



WSU EXTENSION
Thurston County

Master Recycler Composter Volunteer Training Application

Thank you for your interest in the 2026-2027 Master Recycler Composter Volunteer Training to become a Thurston County Master Recycler Composter (MRC) volunteer.

Please read through the instructions carefully.

The application process to be considered for the MRC Volunteer Training involves two steps, 1) submit a completed MRC Training Application by 8 a.m. on Monday August 17, and 2) pass the Criminal Background Check. Applicants must complete both steps to be accepted into the MRC Volunteer Training.

Your responses must be legible to be considered for the Master Recycler Composter Volunteer Training. Acceptance letters will be issued once applications have been reviewed and processed, and background checks are complete.

Your completed application must be submitted by 8 a.m. on Monday August 17, to be considered for the 2026-2027 MRC Volunteer Training. Space is limited so don't delay, apply today!

Return application to:

Email: whitney.godby@co.thurston.wa.us

Or

Mail: WSU Thurston County Extension
Attn: Whitney Godby/MRC Application
3054 Carpenter Rd. SE
Olympia, WA 98503

Please retain a copy of your completed application for your records.

A \$25 training fee will be collected at the first class. This fee covers the remaining training supply and field trip costs that are not subsidized by Thurston County Solid Waste Department and the Master Gardener Foundation of Thurston County.

Do not send payment with this application!



Master Recycler Composter of Thurston County Volunteer Training

Application

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY or TYPE

To become a Master Recycler Composter volunteer, you must be 18 years of age or older. (required)

Are you 18 years of age or older? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you live, work, or operate a business in Thurston County? (required)

☐ Yes ☐ No

Have you ever used Thurston County Master Recycler Composter services? (required) Services include attending composting or recycling community workshops, Q&A clinic via email or at a community event, etc.

☐ Yes ☐ No

How did you learn about the Master Recycler Composter program? (required)

- ☐ WSU Thurston County Extension website
- ☐ Thurston County Public Works website
- ☐ Social media
- ☐ Local paper
- ☐ LeMay Billing Insert
- ☐ Online community calendar
- ☐ Word of mouth
- ☐ Other

Applicant Contact Information

Name (required)

(First)

(Middle)

(Last)

(Maiden)

Name you prefer to use (nickname, etc.): _____

Thurston County and WSU Extension programs are available to all without discrimination. Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local Extension office. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication or program information, or reasonable accommodation need to contact Cori Carlton at 3054 Carpenter Rd. SE, Olympia WA 98503, 360-867-2162, cori.carlton@co.thurston.wa.us at least two weeks prior to the deadline for application.

What name do you want listed on your name badge? Must include first and last name: *(required)*

(First)

(Last)

Mailing Address: *(required)*

(Street)

(City)

(Zip)

Primary Phone: *(required)*

() -- Best Time to Call: _____

Email Address: *(required)*

(Please type or print very clearly)

Emergency contact (other than your own home contact information): *(required)*

Name: _____ Relation to you: _____

Phone: () -- _____

Training Participation and Tech Expectations

2026-2027 MRC Volunteer Training includes 15 classes that will be held in-person from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the following Fridays from September 2026 through March 2027:

September 18		
October 2	October 16	October 30
November 13	November 20	
December 4	December 11	
January 8	January 22	
February 5	February 12	February 26
March 12	March 19	

All training classes are important, and trainees are expected to attend all classes or make up if missed.

Can you attend the scheduled training classes? *(required)* ☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you have any concerns about the class participation expectations? *(required)* ☐ Yes ☐ No

If you do have concerns about class participation, please comment:

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We recommend that you have a computer with internet access and a Zoom account in case you are ill and can attend class remotely. Additionally, all volunteers are expected to have an email address to receive communications from the Program Manager about volunteer activities and other important volunteer-related information. The MRC Program uses Zoom for other programming and training needs.

Can you meet the tech expectations for training and volunteering? *(required)* ☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you have any concerns about the tech expectations? *(required)* ☐ Yes ☐ No

How comfortable are you with Zoom? *(required)*

☐ Very comfortable ☐ Somewhat comfortable ☐ I've never used Zoom

Do you have any concerns about using Zoom? *(required)* ☐ Yes ☐ No

If you do have concerns about the tech expectations or using Zoom, please comment:

Please advise us of any special accommodations needed for you to participate in the upcoming training:

Applicant Availability, Experience, and Skills/Interests

Occupation *(required)* _____ **Position** *(required)* _____

Full time _____ Part time _____ Shift _____ Seasonal _____ Student _____ Retired _____

If not currently employed, retired, or a student, are you actively seeking employment? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Select the times when you would be most available to volunteer (check all that apply): *(required)*

Weekdays _____ Evenings _____ Weekends _____ Summers only _____ Other _____

Select the geographical area(s) in which you would be willing to volunteer (check all that apply): *(required)*

Lacey _____ Tumwater _____ Olympia _____ Rochester/Littlerock _____ Tenino _____ Yelm _____ No Preference _____

Select the education/training you have completed: *(required)*

☐ High school

☐ Technical/trade school (major studies) _____

☐ 2-year community college (major studies) _____

☐ 4-year college (major studies) _____

☐ Waste reduction degrees, training, or certifications

(specify) _____

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Please describe your composting and recycling experience (any personal, volunteer, or work experience):
(required)

List any volunteer experience in the community: (required)

In your volunteer role, with whom do you prefer to work with? (required)

- ☐ Youth (under 18) ☐ Adults ☐ Both

If you prefer to work directly with youth, what grade level(s) do you prefer?

