

# Make a difference, be a Master Composter!

## APPLY!

To attend the Master Composter Training Program by completing this simple application.

## LEARN!

Compost science, horticultural uses of compost, worm composting and presentation skills.

## BECOME!

Trained and certified as a Santa Cruz County Master Composter.

## GIVE!

To the community by teaching others to compost through workshops and outreach events.



## Join the Master Composter Volunteer Program of Santa Cruz County

Master Composter training enhances the skills of community leaders, educators, environmentalists, gardeners, and recyclers. The training includes workshops and field trips on composting and worm composting. We encourage adults of all ages, abilities, and ethnic groups to apply. If you have ideas and energy for community action, this class is for you.

The Master Composter Training Program is free to residents of the unincorporated areas of Santa Cruz County and the City of Scotts Valley. Applicants who reside within the city limits of Santa Cruz, Capitola, or Watsonville will be charged a non-refundable \$150.00 materials fee, due on the first day of class.

**OPEN TO SANTA CRUZ COUNTY RESIDENTS ONLY**  
Applications are due January 26, 2009

Questions? Call Karin Grobe, Training Coordinator at 831/427-3452, or, Sherry Bryan of Ecology Action at 831/426-5925 ext. 114.

[www.compostsantacruzcounty.org](http://www.compostsantacruzcounty.org)



The Master Composter Program is sponsored by the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors and produced by the Santa Cruz County Department of Public Works Recycling and Solid Waste Services.

# 2009 Master Composter Training Schedule

The classes emphasize a fun, interactive and hands-on approach. The goal is to learn about composting and gain confidence to present information to the public. Classes are supported by excellent reading material. Weekday evening classes are 6:30-9:00pm at the Live Oak Grange Hall, 1900 17th Avenue, Santa Cruz. Saturday dates are field trips to various locations and vary in length.

Date	Class/Field Trip
Thursday, January 29	<b>Introductory Potluck</b> Orientation and Introductions.
Thursday, February 5	<b>Santa Cruz County Recycling and Solid Waste Services</b> <b>Guest Speaker, Public Works Staff, County of Santa Cruz.</b> Learn everything you want to know about County of Santa Cruz solid waste diversion efforts and plans to build an Eco-Park at the Buena Vista Landfill.
Saturday, February 7, 10am-2pm	<b>Backyard Compost Basics-Live Oak Grange Compost Demonstration Site</b> Guest speakers lead us in a comprehensive backyard composting workshop, then we swing into the garden for some hands-on composting and tips for using a variety of backyard bins.
Thursday, February 19	<b>The Soil Food Web and the Microbiology of Compost</b> Guest Speaker: Joel Stryker, Master Composter and Microbiology/Botany instructor at Evergreen Valley College. Learn about bacteria, viruses, fungi, protozoans and their importance in the composting process and soil food web.
Saturday, February 21 10am-3pm	<b>Hot Composting, UCSC Style-UCSC Farm and Garden</b> Hands-on pile building with the UCSC Farm Apprentices. Also learn how compost is used and visit the Rotzone Home Composting Demonstration Site.
Tuesday, February 24	<b>Vermicomposting</b> Prepare to be fascinated by the biology of redworms and the ecology of worm composting systems.
Saturday, February 28, 1-4pm	<b>Compost with Worms and In-Vessel Systems-Grey Bears Compost Demonstration Site</b> Learn everything you need to know about volunteering at a "Wormshop" and how to answer questions about worm composting. We'll also learn how food scraps are composted at the Grey Bears with Earth Tub in-vessel composting.
Thursday, March 12	<b>Compost Information Booth Skills Builder</b> Fun group activity will teach you how to respond confidently to common composting questions. Learn effective ways to interact with the public at compost information booths. An introduction to Integrated Pest Management is also presented.
Saturday, March 14, 10am-12pm	<b>Compost Troubleshooting</b> The class will evaluate and track the progress of compost piles built in the Backyard Compost Basics class. Alternative food scrap composting techniques will also be presented.
Thursday, March 19	<b>Creative Presentations</b> Let your creative juices flow! Students give presentations on chosen topics.
Saturday, March 21, 9am-2:30pm.	<b>Compost Tour</b> Field trip to County of Santa Cruz landfill recycling and composting facilities.
Tuesday, March 24	<b>Master Composter Certification Exam and Graduation Celebration</b> A resource test will evaluate your readiness to provide composting information to the public. Then graduation fun and festivities--you earned a celebration!

# Master Composter Training Program Application

(Please complete both sides)

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Name E-mail address (if used)

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Home Address City Zip

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Day phone Evening phone

Length of residence in Santa Cruz County:

How did you hear about this program?

Why do you want to be a Master Composter?

Describe your experience in composting and/or gardening:

Describe your experience in educating or giving presentations to adults or school groups:

Current employer:

Your position:

List hobbies/special interests/skills you can bring to the program:

Do you speak Spanish?

Based on the 2008 Master Composter Training schedule, are there any classes you will be unable to attend?  
Please list:

Most volunteer activities occur on weekends from April-October. On average, how many times will you be available to volunteer on weekends during the following times of the year?

\_\_\_\_\_ March-May      \_\_\_\_\_ June-August      \_\_\_\_\_ September-October

*I understand that my submittal of this application is my promise and commitment to attend training classes and complete the required volunteer obligation (see volunteer service commitment on the following page) within one year of graduation from the training classes.*

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Applicant's signature

Date

**Applications must be received in the Ecology Action office no later than 5pm, Tuesday, January 26, 2009.**  
Mail to: Ecology Action/Attn: Home Composting Program, PO Box 1188, Santa Cruz, CA 95061-1188 \* Delivery to:  
211 River St, Santa Cruz, CA. 95060 \* E-mail to: sherry@ecoact.org \* Fax to: 425-1404, Attn: Home Composting Program

# Master Composter Volunteer Service Commitment

The Master Composter Training Program is part of the County of Santa Cruz Recycling Program. The program relies on the services of Master Composter volunteers to provide staffing for public outreach events and training workshops to educate residents of Santa Cruz County who wish to learn about the benefits of composting.

I, the undersigned, agree to volunteer my services to the County of Santa Cruz for the Home Composting Program. I acknowledge and agree that there is no salary or other compensation to be provided by the County for my services as a volunteer.

I understand that I will not be covered by the County's Workers Compensation during the course and scope of my volunteer services to the County.

In addition, I release and discharge the County of Santa Cruz, Ecology Action and Organic Recyclers Anonymous from all actions, claims, losses, or demands that I, my heirs, spouse, guardians, legal representatives, or assignees may now or later have for any property damage arising or resulting from my volunteer service or activities.

## **DURING TRAINING AND/OR SERVICE AS A MASTER COMPOSTER VOLUNTEER, I AGREE TO:**

1. Attend evening training classes and Saturday field trips (except those dates previously listed on the front page of this application), as well as complete all reading assignments and the Master Composter Certification Exam.
2. Volunteer at a minimum of five outreach events to perform composting education and outreach in Santa Cruz County within one year of graduation, and volunteer at a minimum of one outreach event each year thereafter.
3. Attend at least one continuing education event per year after graduation to maintain my Master Composter certification status.

*I have read and understood the above requirements.*

*I commit to participate in the Master Composter Program as described above.*

Signature

Date

Name (Please Print)

(Please complete both sides)