

# Scaling the Power of Biochar

**“360” Solution for a Healthy, Sustainable and Resilient World**

Dominique Lueckenhoff, Senior Vice-President for Corporate Affairs, EHS & Sustainability, Hugo Neu



North American Biochar and Bioenergy Conference 2022, Morgantown, WVA, August 9, 2022

# How to scale?

Like this?



This?



Or Like this?



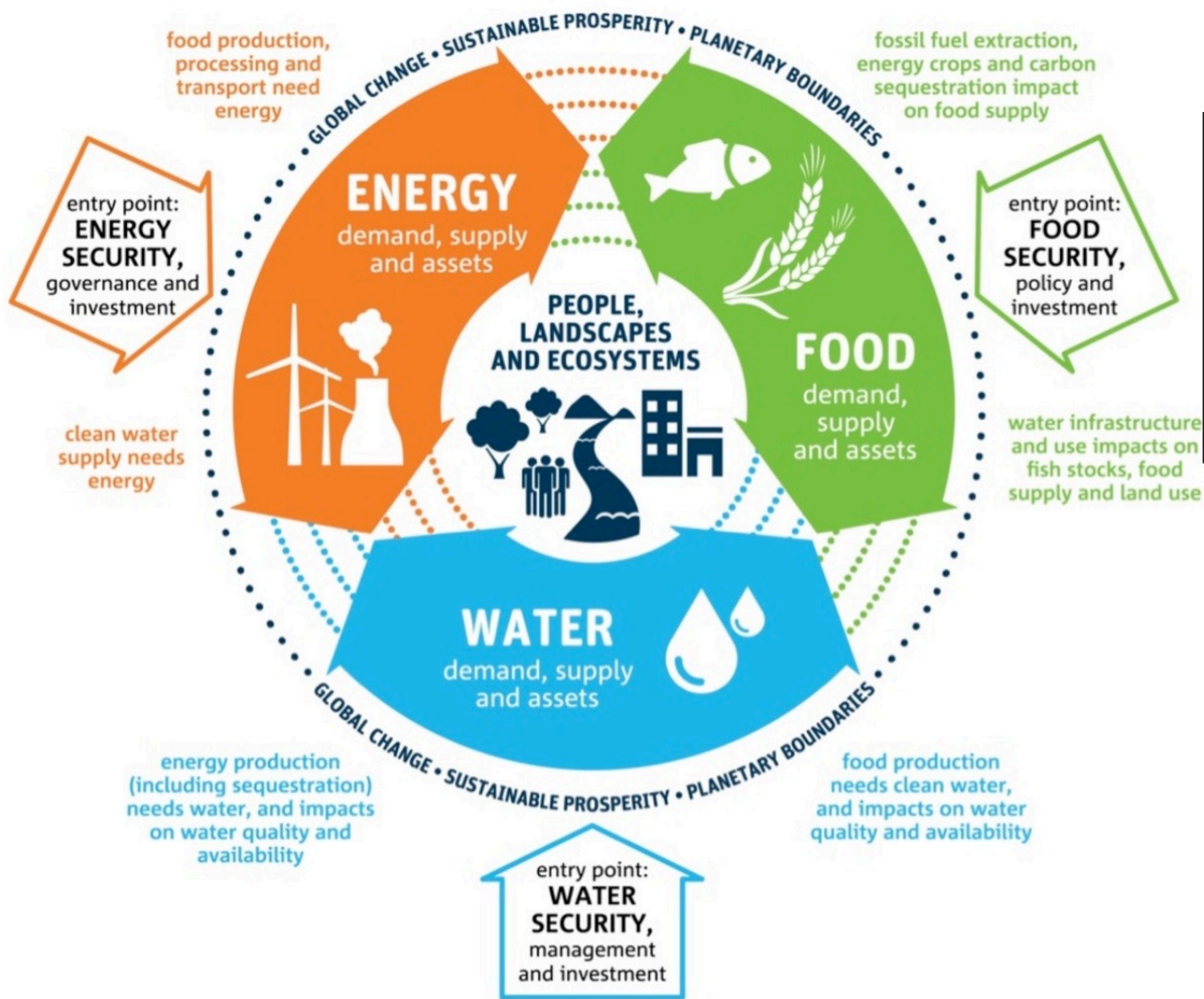
# WHAT IS A CIRCULAR ECONOMY?

- The circular economy is based on three principles, driven by design:
- Eliminate waste and pollution
- Circulate products and materials at their highest value
- Regenerate nature



Diverse, Equitable,  
Inclusive

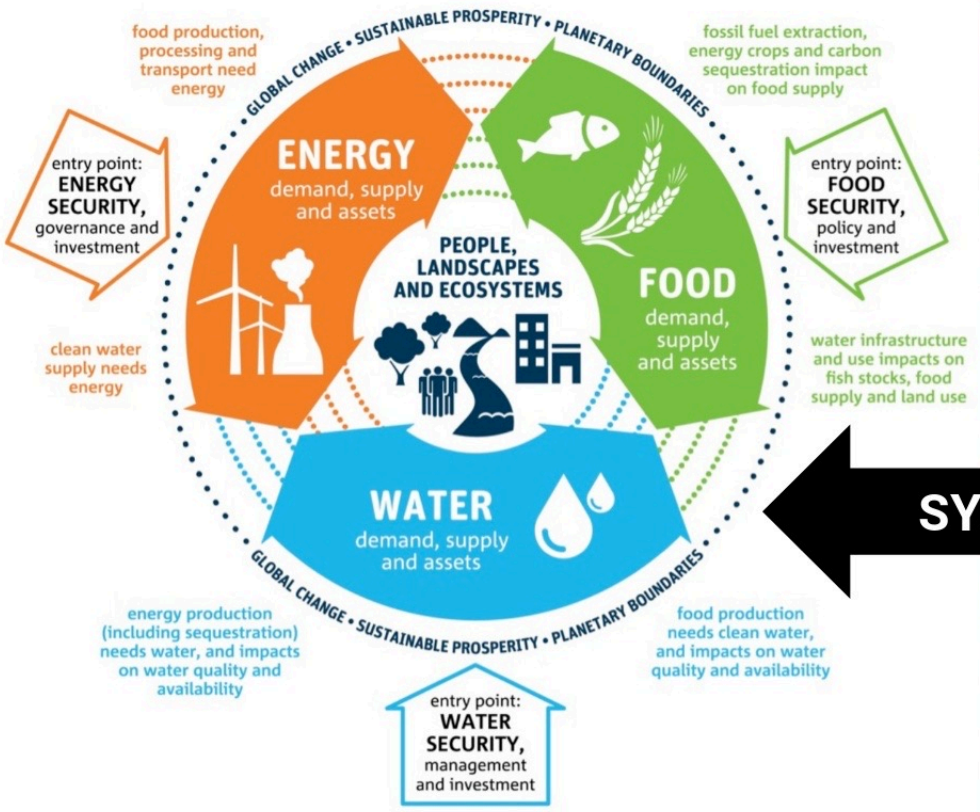
DRIVEN BY SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT



