

1. This is a train the trainer program, which prepares volunteers to educate our local communities in the art, science, materials, methods and benefits of composting and vermicomposting.

The training program is overseen by the BCEMC board of directors. The training is approximately 30 hours. The fee for 2013 is \$ 80.00. Those with prior composting experience may apply. The curriculum will be similar to that of 2012:

NMSU: Bernalillo County Master Composters Spring 2012: Schedule and Curriculum

Once the course is completed the intern is required to complete 10 ( minimum ) hours of community service prior to receiving a certificate and name badge.

Types of service are listed in our bylaws : Article X Standing rules :

NMSU: Bylaws of Bernco Master Composter Association

All of the above is motivated by our mission / vision statements and program

objectives: NMSU: Bernalillo County Master Composters Mission and Vision

2. **Target:** We network the program to the general public. Specifically to gardening groups, contiguous county extension services and Indian reservations. Our webmaster keeps a list of those who have expressed an interest in the training via our website. In 2009 we targeted: master gardeners and the general public - which worked well.

3. **Partners:** We are one of the many programs of the Bernco. Coop Ext. Service. The Service provides support: classroom, NMSU web hosting, photocopies, instructors, certificates, badges, advice, moral support and fees for instructors as may be

necessary. Currently most of our instructors come from the master composter group and others who volunteer their time without financial compensation.

The course fee goes to the BCEMC association for the continuation of educational efforts. Because of the support of Extension Office we currently spend very little money. It's all about volunteers, enthusiasm and generosity !

For our first training the principal instructor wanted to be paid. That was worked out by the instructor with the extension service. I was not involved in the resolution.

4. **Replication:** Identify and network with those in your area who are passionate about gardening, the soil, recycling and of course composting. If you connect with passionate people - often they willingly volunteer time to the effort.

Examples: garden clubs, master gardener groups, sustainability students, area cooperative extensions, botanical gardens, community gardens, municipal solid waste / environmental, parks and recreation departments, non profits and those who have composting expertise as they might volunteer as instructors.

5. **Budget:** As I have mentioned the Bernco. Ext Service provides us with much support and we charge a fee for the course.

That which might require money: instructor fees ( ?), photocopies, books, classroom, web hosting, training materials, certificates / name bages. This would all be predicated on your local resources.

6. **Success / failures:** As a group the BCEMC's since 2009 have taught many home composting / vermicomposting classes - free / open to the public,

provided information tables at local events and done several on-site consultations- all free to the public. Our area has about a 800,000 people. So far we have talked to about 800 people about home composting / vermicomposting. We still have many more to educate. In order to do this we need committed / passionate volunteers. About 30 % of those who have taken the training have " faded away " and are not actively involved with the association. It seems a problem to " weed out " on application those who would take the course just to get the information and then do not follow thru with a generous volunteer commitment. But we keep on going with those who are committed.

#### **7. Advice:**

- \* Seek out committed generous volunteer partners - get some helpers !  
Have a few meetings.
- \* Set up a website for the program information and as a reference point for networking / advertising.
- \* Get support of local Extension Service - they are already networked, may provide instructors, may have access to money / grants
- \* Get some instructors, set up curriculum, pick - dates, times, location. Advertise.  
It will happen !
- \* Seek financial resources - if you need them.
- \* Charge a fee for the training.
- \* If you want this program to continue into the future- decide what support system (s) will sustain it.

John Zarola