

MACCY BIOCHAR MEMBER BULLETIN

No. 11 - August 2020

Auspiced by the Macclesfield Community Association Inc.

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HELLO ALL.

Welcome to our 11th Member Bulletin.

This bulletin reports on our biochar production to August (as counted so far); Wood collection; Sales; Events; and Our Emissions Reduction Target.

BIOCHAR PRODUCTION

MACCYBIOCHAR	SCOREBOARD at		26/08/20	
YEAR	2019 *	2020**	TOTAL	Units
BIOCHAR PRODUCED	1720	10445	12165	Litres
CARBON CAPTURED	222	1351	1573	Kg
NET CO2 CAPTURED	0.775	4.475	5.250	Tonnes
TOTAL MWHR OFFSET	1.520	8.775	10.295	MWHR

* Re-calculated based on 3rd party biochar analysis dated 19/4/20
** Includes 1285L from member households.

Very wet weather during the first 2 weeks of August stymied production and a temporary exodus of volunteers to holiday in warmer climes has slowed our recovery. So we continue to be behind our schedule to meet our target of 30 cubic metres of biochar by November. Even so we have 2 new kilns due very soon so we will have the capability to reach our target given sufficient wood; the return from holidays of our trusty regulars; and perhaps a few new faces in the operator ranks.

MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS

We now have 3 small kilns available for members to borrow for home use and for us to add their production to the group total for carbon capture purposes. Presently this represents about 10% of the group total. **If you would like to borrow one of our small kilns to make biochar please call me on 041148 0935.** The small kilns are now located at site so any member can use them to become familiar with the process. They make a good training kiln for beginners. Once you are trained you are welcome to borrow one for use at home.

WOOD COLLECTION

Here is John A. with a full trailer of eucalyptus tree litter collected from a property at Walker Street, Macclesfield. These large trees are a continuous source of useful wood which if not used to make biochar could build up over time and become a fire risk.



Geoff's wood collection team continues to do a fantastic job helping many Macclesfield residents clean up their blocks of tree litter and even in some cases removing massive heaps that would otherwise have been simply burned to ash on the spot. The photo below shows our own heap growing to a respectable size. We have also received some deliveries for which we are grateful but more are needed.



MOUNT BARKER
DISTRICT COUNCIL

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ENRICHED BIOCHAR

Sales of our enriched biochar are progressing well.



It is available from Goding's Farm Supplies, 50 Venables St., Macclesfield for \$18 per 15L bag. Believe me this is very good value. They are also available at the Macclesfield Market on the 1st Sunday of each month.

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to new members **Roger Salkeld** and **Ben Blows**. Roger is a retired farmer/grapegrower who recently moved to Macclesfield and Ben Blows operates Spring Hill Vineyard, Macclesfield.

EVENTS

BIOCHAR WORKSHOP

South Coast Environment Centre, Victor Harbor.
Saturday 12 September.
10 am weather permitting.
Kelvin and Brian to conduct Workshop with one of our small kilns.

MOUNT BARKER COUNCIL 'FUTURES FORUM'

Environmental Services Centre, Springs Road, Mount Barker. (Near Laratinga Wetlands).
Tuesday 8 September.
10 am – 12 noon.
Brian has been asked to speak about Maccy Biochar and take part in a workshop discussion on biochar for the 'Climate Innovation' section of the Forum.
Please come along to support Brian and perhaps take part in the workshop. More information is available at <https://yoursay.mountbarker.sa.gov.au/draft-mount-barker-2035-community-plan>

HOW MUCH BIOCHAR DO WE NEED TO MAKE?

The Australian Government has committed us to an emissions target of 26-28% of 2005 levels by 2030. This target represents a 50-52 % reduction in emissions per person. This target commits us to reduce our 2020 annual CO₂ emissions by 5% per annum year on year for the next 10 years and hold it at that level after that.

How much of this 5% reduction per annum can we realistically aim to achieve using biochar? As opposed to using more renewable energy (eg. solar panels, wind turbines); planting more trees; improving energy efficiency; economizing; eking; etc?

To answer this question we need to know how much CO₂ Macclesfield households and businesses are generating each year. This is difficult to determine without access to consumers electricity accounts or cooperation from the electricity providers. SA Power Networks presumably has this information.

If you can help us obtain this information (which I think should be freely available to all communities) then please call me on 041 148 0935. Then we may be able to set some realistic targets for our biochar production.

Based on our current production data each m³ of biochar we make offsets about 0.85MWhr of electricity. So if we knew how many MWhr Macclesfield households and businesses consume we could calculate what proportion of the 5% reduction target we could achieve using biochar.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS at present are:

Brian Lewis – Chairman. **Kelvin Williams** – Site coordinator; team leader. **Geoff Brockhouse** – Wood collection Team Leader. **Kath Thurmer** – Community Liaison. **John Agnew** – Schools Liaison. **Greg Marlu** – Technical advisor. **Stephen Heading** – Technical advisor. **Meegan Semple** – Viticulture liaison.

NB: All members are welcome to attend Committee meetings. They are held on the 2nd Monday of each month in the Macclesfield Institute Supper Room starting at 7:30 pm.

All enquiries to Brian Lewis Mob: 041 148 0935