

# 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 hands-on 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 to reduce, reuse, and recycle, 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 \$150.00 materials fee, due on the first day of class. Scholarships are available.

**OPEN TO SANTA CRUZ COUNTY RESIDENTS ONLY**  
Applications are due February 2, 2010

Questions? Call Ecology Action,  
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 Vision Recycling and produced by the Santa Cruz County Department of Public Works Recycling and Solid Waste Services.

# 2010 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
Wednesday, February 3, 6:30-9pm	<b>Santa Cruz County Recycling and Solid Waste Services Guest Speaker, Public Works Staff, County of Santa Cruz.</b> Learn about County of Santa Cruz solid waste diversion efforts, end uses of recycled items, and plans to build an Eco-Park at the Buena Vista Landfill.
Saturday, February 6, 10am-3pm	<b>Backyard Compost Basics-Live Oak Grange Compost Demonstration Site</b> Master Composters lead us in a comprehensive backyard composting workshop, then we swing into the garden for some hands-on composting using a variety of backyard bins.
Wednesday, February 10, 6:30-9pm	<b>The Soil Food Web and the Microbiology of Compost</b> <b>Guest Speaker: Joel Stryker, Master Composter and Microbiology/Botany instructor at Evergreen Valley College.</b> Learn about bacteria, viruses, fungi, protozoans and their importance in the composting process and soil food web.
Wednesday, February 24, 6:30-9pm	<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, wormshops, and comprehensive workshops.
Saturday, February 27, 10am-3pm	<b>Farm-Scale Composting and Horticultural Uses of Compost</b> <b>Guest Speakers, UCSC Farm and Garden Second Year Apprentices</b> A hands-on opportunity to learn about farm-scale compost production techniques that meet National Organic Board standards. Learn how to sift and use finished compost in potting mixes for greenhouse production.
Saturday, March 6, 10am-3pm	<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.
Wednesday, March 10, 6:30-9pm	<b>Vermicomposting</b> <b>Guest Speaker: Karin Grobe, Santa Cruz County's Worm Doctor</b> Prepare to be fascinated by the biology of redworms and the ecology of worm composting systems and take home your own worm bin.
Saturday, March 13, 9am-3pm	<b>Commercial Food Scrap Composting: In-Vessel and Forced Aeration Systems</b> Field trip to County of Santa Cruz Buena Vista landfill and Vision Recycling composting facilities. We'll also learn how food scraps are composted at the Second Harvest Food Bank with the Earth Tub in-vessel composting system.
Wednesday, March 24, 6:30-9pm	<b>Master Composter Certification Exam and Potluck 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!

Complete the application on pages 3 & 4, or apply online at

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

# 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?

Are you requesting a scholarship? (City residents only)  No  Yes-Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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 2010 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, Monday, February 2, 2010.**  
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)