

About the Program

The Great Plains Biochar Initiative is a cooperative effort of the Nebraska Forest Service, Kansas Forest Service, U.S. Forest Service, Wilson Biochar Associates, and High Plains Biochar. The primary purpose of the program is to encourage and enable Nebraskans and Kansans to use and produce biochar from the states' wood resources. To help accomplish this goal \$20,000 has been made available to assist with biochar projects implemented in 2019.

General Information and Requirements

- A. Maximum Funding Request:** The maximum funding request is \$5,000. Funding is available as a reimbursement for project costs. Funding will be provided to grant recipients once NFS receives copies of paid invoices for project expenses, along with an invoice from the grant recipient.
- B. Project Eligibility:** To be eligible, projects must meet the following criteria:
- **Location** - Projects must be located in Nebraska or Kansas.
 - **Purpose** – Projects must use wood-based biochar and fall into one of the following categories...
 - **Category 1** - Demonstrate the utilization of biochar to validate your project activities as a viable biochar use
 - **Category 2** - Expand the capacity for local biochar production
 - **Category 3** - Expand the use of biochar through education and/or marketing.
 - Suitable projects may include, but are not limited to...
 - landscaping with biochar (example: improving plant health or increasing soil moisture retention)
 - using biochar within livestock operations (example: manure management or odor control)
 - applying biochar to agricultural fields or horticultural activities(example: improving soil health or reducing groundwater leaching)
 - water filtration projects (example: inclusion of biochar in green infrastructure ie: bioswale)
 - manufacturing equipment to produce biochar (constructing a low-cost biochar kiln)
- The Nebraska Forest Service is available to assist with project development prior to completing the necessary application paperwork.**
- C. Reimbursable Project Costs:** Funds can be used to reimburse the following expenses. See the rules governing reimbursement for additional information.
1. Wood Based Biochar- Costs of purchasing appropriate wood based biochar material.
 2. Installation - Costs associated with installing biochar.
 3. Site preparation - Activities necessary to prepare the project site for biochar installation.
 4. Data Collection Supplies – Equipment necessary to monitor projects such as soil moisture probes, data logger, soil corers, sample tubes, etc.
 5. Data Analysis – Water, soil, plant tissue, biochar, etc. analyses performed by a laboratory.
 6. Biochar Production Equipment – Costs associated with buying a kiln and/or materials to manufacture biochar production systems.
 7. Equipment design - Costs of obtaining professional planning and design services for production equipment.
 8. Marketing – Costs of tradeshow registration, developing a marketing campaign, or hosting a biochar outreach event.
 9. Educational Activities - Costs associated with informing and educating the public about biochar and the community's involvement in the Great Plains Biochar Initiative. Includes costs of informational signs for biochar projects.
 10. Other costs preapproved by NFS – Any costs not listed above may be approved if developed in partnership with NFS to meet the goals of the grant.

IMPORTANT - PLEASE NOTE: Wood based biochar, biochar production equipment, and/or marketing costs (items 1, 6, 8) must constitute **at least 50%** of the funds requested in this grant application.

IMPORTANT - PLEASE NOTE: Funding for biochar production equipment must have a 1:1 match. For example, if a kiln costs \$8,000, GPBI grant funds will cover no more than \$4,000 and the cooperator is expected to cover \$4,000

D. Costs Not Eligible for Reimbursement:

1. Property - any costs related to the purchase of real property.
2. Sheds, buildings, signs, benches, gazebos, and other structures.
3. Non-biochar landscaping materials – including, but not limited to, live plant material, mulch, weed barriers, pesticides, herbicides, insecticides.
4. General supplies – including, but not limited to, computers, laptops, TVs, microscopes.
5. Food – any costs for food or drinks.
6. Travel costs – any costs associated with traveling for projects and/or events.
7. Staff time – to include salary and benefits.

E. Who Can Apply: Anyone is eligible to apply for funds. Targeted applicants include public land managers, state and local government agencies, agricultural producers, horticultural producers, neighborhood organizations, environmental groups, school representatives, and anyone else interested in biochar.

F. Matching Requirement: No match is required for applications that do not request funding for biochar production equipment. However, applicants that have a match component of their application are highly desirable. A 1:1 match is required for requests for funding of biochar production equipment only. Donated and in-kind goods and services, as well as cash are allowed toward match. See the attached rules governing reimbursement for more information.

