

Adriana Downie, Pacific Pyrolysis

Adriana is a leading figure in the promotion and development of biochar and was recently selected as one of the Next 100 Emerging Leaders by The Australian for her work in this area. She has over six years of industry experience in the commercial development of new technology and has managed several large scale research programs. Adriana has been operating as the chief technology officer for BEST Energies Australia for the past four years. Adriana holds bachelor degrees in both Chemical Engineering and Science from the University of Queensland. She is also currently undertaking the final stages of a Ph.D. program at the University of New South Wales on the pyrolysis of biomass for biochar and bioenergy for which she was selected as a finalist for a Eureka science prize.

Adriana held a position on the board of the International Biochar Initiative for twelve months and currently holds a position on the committee of the Australian and New Zealand Biochar Researchers Network. She has been critical in raising the profile of biochar globally and her work has been well documented by the media with her personally featuring in numerous print articles along with documentaries produced by ABC, Discovery Channel, and CNN. Adriana also played a significant personal role in assisting BEST Energies Australia to win first prize at the United Nations Association of Australia's 2007 World Environment Day Awards for 'meeting the greenhouse challenge'.