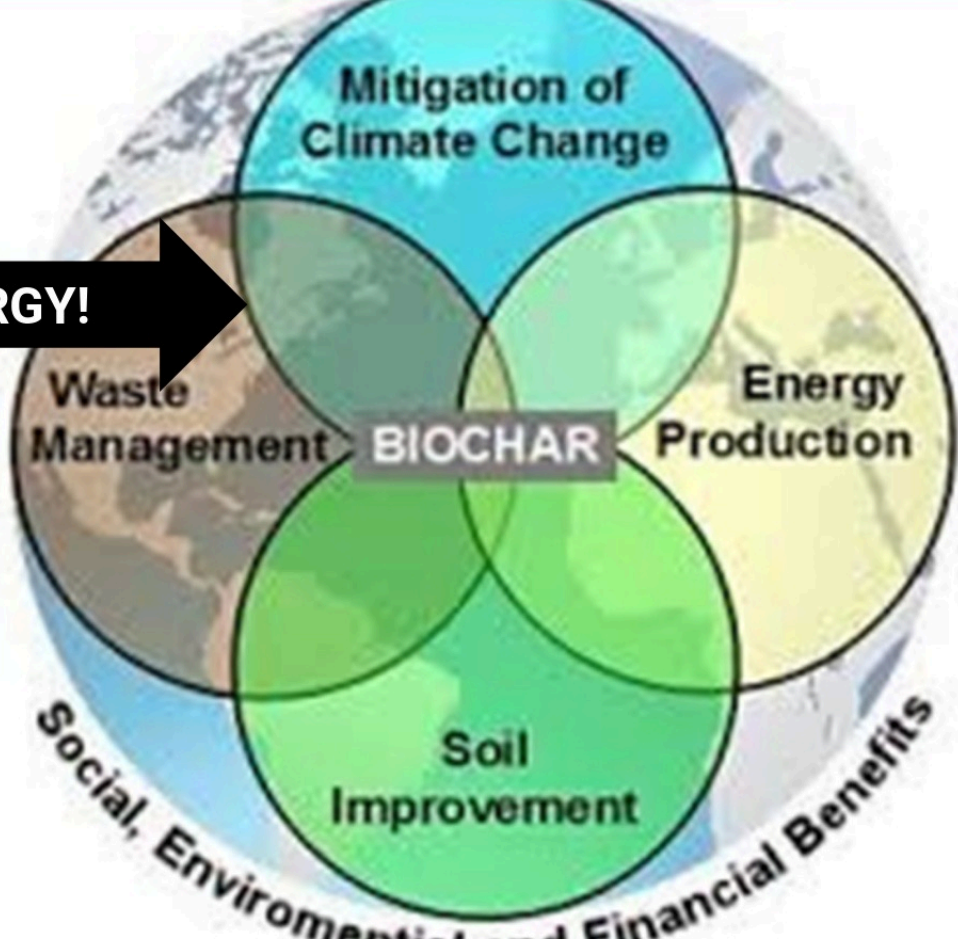
**CIRCULARITY IS  
IMPORTANT FOR  
THE WATER-  
ENERGY- FOOD  
NEXUS**

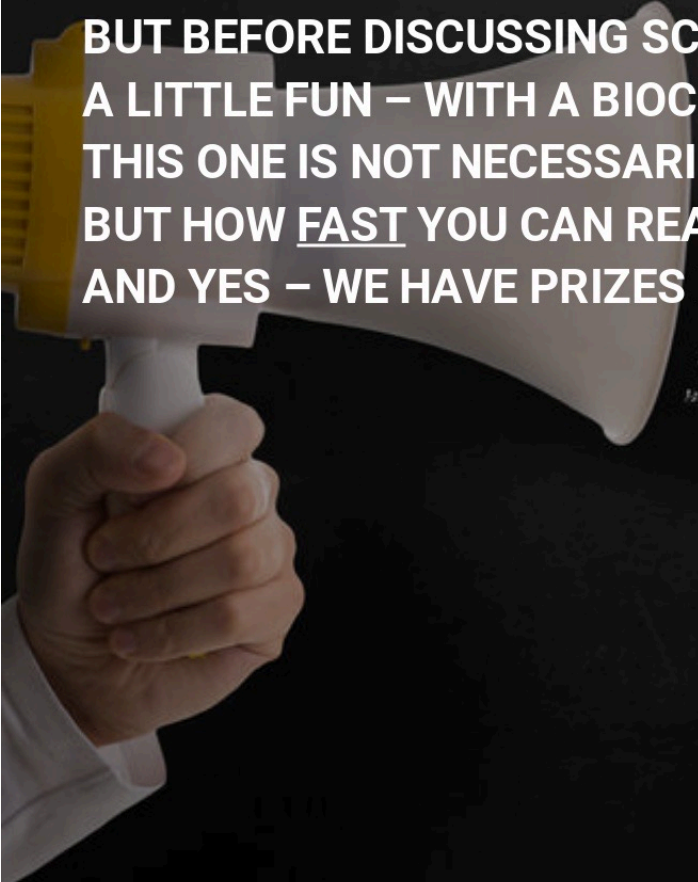
**W.E.F.**

# A BIOCHAR ECONOMY SUPPORTS THE W.E.F. NEXUS !



**SYNERGY!**





**BUT BEFORE DISCUSSING SCALING OPPORTUNITIES – LET’S HAVE  
A LITTLE FUN – WITH A BIOCHAR QUIZ!  
THIS ONE IS NOT NECESSARILY ABOUT HOW MUCH YOU KNOW...  
BUT HOW FAST YOU CAN REACT WITH WHAT YOU KNOW.  
AND YES – WE HAVE PRIZES FOR THE TOP WINNERS!**

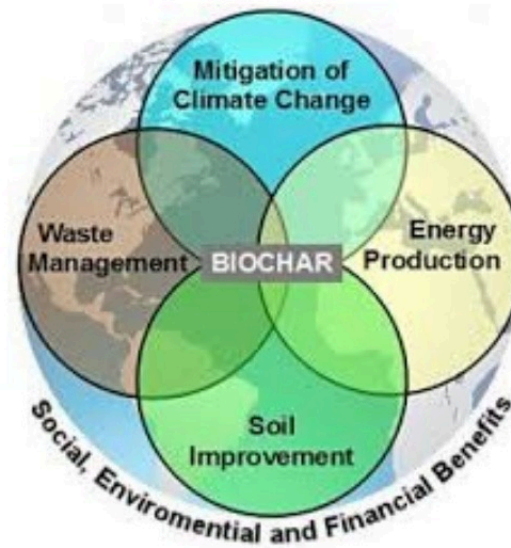
**IT'S  
QUIZ  
TIME!**

## SCALING THE BIOCHAR CIRCULAR ECONOMY – IMPORTANT MARKET LEVERS

- R&D
- Technology
- Finance
- Business Models
- Policy
- Awareness, Outreach & Education

## THINK-ACT-SCALE!

RMI



## Key Factors Fueling Market Growth for Biochar

- **Environmental concerns & key applications**
- **Cheaper cost and carbon negative upcycling as substitute for raw materials**
- **Cohesive government policies for waste management**



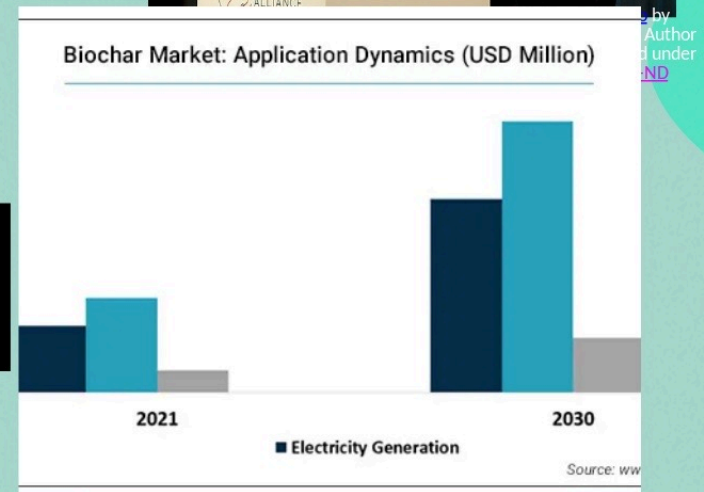


# Biochar Market Outlook – Forecasted to Quadruple in the Next 10 Years

The global biochar market reached a valuation of US\$ 8 M in 2020 - about 0.23% share of the overall charcoal market.

- Biochar Market Size Value in 2020 – US \$ 8M
- Sales Forecast for Biochar by 2031 – US \$ 23 M
- Global Market Growth Rate (2021 to 2031) - 12.3% CAGR
- U.S. Market Valued at \$161 M in 2021

Demand for **pyrolysis & gasification technology** in biochar is set to increase at a CAGR of 10% across the assessment period of 2021 to 2031.



