbon biomass ash; and 4) biochar sampling procedures.

- Our staff and Board of Directors have continued to engage in many other related efforts on behalf of the global biochar community, including organizing and presenting at regional, national, and international biochar conferences, continuing to spread the word on biochar and IBI, and increasing our communications and outreach through materials development, our website, our 56-affiliated regional biochar groups, and our monthly newsletter.

- IBI developed relationships with multiple biochar-related regulatory agencies to ensure they have an understanding of biochar and its relevance in their areas of regulation, and to promote support of biochar within their respective organizations. We thank these organizations for their willingness to work with us; they include: the Association of American Plant Food Control Officials (AAPFCO), Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI), European Biochar Certificate (EBC), United States Department of Agriculture National Organics Program (USDA NOP), and the United States Composting Council.

- IBI continued to track and report progress in all aspects of the biochar field, including science and technology, policy, market, and project development, and media coverage of biochar through our newsletter and website.

We all look forward to another busy and productive year to bring biochar into the mainstream as a recognized climate mitigation and agricultural sustainability tool. In the next year, we will be introducing an IBI Webinar Series to allow IBI to connect our community to leaders in the biochar field, from business professionals to producers to academics, who will present cutting-edge information, research and updates. Additionally, we are continuing our industry tracking and outreach through data gathering to produce our second State of the Biochar Industry report for 2014.

We look forward to another busy year and thank you all for your continued and sustained support!

Sincerely,

Debbie Reed
Executive Director, the International Biochar Initiative
IBI proudly includes a network of 11,500+ contacts from all over the world. We have paying members in the following membership categories: Sustaining, Business, Organization, Professional, and Student. Our contacts and members are a critical part of our support network and are highlighted below.

### Our Sustaining, Organization, and Business Members

#### Sustaining Members
- Rick Davies
- Rinus Hoevens
- Johannes Lehmann
- Susan McAllister
- Dale Nisbet
- Ted Redelmeier

#### Organization Members
- ACORE
- Alberta Innovates
- Atlantic Biochar Initiative
- Ballina Shire Council
- Burdekin Bowen Floodplain Management Advisory Committee
- Energy Research Centre of the Netherlands (ECN)
- GAIA International, Inc.
- International Center for Biosaline Agriculture
- MORE Foundation
- NC Farm Center
- Oversy
- SI & Ae McCubben
- Sonoma Biochar Initiative
- Waste Management Association of Australia

#### Business Members
- Agri-Tech
- Anaerobe Systems
- Arizona Public Service
- Basques Hardwood Charcoal
- Biocar Supreme
- Biospecific LLC
- Carbon Gold Ltd
- Control Laboratories, Inc.
- Cool Planet
- Earth Systems Consulting
- Ecoreps
- Eprida
- Florentaise
- Frye Poultry
- Guangdong Dazhong Agricultural Science and Technology Co., Ltd.
- Ibero Massa Florestal, Lda
- Jamaica Recycling Corp.
- Micromeritics Analytical Services
- Northern Lights Gardening
- Original Green Company
- Rainbow Bee Eater LP Pty Ltd
- SEEK Fertilizer
- Select Carbon
- Sonnenerde
- The Prasino Group
- TR Miles
- Vertrolysis
- Wakefield Agricultural Carbon

Photo courtesy of Josiah Hunt
Financial Summary

The International Biochar Initiative completed a comprehensive Financial Review in 2013 – 2014, and no material modifications were necessary for its financial records to be in compliance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

2013 – 2014 IBI Board of Directors
1. Johannes Lehmann, Chairman of the Board, Cornell University, United States
2. Marta Camps, Board Vice Chair, Massey University, New Zealand
3. David Wayne, Board Treasurer, Retired, Formally of Shell Research, United Kingdom
4. Andreas Hornung, University of Birmingham and Fraunhofer Institute for Environmental, Safety, and Energy Technology (UMSICHT), United Kingdom/Germany
5. John Lewis, Terra Global Capital LLC, United States
6. Warwick Manfrinato, Plant Environmental Intelligence, Brazil
7. Guy Reinaud, Pro-Natura International, France
8. Sununtar Setboonsang, Asian Development Bank, Thailand
9. Saran Sohi, University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom

2013 – 2014 IBI Staff
1. Debbie Reed, Executive Director
2. Daniel Chapman, Member Services Coordinator
3. Stefan Jirka, Project Manager
4. Shiva Scotti, Administrative Director
5. Thayer Tomlinson, Communications Director