Bio-char Plan Canada

Bio-char BC Cooperative

Rediscovery of another Old World technology in the use of bio-char can allow us to achieve two significant goals.

1) The carbon from not complete combustion of wood and similar organic waste allows for a significant soil enhancement. The rule of thumb for comparison is that compost to marginal rock soil for instance can increase crop growth by 66% but by adding the matrix of carbon, the yield can go over 125%.

For Canada under stress from climate change, peak oil shock and likely migration, it means now marginal hillsides and parts of the Canadian Shield, and the moving edge of the Boreal Forest can achieve farm status where not possible before.

2) The carbon in this form is not taken up by the plants but forms a matrix for bacteria and water retention. In this way, the capture and storage in the soil is a form of carbon sequestration, having global benefits overall.

Efforts have been made to make this a new industry for the post oil economy. Many people have provided leadership and continue to try to bring the interested parties together to achieve social and economic benefit.

In Ontario, Lloyd Helferty attempted to create a Federal level body and while not formal, there is a network of interested parties trying to make a network of provincial industry, agriculture and research minded people together.

In Colorado, Anita Burke, another Vancouver Peak Oil leader is working with corporate and public interests there, linking into the global interest groups.

In BC, we are attempting to bring regional interests together to form a BC Bio-char Cooperative, for now via this web site at www.plancanada.com.

Attached are some files, more to be added to help explain the process and importance of the bio-char initiative.

Some current links:

Lloyd Helferty in Ontario: lhelferty@sympatico.ca

Richard Balfour for BC biochar cooperative: oldcityfoundation@telus.net

Anita Burke: anitaburke@catalystinstitute.com

Phil Marsh: pmarsh@bcbiocarbon.ca (design, manufacturing of biochar burners)

Brian Smallshaw b@pixelmap.ca (Saltspring & Islands)

Justin Roller NRC justin.vpoe@gmail.com