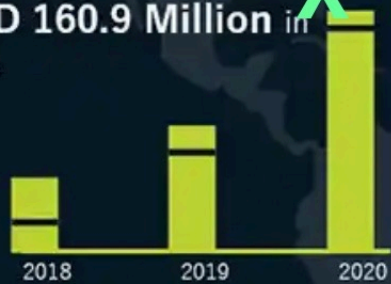
Market is expected to REGISTER a CAGR of

**12.1%** X 10



The market was valued at **USD 160.9 Million** in 2021

X 10



**TIMES DOM'S "SCALING" MATH!**

The market is **FAIRLY CONSOLIDATED** with few large and medium-sized players accounting for majority market revenue



**12.9%** X 10

of global market revenue was accounted for by North America in 2021



Based on application, agriculture segment is expected to register a CAGR of **12.3%** X 10

One of the **KEY DRIVERS** for market growth is increasing demand for biochar in the agricultural sector.



READ THE REPORT:

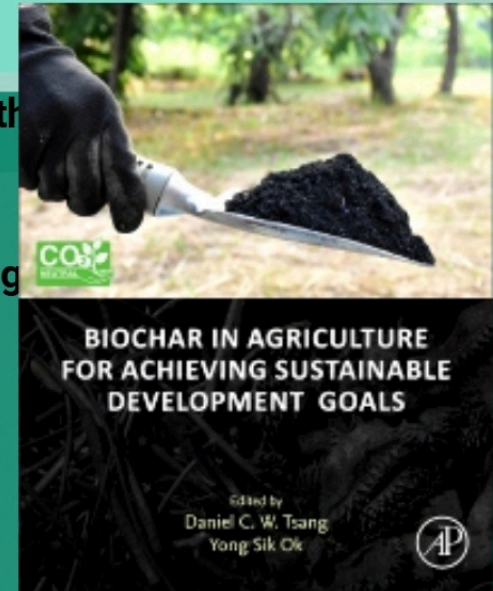
BIOCHAR MARKET 2019-2030

10,000+ reports covering niche topics



## ***Largest Market for Biochar - Agriculture***

- Improved carbon content and regenerative soil conditioning - enhanced soil health reduced need for fertilizers, pesticides, chemicals.
- Biochar reduces the danger of soil erosion - prevents fertilizer runoff, maintaining moisture.
- Reduced GHG's - Carbon negative
- Reduced nutrient runoff and adverse impacts to surface & ground water.
- Animal Health - Rising regulatory checks on non-therapeutic use of antibiotics. When used as a feed additive or supplement, biochar serves to prevent infections and effectively conveys the growth and performance benefits.
- Adoption of chemical-free farming techniques is becoming more popular as people become more aware of the health benefits of organic food.
- Expanding the use of biochar in chicken production to reduce litter and ammonia. Odors. Biochar can absorb liquids, gases, and ammonia to neutralize odors



OPPORTUNITIES TO  
SCALE!

**THE G.O.A.T**

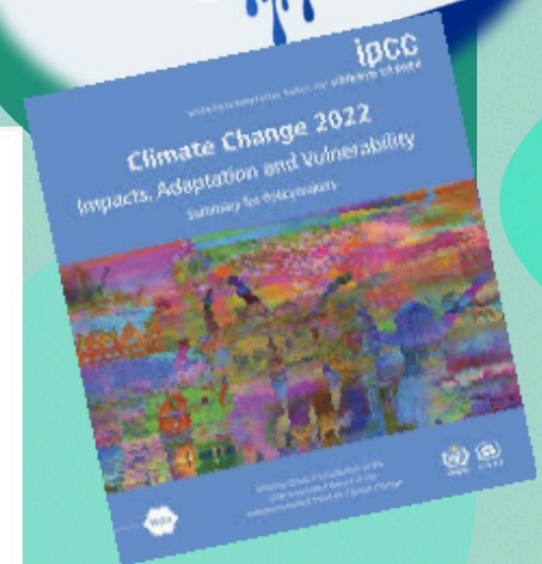
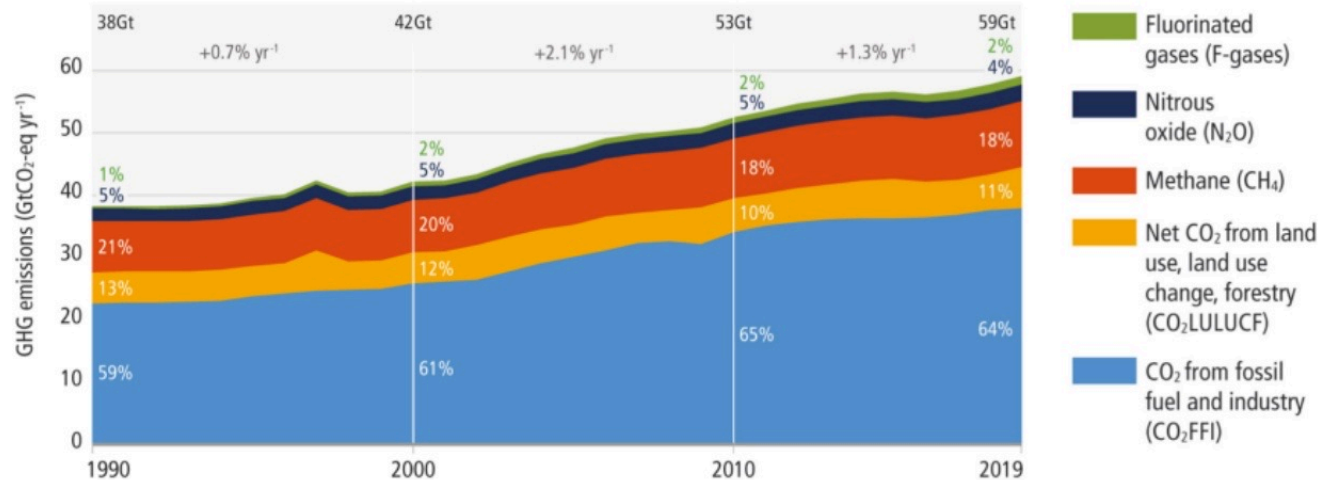
BIOCHAR – THE “G.O.A.T.” FOR  
NEXT-GENERATION  
CLIMATE-FRIENDLY  
ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS

“G.O.A.T” – Greatest Of All Time

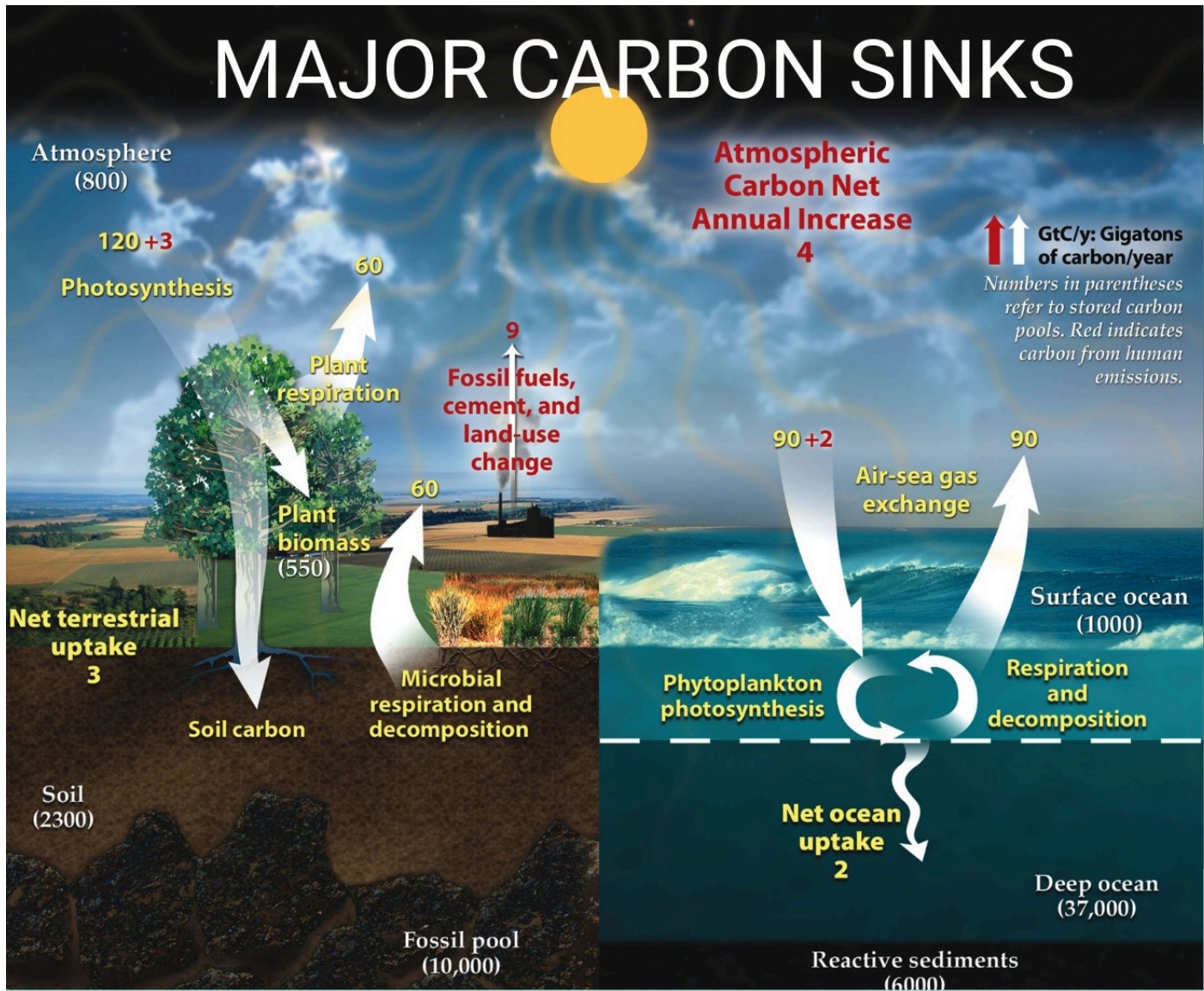
# CLIMATE CHANGE - Temperature Check!

