



DOUGLAS COUNTY LEADS THE WAY IN WILDFIRE MITIGATION TECHNOLOGY

Wildfires are the #1 natural hazard in Douglas County, meaning wildfire preparedness and resiliency are a top priority.

That's why since 2024, the Board of Douglas County Commissioners have approved a series of funding awards for a biochar facility and waste diversion site, which will increase scope and scale of wildfire mitigation, improve efficiency, and reduce costs for services.

The idea for a biochar facility was born from the Douglas County Wildfire Action Collaborative, a group of emergency management professionals and wildfire science experts passionate about wildfire mitigation and preparedness

What is biochar?

Biochar is a form of charcoal created by heating organic materials, like wood and plant waste, in a low-oxygen environment through a process called pyrolysis.

It captures carbon before it can be released into the atmosphere, creating a carbon-rich product. Biochar is used in a variety of markets, including water retention, soil amendment, PFAS filtration, and odor removal.



How will a biochar facility benefit Douglas County?

In Douglas County, the biochar facility will serve as a much-needed outlet for the non-marketable wood that is a byproduct of wildfire remediation efforts. This cost-effective outlet for diseased wood, understory material, and other non-sellable wood will lower the overall cost of wildfire mitigation efforts, allowing Douglas County to expand wildfire prevention to a greater number of acres per year.

In the future, this site will also serve as a convenient one-stop-drop for many types of waste, including slash from wildfire mitigation projects, hazardous household chemicals, residential yard waste, electronics, and more.

Supporting our neighbors.

Douglas County's biochar facility will not only have positive impacts for our own communities, but for our neighbors as well. The reduction in wildfire mitigation costs made possible by the biochar facility will allow Douglas County to expand our own mitigation efforts and support surrounding counties.



Wildfires don't stop at county lines. When the threat of wildfire is mitigated, we all benefit - our forests, our water, our communities, and our health.

When will the facility open?

Douglas County Public Works is leading the development of the biochar facility and waste diversion site, located off US 85 in an industrial area of Sedalia. Currently, the project is still in the planning process. Impacts to the greater public are anticipated to be minimal. The opening of the facility is projected for 2026.