



This general diagram of the pyrolysis process shows how woody biomass (chips) can be thermally treated at high temperatures under an oxygen-limiting condition to produce syngas and bio-oil (fuels that can be used for heating or energy production), along with a solid product known as biochar, which has grown popular recently due to its potential uses in agriculture and for carbon crediting. (Diagram courtesy of Joseph Sanford, Assistant Professor, School of Agriculture, University of Wisconsin – Platteville)

Plant will need 400,000 to 500,000 tons of wood annually from Big Bend region

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and existing sawmills in the area, according to the press release.

“Dixie County’s reputation and long, long history for its skilled workforce in silviculture and wood products manufacturing make the location especially attractive,” Scholz said in a press release.

Taylor County was one of several counties being considered as a possible location when Circularity2 officials visited Perry about 14 months ago, according to Taylor County Development Authority (TCDA) Executive Director Bob Cate.

“One reason they selected Dixie County was because its two existing sawmills gave it dependable access to wood residuals (chips),” Cate said.

“They did consider Taylor County,” said TCDA Board Member Michele Curtis, who added that the new company locating in nearby Dixie County would help local loggers, timber land owners and possibly employ local workers

willing to commute to Cross City for work.

“They will need 400-500,000 tons of wood annually, mostly logs, from the Big Bend region,” Curtis said. “This will put loggers to work, starting with harvesting pine and perhaps hardwoods later.”

Circularity2, a privately-held, venture capital-backed company, is developing facilities to produce biocarbon from woody biomass by-products such as forestry and sawmill residuals.

The Cross City plant will create up to 35 new jobs, and the company is also considering future development of additional projects in the region.

The new facility will locate on a 24-acre site at the Cross City Industrial Park that will house the processing, packaging and product storage and shipping activities.

Biochar is made through a process called pyrolysis, a process that involves using high heat (around 700°C) in a special container to heat woody biomass in a low-oxygen environment.

This process decomposes the organic material – but

prevents the biomass from turning to ash – by releasing volatile gases and liquids and transforming it into a highly-porous, carbon-rich solid material.

The resulting biochar is a stable form of very rich carbon that can be used as a soil amendment to improve soil health and sequester carbon.

Lightweight, black and very porous, biochar looks and feels very much like charcoal. While charcoal is used for cooking and heat, biochar can be added to soil to increase soil fertility, water-holding capacity and crop productivity.

Circularity2, LLC (C2) was formed by a team of business veterans and biochar industry experts to develop large-scale biocarbon production projects in an effort to advance industrial decarbonization.

Several hundred thousand tons per year of wood coming into the facility will be chipped, screened and milled to create consistent size chips which are then dried to remove water, the press release states.

The dried chips will be fed into kilns where it

will be “cooked” at high temperature (in a process called “pyrolysis”) to produce the biochar.

Biochar leaving the kiln will be cooled and packaged for delivery to end customers. The facility is designed for very low emissions and a high-efficiency process that will recover surplus energy from the process to meet most of its thermal and electrical needs.

The demand for biochar (or biocarbon) is growing rapidly in applications such as agricultural soil amendments, water purification, carbon-neutral industrial products and other uses.

“Circularity2 has brought an excitement and energy to the entire county,” Dixie County Commissioner Mark Hatch stated. “The developers have been here four or five times just to get to know us and the citizens. The creation of new jobs

and the capital investment will stimulate additional economic development here at our industrial park.”

“It has been an honor to contribute to this project, which is one of the most exciting opportunities for Dixie County’s future,” added Dixie County Economic Development Coordinator Karen VanAernam. “Circularity2 will be a great corporate partner and is already showing strong interest in being involved in our community.”

The North Florida Economic Development Partnership (NFEDP) was instrumental in bringing the project to Dixie County and facilitated the purchase of the new industrial park, introductions to engineers, feedstock consultants, sawmill owners, city and county dignitaries and FloridaCommerce representatives.