According to the latest IPCC Report (#3):

- We are set to pass the 1.5°C threshold by 2040.
- Humans are the main drivers of climate change.
- We need to take notice of methane levels.
- We are close to reaching irreversible tipping points.



# MAJOR CARBON SINKS



## MITIGATION & REGENERATIVE ROLES FOR BIOCHAR

- **ATMOSPHERE (800 GtC/Y)**
- **SURFACE OCEAN (1000 GtC/Y)**
- **SOIL (2300 GtC/Y)**
- **REACTIVE SEDIMENTS (6000 GtC/Y)**
- **FOSSIL POOL (10,000 GtC/Y)**
- **DEEP OCEAN (37,000 GtC/Y)**

# CLIMATE RISKS: 1.5°C VS 2°C GLOBAL WARMING

## EXTREME WEATHER

100% increase in flood risk vs 170% increase in flood risk.

## SPECIES

6% of insects, 8% of plants and 4% of vertebrates will be affected vs 18% of insects, 16% of plants and 8% of vertebrates will be affected.

## WATER AVAILABILITY

350 million urban residents exposed to severe drought by 2100 vs 410 million urban residents exposed to severe drought by 2100.

## PEOPLE

9% of the world's population (700 million people) will be exposed to extreme heat waves at least once every 20 years vs 28% of the world's population (2 billion people) will be exposed to extreme heat waves at least once every 20 years.

## ARCTIC SEA ICE

Ice-free summers in the Arctic at least once every 100 years vs ice-free summers in the Arctic at least once every 10 years.

## SEA-LEVEL RISE

46 million people impacted by sea-level rise of 56cm by 2100 vs 49 million people impacted by sea-level rise of 56cm by 2100.

## COSTS

Lower economic growth at 2°C than at 1.5°C for many countries, particularly low-income countries.

**IPCC CONTINUES TO PROMOTE THE USE OF BIOCHAR!**

## OCEANS

Losses to marine ecosystems and their ecological services at 2°C compared to 1.5°C.

## CORAL BLEACHING

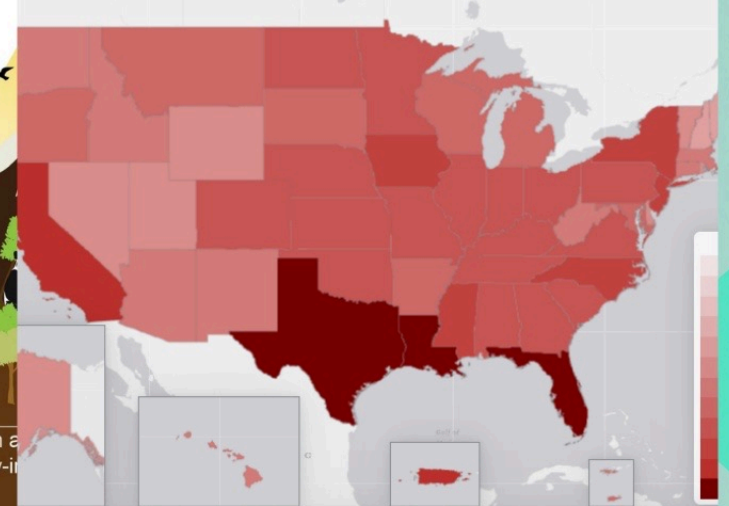
70% of world's coral reefs are lost by 2100 vs virtually all coral reefs are lost by 2100.

## FOOD

Every half degree warming consistently leads to lower nutritional content in food regions.

As of July 11, 2022, there have been 332 weather/climate disaster events in the US with losses exceeding \$1B each.

Billion-Dollar Weather and Climate Disaster Cost (CPI-Adjusted)



Disaster Type	Cost Range
Flooding	\$100B-200B
Freeze	\$20B-50B
Severe Storm	\$50B-100B
Wildfire	\$100B-200B
Winter Storm	\$50B-100B
All Disasters	\$250B+
Tropical Cyclone	\$1.1T+

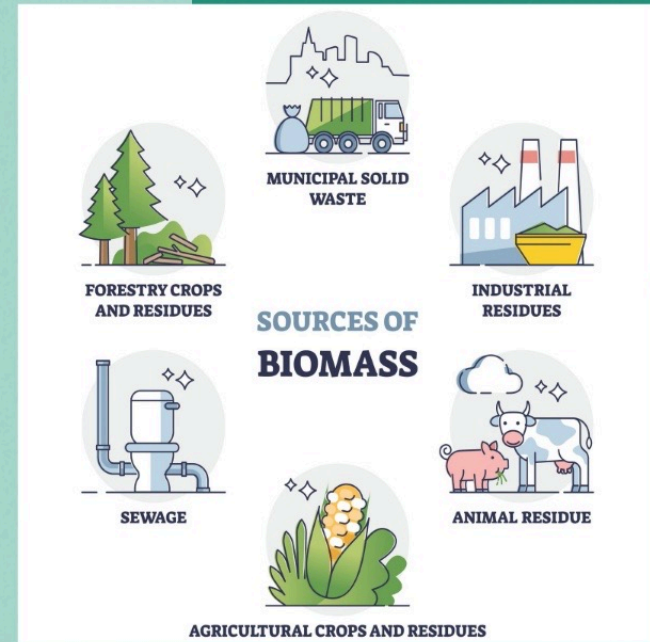
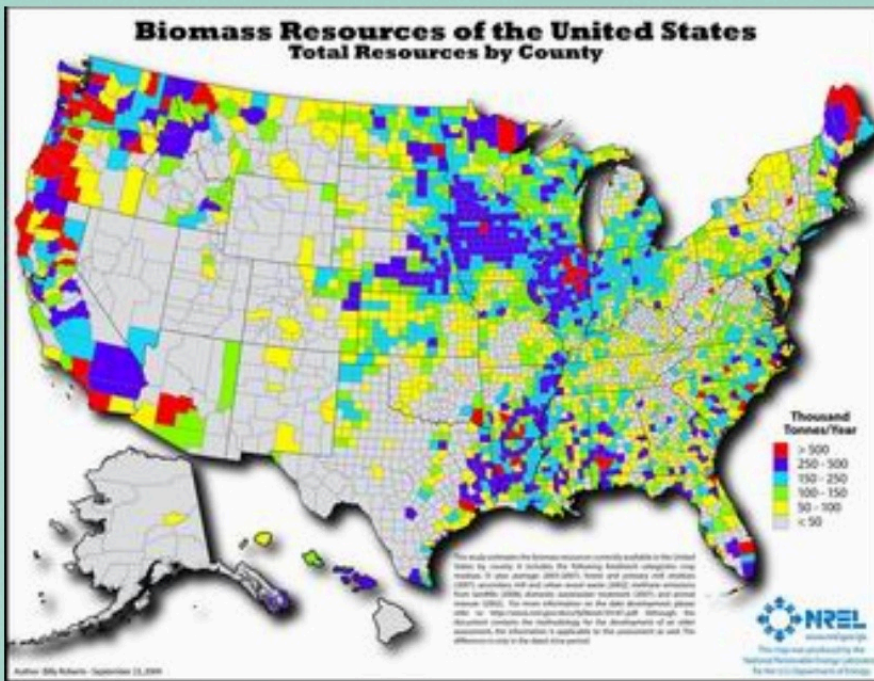
This map reflects a summation of billion-dollar events for each state affected (i.e., it does not mean that each state shown suffered at least \$1 billion in losses).

