National Soil Carbon Network Update

News and Notes of the NSCN

Summer 2011

Featured Articles

Focusing on recently-published soil carbon papers of interest to our community.

Bellon-Maurel & McBratney 2011. Infrared spectroscopic techniques for assessing C stocks in soils - a review. *Soil Biology and Biochemistry.*

Nave et al. 2011. Fire effects on temperate forest soil C&N storage. *Ecological Applications.*

Please email suggestions to the NSCN Network Coordinator

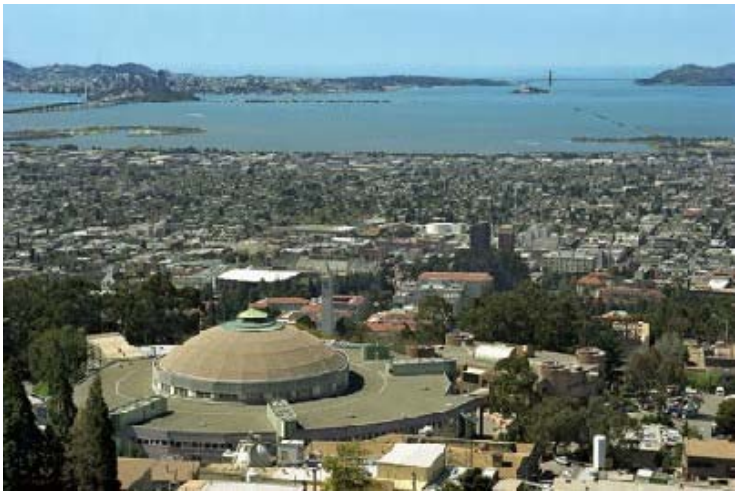
United States Department of Agriculture
National Institute of Food and Agriculture

United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

United States Environmental Protection Agency

Radiocarbon Workshop

The NSCN and the Earth Sciences Division at the Lawrence Berkeley National Lab recently co-organized a workshop on the LBNL campus on the topics of ^{14}C data synthesis and research directions. Twenty-three scientists from academic institutions and research agencies in the U.S., Europe, and Oceania participated in the event on 20-21 July. These researchers began compiling data for a radiocarbon database that will develop in parallel with the NSCN database.



Primary outcomes of the workshop include: (1) initial development of the database structure, (2) commitments from participants to share complete datasets from their own research programs for group synthesis products that will improve assessments of soil and ecosystem C vulnerability, and (3) plans for workshop results dissemination and community outreach at a session the NSCN is organizing for the AGU Fall Meeting (B02; ^{14}C in terrestrial ecology: reductionism to synthesis). To learn more about or get involved in this effort, please contact the NSCN Coordinator.

Radiocarbon Analysis Milestone

Immediately preceding the ^{14}C workshop in Berkeley, scientists from the Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science (NIACS) and the Center for Accelerator Mass Spectrometry (CAMS; located at the US Department of Energy's Lawrence Livermore National Lab) celebrated the first run of ^{14}C samples through the analytical pipeline that connects the USDA-Forest Service graphitization facility in Houghton, MI with the analytical facility at CAMS. This collaborative enterprise, supported by the USDA-FS Northern Research Station and Global Change

Program, as well as DOE-LLNL, enhances the ability of scientists collaborating with these agencies and the NSCN to access the power of ^{14}C analysis for their research projects. Kudos to Katherine Heckman, Karena Schmidt, and Chris Swanston for passing this major milestone!

Dataset Submission is Live!

The NSCN website now has the capacity to accept user data uploads. We are always eager to incorporate more data into our >30,000 profile soil C database, and if you'd like to be the next contributor to this effort, please visit our data contribution page. There, you can find a data submission template, documentation, and a form that enables spreadsheet uploading to the NSCN site. For questions contact the NSCN Coordinator.