

RESOURCE GUIDE BIOCHAR

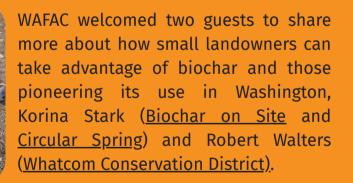


BIOCHAR INNOVATIONS

Biochar, a charcoal-like material high in carbon, is developed by burning organic material at high heat in a low-oxygen environment. The process has been used for thousands of years but is becoming more popular with landowners as an alternative method to pile burning and chipping. With a **smaller footprint** and the capability to **process around five times the biomass,** biochar also **produces less smoke** and **fewer emissions**. Plus, the resulting product serves as a free soil amendment for drought resistance.



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In Washington, there are several organizations working to make biochar more accessible to small landowners by offering demos and educational opportunities. <u>Skagit and Whatcom Conservation Districts</u>, in partnership with <u>Kulshan Carbon Trust</u>, are leading the way. You can read more about their accomplishments so far and plans for the future in this <u>Story Map</u> produced by Skagit Conservation District.

LOCAL INITIATIVES ARE BRINGING BIOCHAR TO SMALL LANDOWNERS IN WASHINGTON, AIMING TO REDUCE FUEL LOADS SIGNIFICANTLY.

There is still a ways to go for biochar to be more widely accepted as a method of fuel load management on forested lands in Washington, primarily due to a general lack of familiarity with the process and its benefits as a tool for reducing wildfire risk, improving forest and soil health, and sequestering carbon. For more information, check out:

- <u>Mobile Biochar Production by Flame</u> <u>Carbonization: Reducing Wildfire Risk and</u> <u>Improving Forest Resilience</u> (United States Forest Service)
- <u>BiocharOnSite.org</u>



More Resources

<u>Ring of Fire Biochar Kiln</u>

An example of the type of kiln being used in biochar demos across Washington.

Optimizing biochar production

A video depicting the process of creating biochar.

Factsheet: Flame Cap Kilns

From Biochar On Site, a factsheet describing how flame cap kilns function.

Natural Solutions Webinar

A WAFAC webinar from 2020 featuring a presentation from San Juan Island Conservation District's staff member, Kai Hoffman-Krull