

House Committee on Agriculture and Forestry – February 4, 2020
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On behalf of Carbon Negativity, LLC - Testimony in Support of H. 798

BIOCHAR IS PART OF THE SOLUTION TO FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE

To achieve goals for climate and economic growth, “Negative Emissions Technologies” (NETS), that remove and sequester carbon, need to play a significant role in mitigating climate change.

Biochar is produced by an irreversible NET process, pyrolysis, that chemically decomposes organic materials at elevated temperatures in the absence of oxygen leaving mostly carbon residue (carbonization).

Not only does Biochar production sequester carbon, and by doing so supplement and complement the other climate change efforts that Vermont is undertaking (e.g., in transportation, energy efficiency, forest management...) but it also has diverse applications including: aiding in soil fertility and resiliency; use in water filtration and toxin(s) removal; as an animal feed supplement; in manure and other organic waste management; for the production of building materials; in storm water management, that can all be a part of helping Vermonters address several of its most pressing environmental and agricultural challenges.

While Biochar offers significant economic and environmental opportunities, in order for Biochar production and application to flourish in Vermont, viable and sustainable small-scale and large-scale business and funding models need to be developed and implemented.

Recommendation #5 of 6 from the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets’ January 15, 2020 Soil Conservation Practice and Payment for Ecosystems (PES) Services Working Group Report is to “advance the design and development of PES approaches that regrow or sustain our natural capital so that it provides at least three ecosystem services: water quality, flood resilience, and climate stability.” Biochar can provide all three!

Carbon Negativity, LLC wants to help raise awareness about Biochar in Vermont, help convene interested stakeholders across sectors, assist in biochar production, distribution as well as implementation of its uses in Vermont, and help the emerging economic models succeed so that Biochar can become a meaningful part of the short and long-term solution to fight climate change in Vermont.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Respectfully submitted.

The following supporting documents have been submitted electronically under separate cover today to the committee by Carbon Negativity, LLC for your reference:

- Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets' January 15, 2020 Soil Conservation Practice and Payment for Ecosystems (PES) Services Working Group Report;
- State of Washington 2019 Biochar Law;
- Mitigating Climate Change with Regenerative Agricultural Practices (2019);
- USDA Soil Carbon Amendment (2019);
- Reducing Stormwater Runoff Volumes with Biochar Addition to Highway Soils (2019);
- Cool Terra Feed Mix label from Cool Planet Energy Systems;
- US Government Promotes Foam Made from Lignin (2019);
- VT BGS Environmentally Preferred Purchasing Program description;
- 2020 PYREG brochure on sludge;
- Planting Trees with Biochar;
- Cool Planet Financing Document;
- Biochar Under a Microscope; and
- Use of Biochar in Animal Feeding.