

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

DATE: MONDAY 28 JUNE 2010

ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



Examining the potential of biochar

A workshop in Hobart today is examining the role of biochar in agriculture and land management activities and as a greenhouse gas mitigation strategy.

The one-day forum has been organised by the Australia and New Zealand Biochar Researchers' Network and a range of Tasmanian stakeholders.

Co-organiser Dr Jane Sargison from the UTAS School of Engineering said the aim of the workshop is consider opportunities to reduce the cost of, or develop income from, the management of organic wastes.

"This workshop is to inform and work with local government, government departments and industry about the potential for biochar in Tasmania," Dr Sargison.

Biochar is made by heating biomass under oxygen-limited conditions which is called slow pyrolysis. Biomass feedstocks can include forestry and agricultural waste products, municipal greenwaste, biosolids, animal manures and some industrial wastes.

"The pyrolysis process takes waste biomass and produces energy, as well as biochar, which can be used to sequester co2 by adding it to the soil, with benefits for plant growth," Dr Sargison said.

The workshop is being held at the UTAS School of Art in Hunter Street Hobart until 4.30pm today.

Media Alert

What: One-day biochar workshop in Hobart TODAY 28 July 2010

Where: UTAS School of Art, Hunter Street, Hobart

Media Interview Opportunity: Dr Jane Sargison from the UTAS School of Engineering is available for interview on 0419 562 619

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