G. Reimbursement of Project Expenses (payment of grant funds): No grant funds will be provided up-front. Instead, all projects funds must be paid as a reimbursement after the projects are completed or after a significant phase has been completed (up to 2 payments).

H. Application Period: Project proposals will be accepted through **January 18, 2019**

I. Project Completion Deadline: Projects must be completed by **December 31, 2019**.

J. Applicants will be expected to complete a report of their activities by December 31, 2019.

Project Evaluation and Selection

Projects will be selected through a competitive evaluation process. A review committee will be formed to review applications and make funding recommendations to the Great Plains Biochar Initiative partners. Official notification of funding decisions is expected to be completed within 2-3 weeks of the application submissions. Projects will be evaluated on the following criteria (not necessarily in order of importance).

1. **Potential for biochar market growth** – projects should demonstrate potential to grow the market for biochar.
2. **Positive environmental impact** - projects must positively impact the environment.
3. **Metrics for measuring success** – identify how you will determine if your project is successful
4. **Data collection** – describe any data collection that will occur
5. **Project support** – projects should have diverse partners. Describe the project partners and their roles in the project
6. **Educational value** – describe any educational components of the project
7. **Geographic location** - a goal of the program is to work with communities throughout Nebraska and Kansas
8. **Potential for project replication** – describe how to project could benefit others

Application Procedures

If you are considering applying for grant funding. Please reach out to Heather Nobert, Nebraska Forest Service for application materials. This will provide an opportunity for questions prior to completing the application. If you have already received the application materials please contact Heather to inform of your intention to apply for grant funding.

Submit the attached project proposal form along with any supplemental documents by January 18, 2019. Please note:

Design plans, project layout, sketches, or drawings already completed that will help convey the project should be attached to the application. However, these items are not required at this time.

Submit all documents and supporting information by January 18, 2019 to:

Heather Nobert
Nebraska Forest Service
203A Forestry Hall
P.O. Box 830815
University of Nebraska
Lincoln, NE 68583-0815

Or applications can also be submitted electronically, via email by sending application documents and attachments to hnobert2@unl.edu.

For assistance in project planning, the application process, or for general inquires, contact:

Nebraska:
Heather Nobert at (402) 472-2941 – hnobert2@unl.edu

Kansas:
Dave Bruton at (785) 945-6147 or (785) 313-2295 – dbruton@ksu.edu



GREAT PLAINS BIOCHAR INITIATIVE
2019 Funding Assistance – Project Proposal Form

Name of project: _____

Project address/community: _____

Project sponsor(s): _____

Name of project coordinator: _____

Mailing address of coordinator: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Daytime phone number of coordinator: _____

E-mail address of coordinator: _____

Project will be completed on land owned by: _____

If funded, do you wish to have assistance with project planning and design? _____

Amount of funding requested (maximum \$5,000): _____

Proposed Project Budget

Use the table below to estimate and itemize your project's budget, including all matching expenses.

Expenditures	\$ Amount covered by GPBI (grant) funds
Wood based biochar	
Project installation	
Site preparation	
Data collection supplies	
Data analysis	
Biochar production equipment	
Equipment design	
Marketing	
Educational Activities	
Other pre-approved expenses (please describe in the space below)	
TOTAL	

Expenditures	Cooperator contribution (not covered by grant funds)		
	Cash	In-kind	Time (hours)
Wood based biochar			
Project installation			
Site preparation			
Data collection supplies			
Data analysis			
Biochar production equipment			
Equipment design			
Marketing			
Educational Activities			
Other pre-approved expenses			
TOTAL			

Project Summary

Please provide an overview of the proposed project. Include information about where the project is located, how the project will be implemented, a proposed reimbursement schedule, and how the project will be maintained beyond the grant period.

Potential to Grow Biochar Markets

Describe how the proposed project demonstrates the potential to grow the biochar market. Be sure to include information about how the project could be replicated.

Environmental Benefits of Project Use

Describe the positive environmental impacts of the project and the proposed biochar application.

Project Success Metrics

Identify the metrics or project outcomes which will be used for determine project success.

Data Collection Process

Describe any data collection that will take place during the project period.

Project Team

Describe the project partners and the role they will have in the project. Be sure to include affiliations.

Additional Comments

Describe any components not covered elsewhere that are a part of the project.

As the applicant, or representative of the applicant, I hereby certify that the information contained in this application is accurate and complete.

Signature

Date