Frequency Data: [Icons]

In 1980-2022 (as of July 11, 2022), there have been 332 weather/climate disaster events with losses exceeding \$1 billion each to affect the United States. These events included 30 drought events, 36 flooding events, 9 freeze events, 57 tropical cyclone events, 20 wildfire events, and 20 winter storm events.

# BIOMASS/WASTE to BIOENERGY & BIOCHAR---

## Climate-Smart Upcycling Opportunities- Co-Benefits for W.E.F. Resilience & Sustainability





**CARBON  
MARKETS**

**\$50B**

McKinsey Quarterly/August 1,  
2022

**Spotting green business  
opportunities in surging  
net-zero world.**

**\$50 billion per year**

The Taskforce on Scaling Voluntary Carbon Markets has estimated that the market for carbon credits could be worth upward of \$50 billion a year by 2030.

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2040

# SOLVING FOR EMERGING AND LEGACY ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS – OPPORTUNITIES FOR BIOCHAR INNOVATIONS

## U.S. EPA's 4 Major Environmental Concerns

1. Water Issues
2. Air Issues
3. Waste and Land Pollution
4. Climate Change

## United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) – Top Environmental Challenges

1. Ecosystem Restoration
2. Managing Chemicals & Waste
3. Decoupling Growth from Resource Use
4. Green Finance
5. Worsening Impacts Due to Population Growth & Climate Change
6. Interconnected Risks

## America's Top 15 Environmental Issues

1. Contaminated Soil
2. Air Pollution
3. Water Pollution
4. Waste Disposal
5. Climate Change
6. Loss of Biodiversity
7. Deforestation
8. Ocean Acidification
9. Reduction of Ozone Layer
10. Invasive species
11. Urban Extension
12. Nano pollution/Nanotoxicology
13. Toxins
14. Radioactive Pollution
15. Mine Pollution

**MOST CURRENT POLLUTANT TREATMENT & REMEDIATION PROCESSES ARE CLIMATE/CARBON INTENSIVE!**



# ADAPTABLE TREATMENT THROUGH DESIGNER CHARs

Chen, H., Gao, Y., Li, J. et al., June 2022

# BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW (BIL)

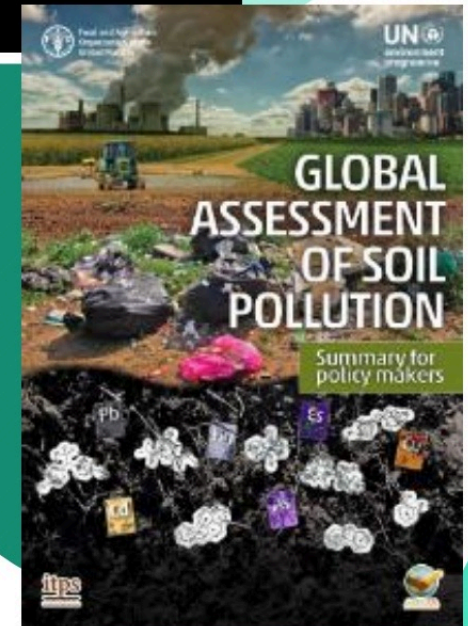
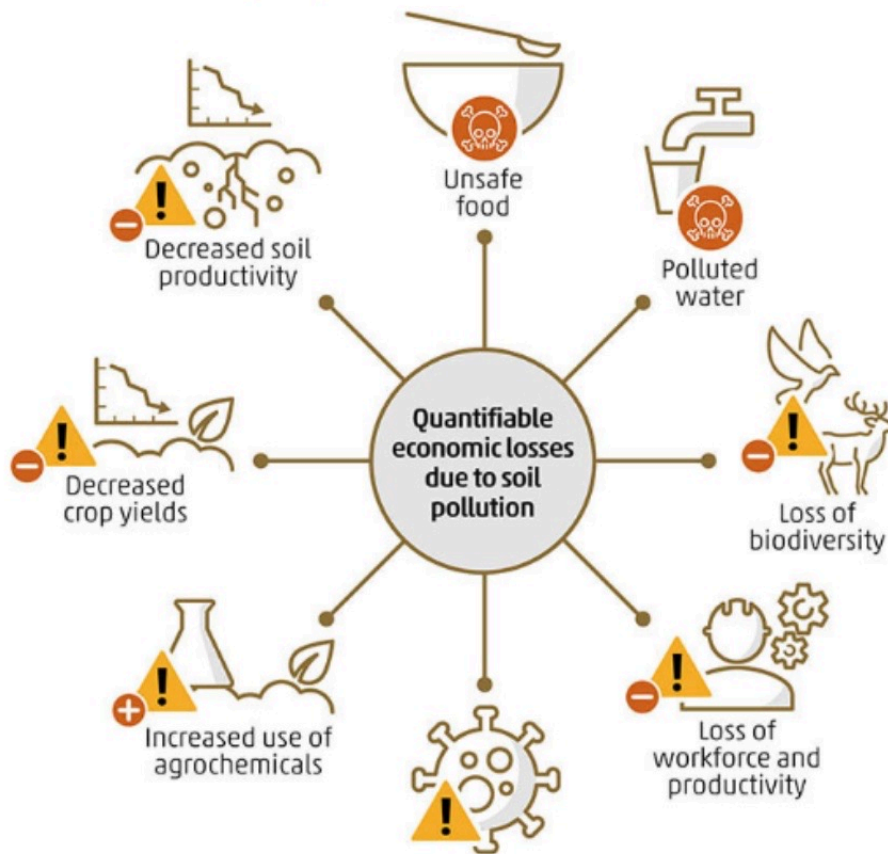
INFRASTRUCTURE	\$BILLIONS	WHAT DOES IT SUPPORT?
<b>ROADS &amp; BRIDGES</b>	<b>\$110 B</b>	Funds new, dedicated grant program to replace and repair bridges and increases funding for the major project competitive grant programs.
<b>PUBLIC TRANSIT</b>	<b>\$39.2 B</b>	Funds nation's transit system repair backlog, which DOT estimates is more than 24,000 buses, 5,000 rail cars, 200 stations, including clean transit options.
<b>BROADBAND</b>	<b>\$65 B</b>	Grants to states to broaden employment, makes broadband access more affordable for low-income families.
<b>PORTS &amp; WATERWAYS</b>	<b>\$16.6 B</b>	Funding for waterway and coastal infrastructure, inland waterway improvements, port infrastructure, and land ports of entry.
<b>WATER INFRASTRUCTURE</b>	<b>\$55 B</b>	Includes \$23.4 billion for the bipartisan Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Act of 2021. Provides a historic \$15 billion for lead service line replacement and \$10 billion to address Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS).
<b>POWER &amp; GRID</b>	<b>\$65 B</b>	Includes funds for grid reliability and resiliency and support for a Grid Deployment Authority; supply chains for clean energy technology; key technologies like carbon capture, hydrogen, direct air capture, and energy efficiency; and energy demonstration.
<b>RESILIENCY</b>	<b>\$47.2 B</b>	Funding for cybersecurity to address critical infrastructure; wildfire mitigation, drought, and coastal resiliency; weatherization.
<b>CLEAN SCHOOL BUSES &amp; FERRIES</b>	<b>\$7.5 B</b>	Includes historic \$5 billion for the replacement of school buses, with a priority on disadvantaged, and hazardous.
<b>ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING</b>	<b>\$7.5 B</b>	National network of electric vehicle charging to provide convenient charging where people live, work, and travel, and disadvantaged, and hazardous.
<b>RECONNECTING COMMUNITIES</b>	<b>\$1 B</b>	Funds for projects that remove barriers to infrastructure funding planning, design, demolition, and construction.

