
SENATE BILL 5961

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2022 Regular Session

By Senators Sefzik, Warnick, Honeyford, Rolfes, Short, and Van De Wege

Read first time 01/28/22. Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks.

1 AN ACT Relating to incentivizing the use of biochar in government
2 contracts; and adding a new section to chapter 43.19A RCW.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 43.19A
5 RCW to read as follows:

6 (1) When planning government-funded projects or soliciting and
7 reviewing bids for such projects, all state agencies and local
8 governments shall consider whether biochar products can be utilized
9 in the project.

10 (2) If biochar products can be utilized in the project, the state
11 agency or local government must use biochar products, except as
12 follows:

13 (a) A state agency or local government is not required to use
14 biochar products if:

15 (i) Biochar products are not available within a reasonable period
16 of time;

17 (ii) Biochar products that are available do not comply with
18 existing purchasing standards;

19 (iii) Biochar products that are available do not comply with
20 federal or state health, quality, and safety standards; and

1 (iv) Biochar purchase prices are not reasonable or competitive;
2 and
3 (b) A state agency is not required to use biochar products in a
4 project if:
5 (i) The total cost of using biochar is financially prohibitive;
6 (ii) Application of biochar will have detrimental impacts on the
7 physical characteristics and nutrient condition of the soil as it is
8 used for a specific crop; or
9 (iii) The project consists of growing trees in a greenhouse
10 setting, including seed orchard greenhouses.
11 (3) For the purposes of this section, "biochar" means a carbon-
12 rich material produced during the pyrolysis process.

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