



Neighborhood Soil Rebuilders: A Community Composter Training Program

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February 5th, 2015

Neighborhood Soil Rebuilders: A Community Composter Training Program

- ✕ Identify existing composter training programs & facilitate information sharing among them
 - ✓ Create national listserve
 - ✓ Create web resources
 - ✓ Survey existing programs
- ✕ Launch a model Master Composter training program in the DC-metro region in partnership with ECO City Farms & DPR
 - ✓ Beginner
 - ✓ Advanced
 - ✓ Master
- ✕ Produce a Master Composter Toolkit
- ✕ Replicate training program

BECOME A COMMUNITY COMPOSTER & LEADER!



Apply to the Neighborhood Soil Rebuilder Advanced Composter training program today!

Class Dates & Times:
5 Wednesdays from 6:30pm - 8:30pm on November 5, 12, 19 and December 3, 10;
1 Monday from 6:30pm - 8:30pm on December 15;
4 Saturdays from 10am - 12:30pm on November 1, 8, 15, 22;
2 Saturdays from 10am - 4pm on December 6, 13

Cost: A \$40 donation is requested to help cover the cost of food & materials

Location: Weekday classroom location will be accessible by the DC Metro Green Line; Saturday hands-on instruction will take place at one of ECO City Farms' sites in Prince George's County, MD (transportation from DC Metro Area may be available)

To Apply & For More Information: Visit NeighborhoodSoilRebuilders.org

Space is limited

An in-depth course training new community leaders in composting:

- Learn about the compost process, from building piles to using the finished product
- Gain experience in building and managing compost systems
- Develop leadership skills and promote community composting

You will gain these skills as part of a six-week course, and be certified as an Advanced Neighborhood Soil Rebuilder upon completion of course requirements. Requirements include completion of 30 hours of community service launching a community-composting project of your choosing.

Once completed, there will also be an option to continue on to the Master Neighborhood Soil Rebuilder train-the-trainer apprenticeship.

This program was developed by the Institute for Local Self-Reliance and ECO City Farms and is offered in partnership with the DC Department of Parks & Recreation



Master Composter Program National Survey

Purpose:

- To conduct the first comprehensive survey of active programs from around the country
- To connect with program administrators
- To collect content and inspiration for Master Composter Toolkit
 - What makes a program a Master Composter program?
 - Lessons learned, common challenges, creative solutions, characteristics of successful programs
- To sketch out a diverse set of templates for replication

Master Composter Program National Survey Results

- 24 of 54 programs responded
- Representing 16 states:
 - CA, CT, GA, MI, MN, NJ, NM, NY, OH, OR, PA, RI, TX, VT, WA, WI
- Common themes in purpose & vision:
 - Empower/train volunteers to educate their communities
 - Reduce pressure on/divert from landfills
 - Create a valuable resource
 - Improve environmental services (soil, water, air)
 - Teach the science of good compost
 - Provide mentorship and hands-on opportunities

2014 Neighborhood Soil Rebuilders: Advanced Composter

- 50+ applicants for 12 spots
- Competitive & selective application process based on:
 - community leadership,
 - ability to engage a diverse array of community members,
 - existing composting experience,
 - commitment to completing all course requirements,
 - and dedication to spreading the community composting gospel

“What does ‘compost’ mean to you?”



2014 Neighborhood Soil Rebuilders: Advanced Composter

- Instruction: 38 hours over 6 weeks
 - 12 hours in the classroom
 - 12 hours at ECO City Farms
 - 6 hours building composting bins
 - 8 hours touring composting sites
- Community Composting Service: 30 hours
- Capstone Project

Monitoring O2



2014 Neighborhood Soil Rebuilders: Advanced Composter

- Participants represent a diverse cross-section of the DC metro area:
 - 10 participants from DC and 5 from MD
 - 9 men and 6 women
 - 8 White/European Descent, 5 Black/African American, 1 Hispanic/Latino, 1 Mixed Heritage

2014 NSR Bin Build



2014 Neighborhood Soil Rebuilders: Advanced Composter

- Composting 101
- The science of composting
- Lab testing
- Pile building
- Bin design (Eriks Brolis)
- Vermicomposting (Rhonda Sherman)
- Soil biology
- Community engagement (Eva Young)

Lab Tests for Compost



2014 Neighborhood Soil Rebuilders: Advanced Composter

- 13 Capstone Projects
 - 2 in Prince George's County, MD
 - 1 in Takoma Park, MD
 - 9 in DC (all but 3 wards)
- Schools: Berwyn Heights Elementary, Takoma Middle School, EW Stokes CFPCS, John Burroughs Education Campus
- Gardens: Lovejoy, Turkey Thicket, Palisades, Euclid Street, Hillcrest, Halo Green, Lincoln Heights
- Others: Love & Carrots, Marin Carbon Project

DC-MD Community Partners

- Benny Erez, ECO City Farms
- Josh Singer, DPR

Other Collaborations:

DGS, WYG,

Compost Cab

