



New Zealand Biochar Research Centre

NZ BIOCHAR NETWORK NEWSLETTER

April 2009

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Welcome

Welcome to the first edition of the NZ Biochar Network newsletter. The network is initially being funded by industry sponsors (Carter Holt Harvey, Foundation for Arable Research, Lake Taupo Forest Trust, Landcorp, and NZ Forest Owners Association) and the Sustainable Farming Fund and is being administered through the New Zealand Biochar Research Centre (NZBRC) at Massey University.

The objectives of the NZ Biochar Network are to:

1. Transfer knowledge on NZ biochar research and technology developments and relevant international research to NZ stakeholders with a focus on the application of biochar to reduce GHG emissions.
2. Provide a mechanism to discuss biochar issues and stakeholder needs with regard to the operational application of biochar.

There has been an increasing amount of activity in biochar research and production in New Zealand in recent months and this is set to increase over the next few years. We encourage members of the Biochar Network to send in relevant news items on research or technology developments that can be published in the newsletter. A NZ Biochar Network website is under construction (www.biochar.org.nz) but in the meantime, information on the NZBRC is available at <http://soils-earth.massey.ac.nz/>.

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News

New Zealand Seminars

Dr Marta Camps, Massey University Associate Professor of Biochar and Soil Science presented two Biochar seminars on 16 and 17 April in Hamilton (Landcare Research) and Rotorua (Scion) respectively. Marta gave an introduction to Biochar and an update on research being conducted by the NZBRC at Massey University. The seminars were very well attended and a copy of the presentation is available from Marta (M.Camps@Massey.ac.nz) and will be made available on the NZBRC website (www.biochar.org.nz). Thanks to Ajit Sarmah (Landcare Research) and Hailong Wang (Scion) for hosting the seminars. A South Island seminar or workshop is being planned in conjunction with Lincoln University. More details on this will be provided in a subsequent newsletter.

First bio-oil plant offers boost for foresters

New Zealand's first wood-to-bio-oil plant will open next month – and backers say it has the potential to vastly increase forest profitability while saving the climate.

The Pukekohe plant, using a pyrolysis process, is a joint venture between New Zealand company Alternative Energy Solutions, Malaysia-based forest owner Ernslaw One, and the government's energy efficiency and conservation authority, EECA

(<http://www.carbonnews.co.nz/story.asp?storyid=2802>)

New Zealand company makes shortlist of five in Financial Times UK climate change challenge

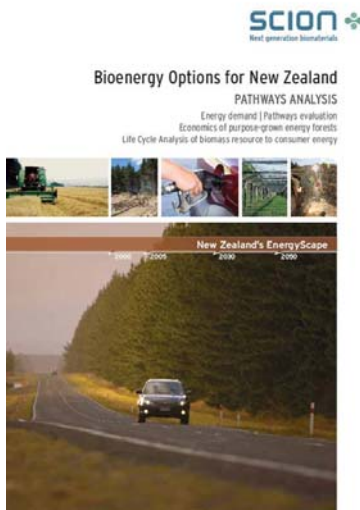
BLLENHEIM, NEW ZEALAND: New Zealand charcoal technology company Carbonscape™ is one of only five companies to make the shortlist in a global competition, the FT (Financial Times UK) Climate Change Challenge.

The prestigious competition seeks the most exciting innovations and practical ideas to reduce carbon emissions and make the world more resilient to the climate change ahead. (More:<http://carbonscape.com/news/new-zealand-company-makes-shortlist-of-five-in-financial-times-uk-climate-change-challenge/>)

Agrichar – A solution to global warming?

In universities and laboratories all over the world, scientists are racing to help find a solution to halt climate change. And the answer may come from deep in the Amazon...not from rainforests or exotic species, but ancient soils left behind by lost civilisations. (<http://www.abc.net.au/catalyst/stories/s2012892.htm>)

Bioenergy Options for New Zealand - A pathways analysis of energy demand, economics & LCA



The Bioenergy Options for New Zealand project was initiated to consider the potential contribution of bioenergy to New Zealand's energy future. The Bioenergy Options work is a part of the larger EnergyScape project which integrates the findings from a range of studies with the aim of considering New Zealand's overall energy options. The bioenergy reports arising from this study can be downloaded from <http://www.scionresearch.com/bioenergy+report.aspx>.

International Conferences

Asia Pacific Biochar Conference
Gold Coast, Australia May 17-20, 2009
(<http://www.anzbiochar.org/newsandevents.html>)

North American Biochar Conference
Boulder, Co. August 9-12, 2009
(<http://www.biochar-international.org/upcomingibiconferences/2009northamericaregion.html>)