“The extraordinary

assistance we received from city and county officials and NFEDP was a key consideration in our decision to build our flagship plant in Cross City,” stated Circularity2 CEO and founder Cary Johnson. “We are delighted with the level of support that has been provided to us and are eager to move to the next stage of our collaboration.”

Based in Saint Paul, Minnesota, Johnson brings experience from previous roles at Spooky Action, Inc. (a Minnesota-based tethered drone tech company), National Carbon Technologies (where he served as president of the Ag and Turf division), Conservis Corp. (a Minneapolis-based company that provides enterprise resource planning software to farmers) and Investigo Corp. (a nationwide employee recruitment firm).

\$718,000 in local funds designated for station

FIRE STATION Continued from page 1

coverage to \$18,820 for a final guaranteed price of \$1,298,820.

The county plans to pay for the project using the original \$580,000 allocation from the Florida Legislature, along with \$700,000 in MSTU (Municipal Service Taxing Unit) reserve funds the board agreed to earmark for the project back in 2023.

“Working with them, we identified ‘must haves,’ ‘would be nice to haves’ and ‘what we don’t needs.’ So, RAM went back, played with the design and did a lot of value-engineering,” Cassel told commissioners.

Cassel then asked the board to award the bid at the reduced price and take the \$18,820 difference from either MSTU reserves or sales tax reserves.

Currently, there is around

\$1 million in the MSTU reserve account, which is in addition to \$700,000 already earmarked for the station project.

Commissioner Jim Moody made a motion to award the bid and take the additional funds from MSTU reserves. Commissioner Michael Newman seconded, and the measure passed unanimously.

Cassel said they would bring back the contract documents for board approval at the commission’s next meeting. In 2020, the Florida Legislature allocated \$580,000 to construct the new station, but with post-COVID-19 inflation, that amount proved well short of the funding necessary to complete the project.

In the years since, the county has requested additional funding from the state on several occasions

with no success, and local officials even briefly looked at purchasing an existing home to serve as a new fire station to cut down on the total cost.

In late 2021, the county solicited bids for a similar design/build option, with the lowest bid coming in just shy of \$1.2 million.

Facing a \$600,000 shortfall, the commission agreed in the summer of 2022 to put the project on hold while attempting one last time to secure additional funding from the Florida Legislature during its 2023 session. This ultimately failed as well.

Subsequently, the commission agreed to allocate \$700,000 from the county’s MSTU reserves to cover the expected shortfall in the 2023-24 budget, which was then carried over to the current fiscal year budget.

HOLIDAY GARBAGE PICK-UP SCHEDULE

City of Perry

The holiday schedule for garbage pick-up during the Labor Day will be as follows:

- Monday customers will receive service Tuesday, Sept. 2nd
- Tuesday customers will receive service on Wednesday, Sept. 3rd
- Thursday and Friday will be regularly scheduled service.

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LEGALS

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other persons having claims or demands against the decedent’s estate, including unmatured, contingent or unliquidated claims, on whom a copy of this notice is served must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE DATE OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM. All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against the decedent’s estate, including unmatured, contingent or unliquidated claims, must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE. The ancillary personal representative has no duty to discover whether any property held at the time of the decedent’s death by the decedent or the decedent’s

surviving spouse is property to which the Florida Uniform Disposition of Community Property Rights at Death Act as described in ss. 732.216-732.228, applies, or may apply, unless a written demand is made by a creditor as specified under s. 732.2211, Florida Statutes. ALL CLAIMS NOT SO FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT’S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED. The date of first publication of this Notice is August 29, 2025. Ancillary Personal Representative Stephen McKay c/o Sally Roberts, PO Box 2026, Perry, FL 32348, Attorney for Ancillary Personal Representative: Sally Roberts Florida Bar No. 102816, PO Box 2026, Perry, FL 32348, Telephone: 850-584-3812.

STORM DAMAGE? UNDERPAID CLAIM? DENIED CLAIM?

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