- ☐ Primary (Grades K-2)
☐ Junior (Grades 3-5)
☐ Intermediate (Grades 6-8)
☐ High school (Grades 9-12)

Which of the following topics do you have interest in learning about or experience in that you would be willing to share with others while volunteering with our program? (Please check all that apply) (required)

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| ☐ Composting yard waste @ home | ☐ Composting food waste @ home | ☐ Pros/cons of compost bin styles |
| ☐ Worm composting | ☐ Wildlife problems in compost | ☐ Organization/business composting |
| ☐ Curbside home recycling | ☐ Curbside organics/yard waste | ☐ Organization/business recycling |
| ☐ Recycling or composting @ schools | ☐ Wasting Less Food | ☐ Upcycling/Repurposing |
| ☐ Landfills | ☐ Packaging | ☐ Other-please describe |

What other skills, interests or experience are you willing to share while volunteering for our program?

The skills you are willing to share with us is just as important as prior recycling/composting experience. We need people with all types of experience to help further our program goals. (Please check all that apply) (required)

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| ☐ Writing articles | ☐ Drawing/illustrating | ☐ Research/data collection |
| ☐ Website management | ☐ Publicity/marketing | ☐ Public speaking/teaching |
| ☐ Social media | ☐ Artwork/displays | ☐ Grant writing |
| ☐ Photography | ☐ Proofreading | ☐ Fundraising |
| ☐ Event planning | ☐ Video production | ☐ Financial management |
| ☐ Office/clerical skills | ☐ Volunteer management | ☐ Financial investing |
| ☐ Skilled Labor (i.e. electrical,
plumbing, carpentry, mechanics,
painting, welding etc.) | ☐ Computer skills-list software | ☐ Other-please describe |
| | | ☐ Virtual presentation skills |

If needed, please provide specific information on the above checked categories:

If you can speak, read, or write in a language other than English, please list: (including American Sign Language)

Do you have other skills and abilities you would like us to know? Please describe below.

Are there any volunteer activities in which you are unwilling or unable to participate? (examples: public speaking, attending meetings, office work including answering phones and emails, working one-on-one with community clients, physical composting work in the demonstration gardens, etc.)? *(required)*

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please list: (please be honest, if you write something down here it will not deter you from being accepted into the program.)

Describe your comfort-level with public outreach. *(required)*

How comfortable are you with: (1 being least comfortable, 5 being most comfortable or N/A=never done)

- 1) Starting a conversation with a stranger. 1 2 3 4 5 N/A
- 2) Staffing an information booth at a community event. 1 2 3 4 5 N/A
- 3) Getting someone to participate in an activity. 1 2 3 4 5 N/A
- 4) Presenting a topic to others. 1 2 3 4 5 N/A

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[illegible]

Thurston County Master Recycler Composter volunteers are expected to volunteer a minimum of 25 hours each calendar year to maintain certified volunteer status (including 20 hours of service and 5 hours of continuing education credits). The purpose of 5 hours of continuing education credits (CE) is to stay current with industry and science-based information. Recycling and composting practices can change frequently. There will be opportunities for CE through workshops, publications, webinars, e-newsletters etc.

☐ Yes ☐ No

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Terms and Conditions

-Acknowledgement of Training Requirements

By submitting this application for the 2026-2027 Thurston County Master Recycler Composter Volunteer Training, I understand the training requirements to become a certified MRC volunteer and the annual volunteer requirements to maintain my certification.

-Volunteer Service Agreement

Thurston County provides workers' compensation coverage for volunteers and will defend a volunteer against any claim or lawsuit arising out of the performance of the services rendered under this agreement, per RCW 4.96.041, provided the volunteer has acted within the scope of the duties defined in this agreement. Volunteers shall report all volunteer service hours to the reporting office, department, or supervisor for purposes of reporting and accounting to the Department of Labor and Industries.

If accepted into the Master Recycler Composter Program, I agree to:

1. Represent Thurston County with dignity and pride.
2. Respect all persons with whom I interact with as a Thurston County Master Recycler Composter (fellow volunteers, county personnel, and general public).
3. Conduct myself in a courteous, respectful manner refraining from profanity, harassment, disruptive behavior, or abuse of any kind.
4. Respect and follow county and program policies and guidelines.
5. Comply with nondiscrimination laws.
6. Refrain from using alcohol and other drugs in an illegal or inappropriate manner.
7. Participate as team members within the Master Recycler Composter program.

Master Recycler Composters are representatives of Thurston County and should dress in appropriate and professional manner. This includes always wearing one's name badge when serving as a Thurston County volunteer. Clothes should be suitable for the activity or location. Office casual is appropriate for indoor speaking engagements or promotions. Work clothes are appropriate for composting and recycling service.

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I consent to Thurston County WSU Extension performing a background check into my history in accordance with RCW 43.43.830 through RCW 43.43.845, and 1120-S.SL, and waive any right to privacy I may have in such information for the limited purpose of the County considering if for determining my suitability as a volunteer.

☐ **I acknowledge and agree to the Terms and Conditions, and consent to the criminal background check.**

☐ **I understand that I must submit a criminal background check form to be considered for the MRC Volunteer Training.**

Signature _____ **Date** _____

By submitting this application, I hereby certify that every statement I have made in this application is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that any false statement will affect my ability to begin volunteering if I am accepted. I understand that this completed application is the property of Thurston County and will not be returned. I understand that I must notify WSU Extension of any changes in my name, address, or phone number.