**PUBLIC DOLLARS FOR RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE & HEALTHY COMMUNITIES**

**News Flash!**  
**Inflation Reduction Act passed (8/7) by Senate Dems.**  
**Largest ever federal investment targeting climate change - \$370B**

# Global cost of soil contamination - \$100's of Billions!

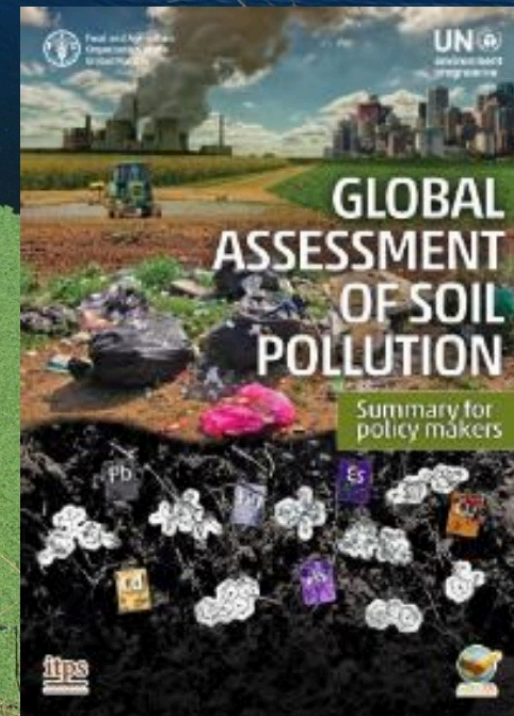
soil productivity and reduction of crop yields, contamination of food products and loss of marketability, reduction of biodiversity, and reduction of water quality.



# Global cost of water contamination - 100's of Billions!

## US ECONOMIC IMPACTS

- CONTAMINATED GROUNDWATER REMEDIATION - \$110 B
- FRESH WATER POLLUTION COSTS- \$3.4 B/Yr
- NITROGEN POLLUTION - \$ 340 B



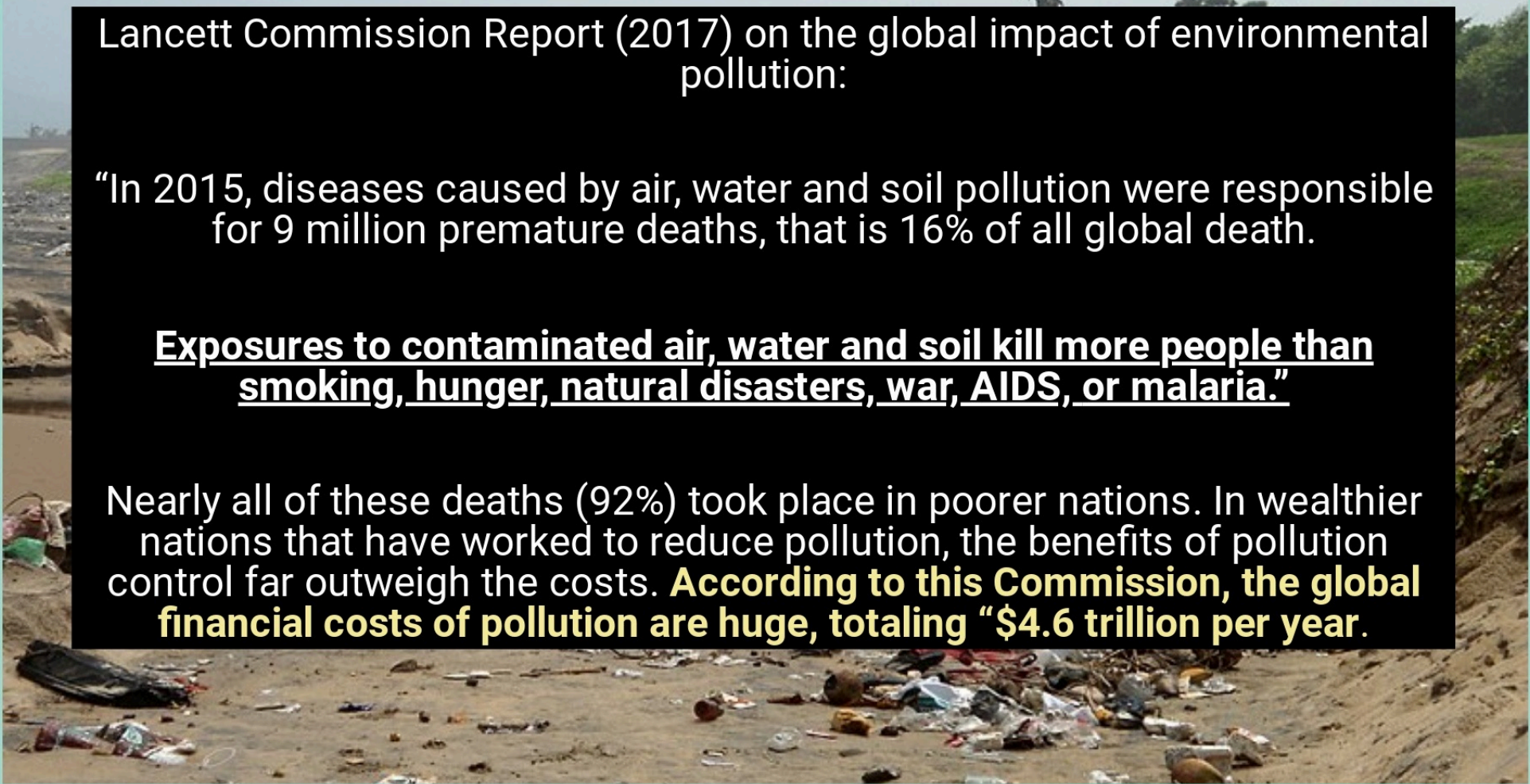
# Environmental Pollution Costs Trillion\$/Year!!!

Lancett Commission Report (2017) on the global impact of environmental pollution:

