



THE HUNTSVILLE PROJECT



Appeal to civil society

Showcase for the “New Carbon Economy”

The G8 & G20 in Canada:

June 25 -- 27, 2010

TORONTO, ONTARIO

Offsetting the Summit using Biochar

I, the signatory

ask the delegates to offset the emissions produced as a result of attending the G8 and/or G20 Summit(s) in Ontario, Canada using biochar. The above mentioned Huntsville Project will return an equivalent quantity of these carbon emissions to the soil and address the most urgent environmental problems of our time, including:

- soil degradation
- food insecurity
- climate change
- public debt
- deforestation
- water pollution
- unemployment

Biochar is the by-product of a bioenergy process called pyrolysis, which results in liberated energy and residual biological charcoal - “biochar”. Residual biomass is the starting product (feedstock) for this chemical process, which is a form of fuel production in the form of heat and other useful energy and chemical products. The process can be done at both a large scale and at a small scale, and can be either a “low tech” (e.g. cooking stoves) or a “high tech” (e.g. hydrothermal carbonisation) application.

Some call it the “multi platform technology” of the New Carbon Age of the 21 century: Biochar Carbon will facilitate a broad range of application-based activities in the New Carbon Economy including:

- Restoration of degraded lands
- Water retention (in drylands)
- Small scale farming
- Soil amendment for higher crop yields
- Water purification
- Urban farming
- Fertilizer enhancement
- Water sanitation
- Large scale farming

Today’s existing “fossil carbon economy” is linear, which causes exponential problems. We transport carbon from the depths of the earth and it ultimately ends up in the atmosphere, rivers and oceans, causing enormous environmental problems, including a change in the composition of the atmosphere, leading to climactic changes.

Shifting from this old, linear carbon economy toward the renewable and sustainable “New Carbon Economy” means we can start to close the carbon cycle. The New Carbon Economy is based on closed carbon cycles that use residual biomass “waste” in order to produce fuels, bio-oils, syngas, fertilizers, and other carbon-based value-added products.

- Carbon from Biochar is the agent that makes this economy work.
- Not only does a valuable soil amendment result from these processes, but
- Biochar is also the remedy that recovers value from effluents, turning them into a valuable source of products while also saving important limited resources (e.g nitrogen and phosphorus).
- Because it’s a closed loop cycle, carbon is recaptured. There is no more “leakage” of carbon, nitrogen and phosphorus from the lithosphere into the biosphere.

The other CCS tool — Bio CCS

The money spent for offsetting will be used to sequester 10,000 Mt of Biochar in soils worldwide. This amount would offset about 35,000 MT CO₂. This represents the first (biological) carbon capture and sequestration method that already works.

What is the target?

Every G8 and G20 Delegation commits to offset their summit emissions with real biological carbon sequestration from biochar.

They can choose from a global list of ongoing and planned biochar projects for their offsets.

The money will be collected in a global “Biochar Climate Mitigation Fund”

Biochar entrepreneurs will then use microcredit mechanisms to create affordable financing in order to kick-start a variety of New Carbon Economy biochar projects.

The Biochar Climate Mitigation Fund will be operated by a foundation with the highest levels of accountability, oversight and transparency.

This appeal is promoted by:

Name

Signature

Date