

HR 2581

BIOCHAR Act of 2021

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Agriculture and Food

Introduced: Apr 15, 2021

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry. (Jun 15, 2021)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/2581>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Herrell, Yvette [R-NM-2]

Party: Republican • **State:** NM • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (5 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Gosar, Paul A. [R-AZ-4]	R · AZ		Apr 15, 2021
Rep. Newhouse, Dan [R-WA-4]	R · WA		Apr 15, 2021
Rep. Westerman, Bruce [R-AR-4]	R · AR		Apr 15, 2021
Rep. LaMalfa, Doug [R-CA-1]	R · CA		May 4, 2021
Rep. Miller-Meeks, Mariannette [R-IA-2]	R · IA		Jan 11, 2022

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Agriculture Committee	House	Referred to	Jun 15, 2021
Science, Space, and Technology Committee	House	Referred To	Apr 15, 2021

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Agriculture and Food

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 HR 2639	Related bill	Jun 15, 2021: Referred to the Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry.

Biochar Innovations and Opportunities for Conservation, Health, and Advancements in Research Act of 2021 or the BIOCHAR Act of 2021

This bill establishes two temporary programs to encourage research, development, and commercialization of biochar. This is carbonized biomass produced by converting plant matter through reductive thermal processing for nonfuel uses.

First, the Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Department of Energy (DOE) must fund biochar demonstration projects through state, tribal, or local governments; land-grant colleges or universities; or private, nonprofit, or cooperative entities. In selecting projects, the departments must prioritize, for example, projects that (1) have the greatest potential for carbon sequestration; and (2) create new jobs and economic benefits, particularly in rural areas. Projects may use funds for various activities, including developing commercially and technologically viable biochar production units and demonstrating cost-effective market opportunities for biochar and biochar-based products. At least 50% of the plant matter used in a project must come from forest thinning and management activities on National Forest System land. In addition, USDA and DOE must conduct research related to the biochar produced from the projects.

Second, USDA must establish a grant program for land-grant colleges and universities to conduct applied research on environmental and economic benefits of biochar.

For the duration of the two programs, USDA and DOE must periodically report to Congress about issues related to commercialization of biochar and the status of the programs. The programs terminate after 10 years.

Actions Timeline

- **Jun 15, 2021:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry.
- **Apr 15, 2021:** Introduced in House
- **Apr 15, 2021:** Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.