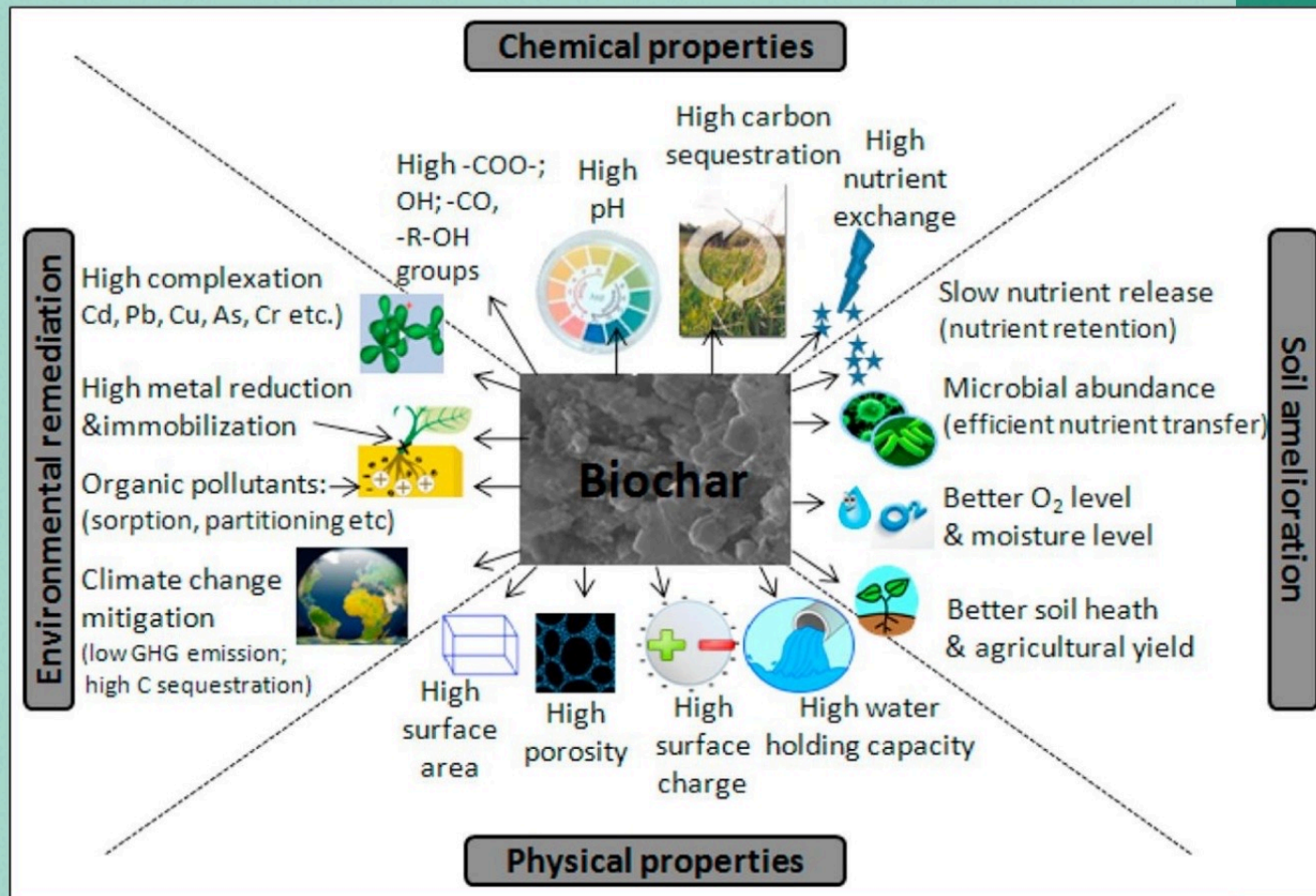
“In 2015, diseases caused by air, water and soil pollution were responsible for 9 million premature deaths, that is 16% of all global death.

Exposures to contaminated air, water and soil kill more people than smoking, hunger, natural disasters, war, AIDS, or malaria.”

Nearly all of these deaths (92%) took place in poorer nations. In wealthier nations that have worked to reduce pollution, the benefits of pollution control far outweigh the costs. **According to this Commission, the global financial costs of pollution are huge, totaling “\$4.6 trillion per year.**



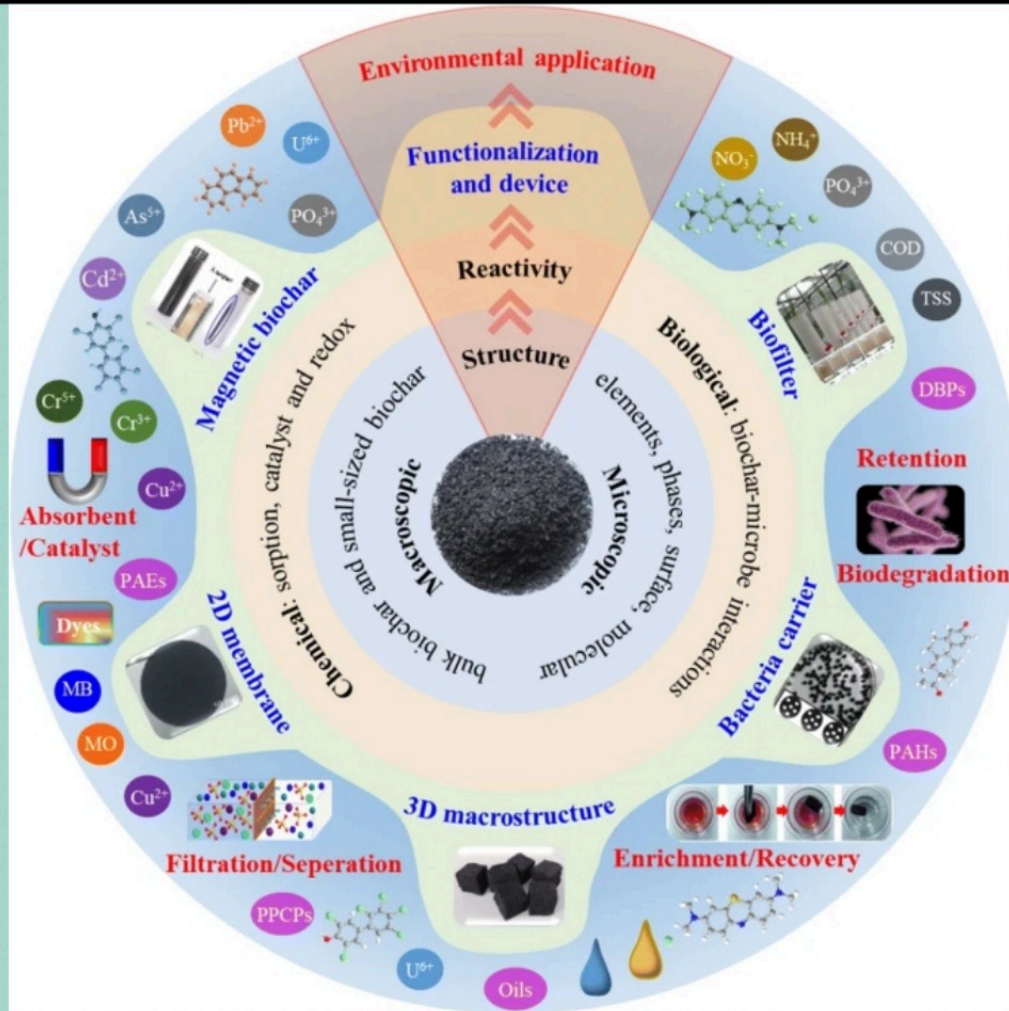
# BIOCHAR'S unique properties enable significant scalability!



Biochars vary by feedstock and processes with unique properties to remove pollutants from soil, water and gas.



# Biochar – Environmental Treatment Examples



- BIOFILTER
- RETENTION/BIODEGRADATION
- BACTERIA/PATHOGEN INHIBITOR
- ENRICHMENT/RECOVERY
- FILTRATION/SEPARATION
- 2D MEMBRANE
- CHEMICAL ABSORBENT/CATALYST/REDOX

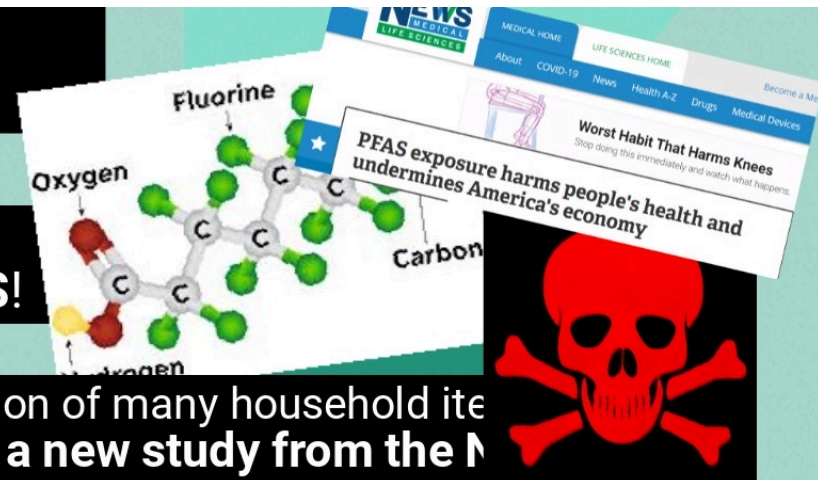
Lu, L., Yu, W., Wang, Y. et al. Application of biochar-based materials in environmental remediation: from multi-level structures to specific devices. *Biochar* 2, 1–31 (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s42773-020-00041-7>

