BEST Energies wins top honour at the 2007 UN World Environment Day Awards for 'Meeting the Greenhouse Challenge'.

The BEST pyrolysis technology - hailed by leading environmentalist Tim Flannery as one of the most important available for stabilising the world's climate –- has been chosen by the United Nations Association of Australia's as the winner of their major World Environment Day Awards category 'Meeting the Greenhouse Challenge'.

Adriana Downie, who accepted the award for BEST Energies, said
the commercial uptake of the BEST pyrolysis technology will result in significant carbon sequestration and Greenhouse gas mitigation.

"Adoption of the technology will deliver long-term sustainability benefits of increased soil health and therefore agricultural productivity"

The slow pyrolysis technology developed by BEST Energies is particularly exciting because it not only produces a renewable energy to displace the use of fossil fuel, but it also produces a very stable form of solid carbon which can be sequestered over the long term in soils.

This process has been developed by Best Energies and involves heating green waste or other biomass without oxygen to generate renewable energy and agrichar.

Adriana Downie said once the high carbon char product, Agrichar, is added as an amendment to agricultural soils some of the most remarkable and promising benefits of this technology become apparent. Experiments conducted by the NSW Department of Primary Industries have demonstrated that the char product can improve several soil health indicators as well as increase crop yields and productivity.

NSW DPI research scientist Dr Lukas Van Zwieten has found that when applied at 10t/ha, the biomass of wheat was tripled and of soybeans was more than doubled.

Van Zwieten said the agrichar product also decreases emissions of the powerful greenhouse gas nitrous oxide from soils and increases the efficiency of nitrogen fertilisers.

NSW Primary Industries Minister, Ian Macdonald said this new process offers hope for using soils as a carbon "sink".

Tim Flannery, Australian of the Year, renowned scientist and author of 'The Weather Makers", is a major advocate of agrichar and pyrolysis.

In The Bulletin magazine, Flannery recently listed "fostering pyrolysis-based technologies" fourth among his five steps for saving the planet.

The UN Association award winners for World Environment Day were announced at a ceremony in Melbourne on Friday June 1.

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