



## Letter from the Executive Director

As we wind down the year, we can all look back at 2024 as a transformational year for biochar. The industry is thriving — facilities are being designed and built, international climate organizations are recognizing the power of biochar as a carbon dioxide removal technology, bankers and financiers are digging into biochar business models, researchers are advancing biochar production and use technologies, markets for physical biochar are growing, and interest in biochar has never been greater. Our collective efforts have yielded real success.

As we look forward to 2025, we see another transformational year, both for USBI but also for the broader North American biochar industry. At USBI we are working hard to increase our impact and reach, particularly by supporting the development of markets for physical biochar as a soil amendment, as ingredients in high efficiency fertilizers, as horticultural potting media, as a stormwater filtration media component, and as an additive to concrete. Beyond market development, we aim to:

- Develop a USBI Industry Roundtable to strengthen our ties with the biochar industry so that we can best support its growth.
- Release an American National Standard (ANSI) for the analysis of biochar.
- Host the 2025 North American Biochar Conference in Minneapolis, MN, September 15-18, which we hope will be the largest biochar conference yet held.
- Refresh the USBI brand to highlight the biochar industry.
- Collaborate on a position paper to support the use of biochar as a decarbonization tool for value-chain emissions

I wish you all a happy holiday season, and that you may all return refreshed in the New Year to help write the next chapter of the biochar industry in 2025.



**Myles Gray**  
Executive Director

## 2025 North American Biochar Conference

### Building Sustainable Markets and Driving Innovation

#### *Writing Biochar's Next Chapter*

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Save the Date for September 15–18, 2025 in Minneapolis, Minnesota!

The North American Biochar Conference, organized by USBI, has become the premier gathering for the biochar industry in North America and beyond. For 2025, as interest and momentum within the biochar community continue to grow, we anticipate an exceptional turnout of over 1,000 attendees and 75+ exhibitors and sponsors.

The 2025 conference promises to bring together an unparalleled range of experts—scientists, policymakers, end users, producers and project developers, academics, bankers and financiers, and industry leaders—all focused on advancing the biochar industry. Our program will place a special overall emphasis on expanding markets, a crucial factor in scaling the biochar industry across North America.

#### Peek into the Agenda

Monday, September 15: Afternoon Workshops

Tuesday, September 16 – Wednesday, September 17: Full conference days featuring keynotes, breakout sessions in five technical tracks, an award ceremony, receptions, and an open exhibitor hall.

Thursday, September 18: Optional Field Trips

### Call for Speakers Now Open

[Submit Your Abstract](#)

Do you have great research, products, services, or other content that you want to share with the biochar industry? If so, we encourage you to submit an abstract to get on stage in Minneapolis.

### Call for Sponsors & Exhibitors

Are you interested in showcasing your organization or products?

**Sponsorship Opportunities:** Looking for high-impact visibility? Our sponsorship packages are tailored to maximize your brand's exposure. For more information reach out to [Emily@biochar-us.org](mailto:Emily@biochar-us.org).

**Exhibit Opportunities:** Connect with attendees and share your work by becoming an exhibitor. For more details, contact [Lisa@biochar-us.org](mailto:Lisa@biochar-us.org).

*Stay tuned — the complete exhibitor and sponsorship packages will be released in January 2025. Don't miss the chance to be part of this event.*

## Welcome New USBI Board Members

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We're thrilled to introduce the newest members of the US Biochar Initiative's Board of Directors! These talented individuals bring a wealth of experience and a shared commitment to advancing biochar as a powerful solution for climate change and soil health.

Let's give them a warm welcome as we continue to grow together. Follow our social media channels for weekly individual introductions to each of them!



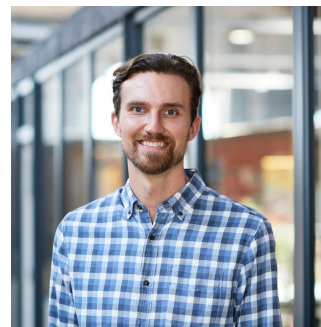
**Jim Doten**, Carbon Sequestration  
Program Manager  
City of Minneapolis



**Matt Krumenauer**, Vice President  
US Endowment for Forestry and  
Communities



**Tony Marrero**, CEO  
Wakefield BioChar



**Matt Wilson Plasek**  
Applied Carbon



**Mayo Ryan, Co-Founder**  
Sitos Group



**Dr. Emily Silver, Associate Professor,**  
Associate Chair, and Director of  
Graduate Studies  
Michigan State University



**Kristin Trippe, Research**  
Microbiologist  
USDA Agricultural  
Research Service

As we welcome our new board members, we would also like to extend our gratitude for outgoing board members Debbie Aller, Jeff Waldon, Isabel Lima, Kathleen Draper, Albert Bates, Kim Chaffee, Josiah Hunt, Chuck Hegberg, Ron Larson, and Tom Miles.

