B4C/CASCADE CPD Programme
A One-Week Course on Biochar & the Circular Carbon Economy

Göttingen, Germany 7. - 11. April 2025 Face-to-face with preparatory online sessions

The **B4C/CASCADE** Continuing Professional Development (CPD) programme is a capacity-building course designed for practitioners and vocational education professionals working in agriculture, horticulture, construction, and environmental sectors.

This training provides an innovative approach to integrating biochar into sustainable local and regional development, supporting the transition to a Circular Carbon Economy (CCE) and the bio-economy.

Participants will explore the environmental, economic, and practical applications of biochar, gaining the knowledge and skills needed to apply it in their professional fields.

Course Structure

Preliminary Online Phase (March 2025)

Before the in-person training, participants will engage in 1–2 online sessions via Zoom, providing:
- An introduction to biochar and its role in sustainability.
- A chance to share backgrounds and expertise to create a common knowledge base.
- Training on basic learning technologies and an introduction to Design-Based Collaborative Learning (DBCL).
- Access to learning materials on biochar and the Circular Carbon Economy via an online platform.

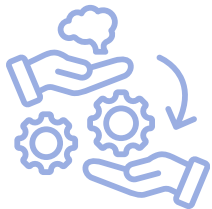## Face-to-Face Training (7. – 11. April 2025 | Göttingen, Germany)

The main part of the programme takes place over five days in Göttingen, Germany, combining expert knowledge, hands-on experience, and collaborative project work:
- Expert-led sessions on biochar applications in agriculture, horticulture, and construction.
- Hands-on Design Thinking workshops, where participants work in groups to develop innovative biochar prototypes.
- Two guided excursions showcasing real-world biochar projects in different application fields.
- Networking opportunities with professionals and experts from across Europe.

The face-to-face training is designed to be highly interactive, allowing participants to apply their knowledge immediately in practical projects.

Post-Training Support & Application

After the in-person phase, participants will apply what they have learned in their own practical learning and development projects. To support this process, the programme offers:
- Monthly virtual helpdesk sessions (Fridays) where participants can receive guidance, discuss their experiences, and exchange ideas.
- Ongoing support from a European network of experts and professionals.
- Resources and mentoring to help integrate biochar into real-world projects.

By the end of the programme, participants will have the skills, tools, and network needed to implement sustainable biochar solutions in their respective fields.

Preliminary Programme for Course Week in Göttingen, Germany

07.04. – Day 1

Morning
Arrival

Afternoon
Get together

Biochar Input 1:
Introduction to biochar products and value chains

Project Development 1:
- Workgroup foundation
- Setting the scene for a project (challenge)

08.04. – Day 2

Morning
Biochar Input 2:
Residual Biomass Input

Biochar Input 3:
Conversion Theory & Technology

Afternoon
Excursion 1:
Urban Applications, Göttingen

Project Development 2:
- Ideation (creating ideas on local biochar projects and value chains)
- Idea refinement and workgroup project definition

09.04. – Day 3

Morning
Excursion 2:
Biochar Techlab of Kassel University with a parcours of different pre-treatment and conversion technologies and practical experiments, Eichenberg
- Conversion, pre-treatment
- Agricultural and Horticultural applications
- Products and value chains for construction

Afternoon
Project Development 3:
- Prototyping 1 (groups start developing a prototype) based on selected ideas

10.04. – Day 4

Morning
Biochar Input 4:
Conversion to bio-economy (the „CASCADE approach" to develop local/regional circular carbon economy projects)

Project Development 4:
- Prototyping 2 (groups finalise the prototypes and prepare for a pitch in the afternoon)

Afternoon
International conference with group project presentations and award ceremony
(Regional and international experts are being invited to attend the conference)

11.04. – Day 5

Morning
- Conclusion
- Evaluation
- Next Tasks

Afternoon
Departure