# Broadening biochar usage: Product size and form



Biochar 2022 August 9, 2022

## Biochar offer unique breadth



- Biochar Applications
  - Soil remediation
  - Soil enhancement
  - Poultry bedding
- Key characteristics
  - High porosity
  - High carbon content
  - Particle distribution







- Activated Carbon Applications
  - Decolorization
  - · Raw material for advanced carbons
  - Sequestration of chemicals
- Key characteristics
  - High porosity
  - · Particle distribution





- Graphite and Coke Applications
  - Friction materials
  - Lubricants and greases



- Key characteristics
  - High carbon content
  - Environmentally compatible
  - Low contaminant levels



- Reinforcement
- Pigmentation
- Synthetic materials



- Key characteristics
  - High carbon content
  - Natural spring back
  - Environmentally compatible
  - Approved for incidental food contact

# Positive attributes to expand biochar use environment



• High carbon content: >90% carbon

Low contaminant levels: <4.5% ash</li>

• High porosity: >420 m<sup>2</sup>/g nitrogen surface area

Low Moisture levels: <4% moisture</li>

Typical Values*	Value <sup>1</sup>	Unit		
Carbon Content	> 90	%		
Moisture Content <sup>2</sup>	< 4.0	%		
Volatile Matter	< 8.0	%		
Ash	1.75 to 4.5	%		
BET Surface Area	~ 420	m²/g		
lodine Number	~ 240	mg l <sub>2</sub> /g		
OAN	> 70	cm³/g		
<sup>1</sup> Appropriate ASTM test methods routinely used. <sup>2</sup> As packaged.				

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# Limits to biochar expansion

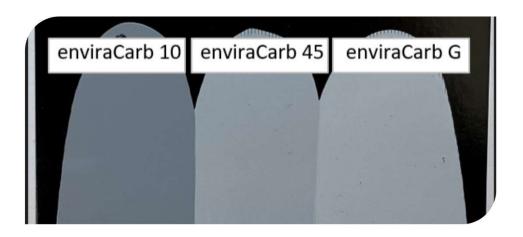


- Particle size impacts key properties in many applications
  - Rubber particle size drives tensile properties, abrasion resistance
  - Coatings particle size drives tinting strength
  - Concrete particle size drives compression strength, decreases permeability
- Dust in biochar impacts industrial processes
  - Hygiene fugitive dust creates unclean environment
  - Flow properties dust can impact precise metering and flow of materials

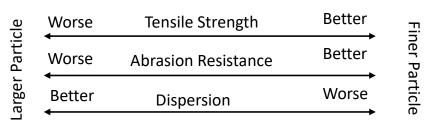
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### Particle size impact





Typical impact of particle size in rubber applications:



Particle Size impact on tint strength for pigmentation:

- enviraCarb<sup>™</sup> 10 has d90 of 10 microns
- enviraCarb 45 has d90 of 45 microns
- enviraCarb G is a 3 mm granule

The finer powdered biochar provides improved tint performance

Typical biochar granule will not perform well in a rubber application

N762 carbon black has a particle size of 70 nm

3 mm biochar granule is > 42,500x that size

Grinding to 10 micron reduces that ratio to 140x; rubber studies have shown these materials to supplement or displace N762 types and N990 types of carbon black

## Rubber test findings



- Common positive findings
  - Reduced energy consumption to incorporate and disperse the enviraCarb materials
  - Reduced compound specific gravity when replacing carbon black
- Specific study findings

Study	Motor Mount	Conveyor Belt	Pipe Gasket	Hose Cover
Polymer	Natural Rubber	SBR/BR	Polyisoprene	EPDM
Reference Black	N990	N774	N774	N762
Performance Observations	Good heat aging	Good tear	Improved compression set	Decreased volume swell
	Modulus increase	Improved low end modulus	Good extrusion properties	

enviraPAC materials provide a sustainable supplement to semireinforcing black while potentially impacting two key areas:

- · Weight reduction due to lower specific gravity
- Reduced hysteresis given larger particle size

# Additional fine powder benefits



- enviraChar™ 10 suspends well in solution allowing aqueous applications
  - -Allows targeted application of biochar; reducing economic impact
  - —Can be mixed with aqueous nutrient/fertilizer packages for all-in-one application
- The impact of finer particle biochar should extend to other target markets
  - —10-micron product should improve compressive strength and afford a more homogeneous mixture in concrete and other construction applications versus larger biochar materials

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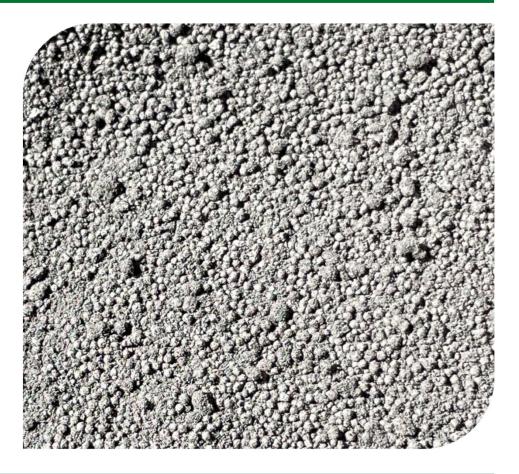
#### **Product form**



- Pelletized biochar provides many benefits in application
  - -Dust control

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- –Particle consistency for blends
- Accurate metering in mixing systems
- Micronized powders demonstrate the ability to be successfully pelletized (prilled) on commercially available equipment



# Size and form change the market



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