They have all contributed to the success of USBI and the growth of the biochar industry. Most importantly, Tom Miles has formed the bedrock for USBI and will continue to help grow and advance the biochar industry.

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## Industry Highlight

### BluSky Carbon Signs LOI for US\$192 Million AR2 Biochar Project in Arkansas

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[BluSky Carbon](#) has signed a Letter of Intent for their second commercial biochar facility in Northwest Arkansas.

With a proposed 10-year agreement, the AR2 project is designed to produce 70,000 tons of biochar annually. This marks a major milestone in scaling tech-driven carbon removal solutions.



The facility will be powered by five Vulcan Heavy biomass pyrolysis systems, supported by a strategic land lease and a robust regional biomass feedstock proposal.

[Read More](#)

## Have ideas for smarter solutions in agriculture?

The USDA wants your input to improve conservation practices that mitigate climate change and enhance resilience. From brush management to soil carbon amendments, these updates could redefine sustainability for future generations.

### Why participate?

- Your voice helps shape standards backed by science
  - Influence how practices adapt to wildfires, drought, and temperature extremes.
  - Support programs like EQIP and CSP with climate-smart enhancements.
- Submit your thoughts by December 23, 2024.

[Share Your Ideas](#)

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## Biochar Events Calendar

*Connect and collaborate at in-person or online events!*

### December 2024

December 18 | 11:00am EST

[Biochar in Action: Table Talks - Lessons Learned Real World Applications in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed](#) | Scaling Up Biochar  
*Online*

### January 2025

January 16 | 10:00am EST

[Difficulties and mitigation in developing biochar carbon credits projects](#) | Green

## February 2025

February 11 | 4:00pm MST

[Biochar as a Soil Amendment](#) | Breakout session at National Association of Conservation Districts Annual Meeting

[USBI's Myles Gray to present]  
*Salt Lake City, Utah*

## March 2025

March 25 | Time TBD

Scaling Biochar by Growing End-Use Market Demand | Workshop at [North American Carbon World](#)

[USBI's Myles Gray to present]  
*Los Angeles, California*

# Biochar Roundup



### [From Plans to Project Finance: Lessons for Carbon Removal Developers from Twelve and Fervo](#)

*Watch Flowcarbon's webinar covering successful project financing stories and key strategies for scaling ventures, with leaders from Fervo and Twelve – two projects that have successfully navigated the complex terrain of scaling with asset-level financing.*

### [Building Biochar Markets for Value & Scale](#)

*Watch the recording of GRAIN Ecosystem's webinar featuring USBI's Myles Gray and ARTi's Bernardo Del Campo; highlighting cutting-edge tools, strategies, and insights to accelerate biochar projects and unlock high-impact market opportunities.*

### [Applications Open for the 2025 Keeling Curve Prize](#)

*Submit your groundbreaking biochar project that addresses climate change! Apply by January 15.*

### [Rosy Soil Secures \\$3.6 Million to Revolutionize Gardening With Carbon-Negative Soil](#)

*The company aims to mitigate climate change while promoting sustainable horticulture in public markets. Biochar products are available online and at retailers like Target.*

### [CDR.fyi and Sylvera are looking for your input on the CDR market in 2025](#)

*Are you a biochar producer that sells CDR credits? Or a company that purchases CDR credits? If so, CDR.fyi and Sylvera want to hear your feedback about the CDR*

market in 2025.

### [Milkywire is seeking proposals for its Climate Transformation Fund](#)

*If you are a biochar project developer, you could be a great fit for the Milkywire Climate Transformation Fund. Initial applications for CDR projects are due January 19, 2025.*

Stay connected!

[Visit Our Website](#)

*USBI thanks the USDA Forest Service, Wood Innovation Program for continued support of its activities and publications. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.*

*USBI 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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