



Bringing Biochar Projects into the Carbon Marketplace

Work Plan

Biochar Protocol Development
www.biocharprotocol.org
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Biochar Protocol Development: Background

For biochar projects to capture the full value of the greenhouse gas emission reduction and sequestration benefits, there is a need for a definitive greenhouse gas quantification protocol.

Carbon Consulting and Blue Source are leading the effort to create such a standard – a protocol to measure greenhouse gas reductions across a wide variety of biochar projects and technologies. This protocol will not only enable biochar project developers within the industry-led Voluntary Carbon Standard (VCS) and the Alberta Offset System (AOS) carbon markets to benefit from carbon capture, but it also paves the way into other emerging carbon markets across North America and the globe.

In the first stage of this effort, with support from our founding sponsors, The Carbon War Room and ConocoPhillips Canada, a series of webinars and a workshop event were held through June 2010 to solicit input from the biochar community on the science and policy implications for opening up carbon markets to biochar and pyrolysis technologies. This has set the stage and strategy for completion of a rigorous and inclusive protocol for biochar.

Building from the feedback and engagement with stakeholders in the first phase of the project, our work plan supports the delivery of a science-based protocol (with supporting documentation) through the balance of 2010 for review, approval and implementation in the VCS and AOS systems.

To complete the protocol, we are seeking financial contributions totalling \$150,000. This will cover the anticipated costs of developing the methodology and the external costs of the VCS double validation and AOS protocol development. Our goal is to raise these funds by the end of July 2010. We are not seeking to profit from this venture, only to cover the costs of creating a protocol within the public domain.

For more information on becoming a project sponsor, please contact us at info@biocharprotocol.org.



Summary of Work Plan Elements

Technical Science Document Development

- Bring together scientific information into a document to support protocol development and review.
- Engage with leaders in biochar and related sciences to validate approach on key issues.
- Communicate results of technical review to stakeholders to build capacity toward protocol review.

Deliverables: Technical Science Document, with summary slide deck, following requirements for the Alberta Offset System, supplemented to meet VCS requirements.

GHG Quantification Protocol Development

- Develop a rigorous GHG emission reduction quantification protocol that meets VCS and AOS requirements, following ISO 14064-2 standards.
- Provide a companion document summarizing the key policy and technical issues, with particular attention to any continuing gaps in science.
- Review the quantification protocol with stakeholders to gain insights on key issues.

Deliverables: ISO 14064-2 compliant protocol document with companion document linking to Technical Documents.

Technical Stakeholder Review Workshops

- Facilitate face-to-face and web-based workshops on key and outstanding science, carbon policy and quantification issues prior to initiation of the protocol review processes. We will present at the IBI Rio de Janeiro 2010 workshop and in other North American location(s).
- Incorporate feedback from technical stakeholders into the Technical Science and Protocol documents.

Deliverables: Facilitate workshop and summarize feedback for stakeholder group review. Revise Technical Science and Protocol documents, as required.

Pursue Approval of Biochar Protocol under the Voluntary Carbon Standard

- Submit protocol for review under the Voluntary Carbon Standard.
- Support protocol review, including engagement of third-party validators as required, and/or participation in review working groups.

Deliverables: Protocol submission, revised as required to support approval. Slide decks, as required through approval process.

Note: Protocol may be submitted for review in other regimes (CDM, CAR, Cdn. Fed., USDA / US EPA, etc.) as relevant to the stakeholder group and the results of the work under a separately funded phase.

Pursue Approval of Biochar Protocol in Alberta

- Submit protocol for review as part of the Alberta Offset System protocol review process.
- Support protocol through review process, providing supplemental information as required.
- Revise documentation, as per the results of each round of review.

Deliverables: Protocol submission, revised as required to support approval. Slide decks, as required through approval process.