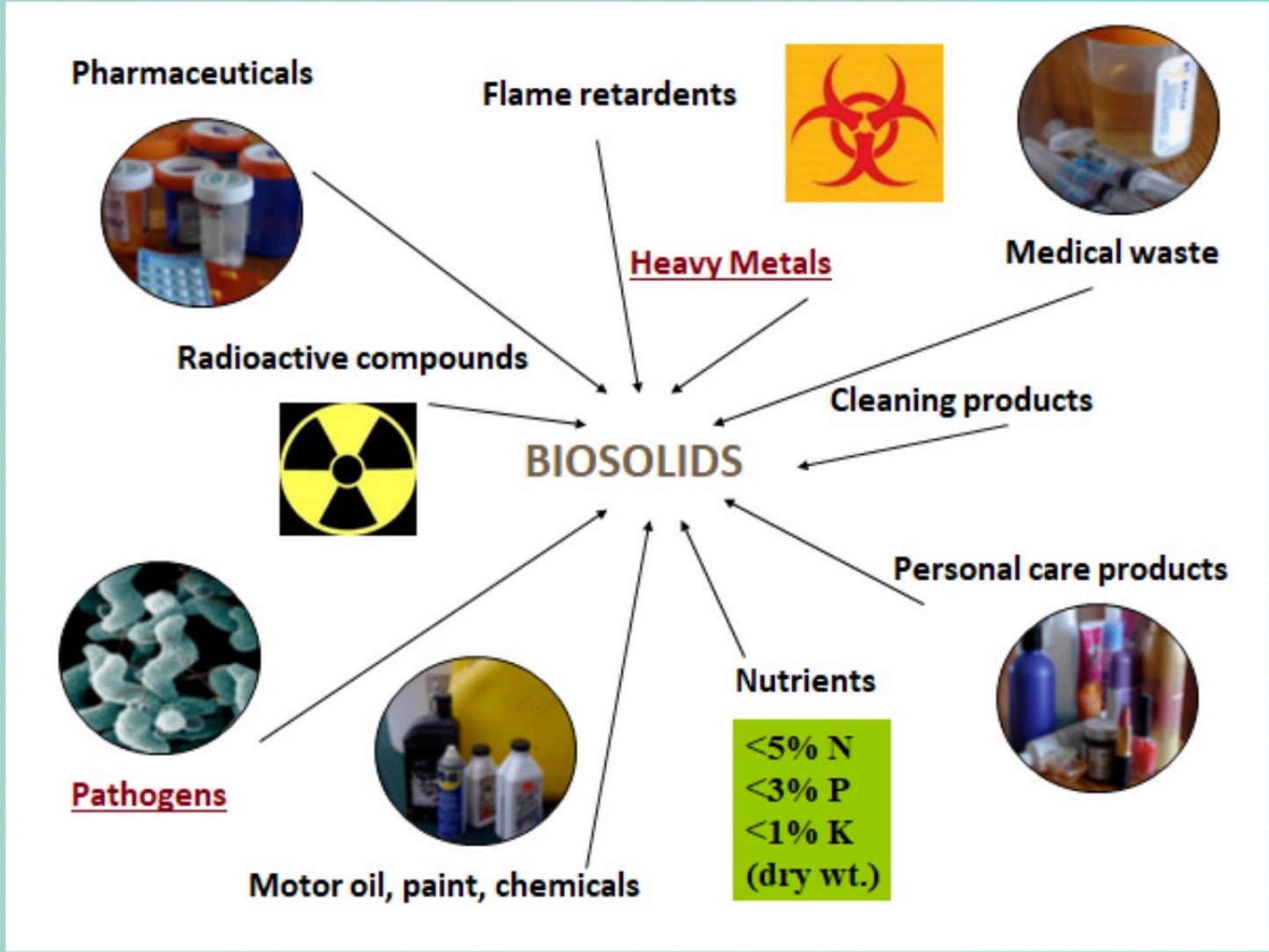
# PFAS

per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances

**BIOCHAR IS EMERGING AS AN EFFECTIVE COST-EFFECTIVE ALTERNATIVE TREATMENT FOR PFAS!**

- Daily exposure to a class of chemicals used in the production of many household items may lead to cancer, thyroid disease, and childhood obesity, **a new study from the NYU Grossman School of Medicine shows.**
- **The resulting economic burden of PFAS contamination is estimated to cost Americans a minimum of \$5.5 billion and as much as \$63 billion over the lifetime of the current population.**
- The chemicals are used, for example, in the production of water- and oil-resistant clothing, electronics, and nonstick cookware, and people are thought to ingest them as food comes into contact with packaging.
- The substances are believed to disrupt the function of hormones, signaling compounds that influence many bodily processes.





## How Much Do We Waste?

Jul 13, 2022

Environmental  
PROTECTION

- Annually, 2.12 billion tons of waste is produced across the world. 1.3 billion tonnes is made up of food.
- At least 33 percent of the planet's waste is not managed in an environmentally safe way. .
- By 2050 global waste will grow to 3.40 billion..
- Annually, it is estimated the world's oceans are polluted by 10 million metric tons of plastic.
- In 2018, America was responsible for producing 292.4 million tons of municipal solid waste
- The waste management market in North America was valued at \$208 billion in 2019. The U.S. accounts for most of the market.
- The U.S. manages 35.2 million tons of hazardous waste.
- Each year, estimates suggest the U.S. produces around 103 million tons of food waste.
- America currently has a recycling and composting rate of 32.1%.

# North America Continues to Be the Most Successful Market for Biochar Manufacturers – Expanding 1.3X by 2031

## DRIVERS

- Biochar producers in North America are increasingly focusing on innovating their offerings and biochar commercialization to expand their footprint in the global market.
- Growing demand for pyrolysis and gasification equipment
- Rising use of biochar in electricity generation are expected to fuel the biochar market value in the region.
- Burgeoning environmental concerns
- Growing availability of inexpensive feedstock have been creating significant demand for biochar products, in North America.



# Biochar – Market Barriers & Growth Constraints

- **Biochar's expensive price point**
- **Fundamental structural barriers**
  - Lack of capital for producers
  - Immature carbon market
  - Lack of efficient technology for low emission biochar production, particularly for remote or mobile production, has been impeding the biochar market value over the recent past.
- **Biochar commercialization lacks consistency and standardization**
- **Concerns for unsustainable production process of biochar** - prominent factor limiting growth potential of biochar consumption.
- **Carbon removal market still challenging – inconsistent - far from mainstream.**
- **High investment costs, limited government support and lack of awareness among consumers**
- **Need for more research & development to support greater market diversification.**




## IN SUMMARY...

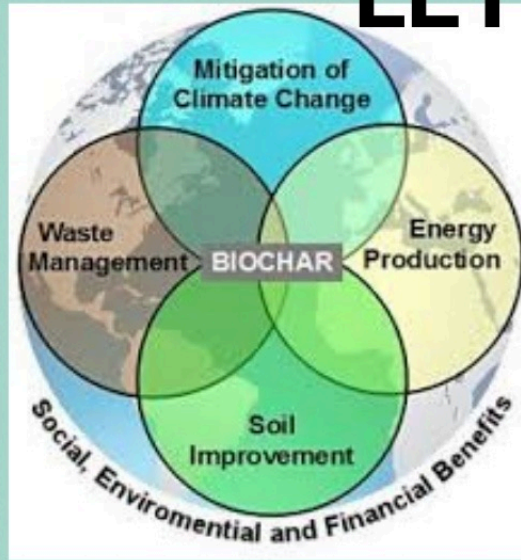
The Biochar Sector offers both mitigation and adaptation opportunities to cool a fast-warming planet and its devastating impacts to quality of life.

“Growing environmental concerns, rising acceptance of biochar as an appropriate substitute for chemical fertilizers, and cooperative government waste management regulations are expected to create greater opportunities for the growth of the biochar market over the next ten years,” Fact Market Analyst.

### Market Levers

- R&D
  - Technology
  - Finance
  - Business Models
  - Policy
  - Outreach & Education
- 

# LET'S THINK-ACT-SCALE! <sup>RMI</sup>



**LIKE A G.O.A.T.!**



# Scaling the Power of Biochar

“360” Solution for a Healthy, Sustainable and Resilient World

**THANK YOU!**

Dominique Lueckenhoff, Senior Vice-President for Corporate Affairs, EHS & Sustainability

Hugo Neu

North American Biochar and Bioenergy Conference 2022, Morgantown, WVA, August 9, 2022

