

Building composting champions through Brisbane's Master Composters Course

Waste Expo – Melbourne 2022



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SECURITY LABEL: OFFICIAL

Summary of presentation



- What is the Master Composters Course?
- Background
- Council's multi-targeted approach
- Courses around the world
- Features of the course
- Outcomes
- Benefits to Council and community
- Questions



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What is the Master Composter Course?

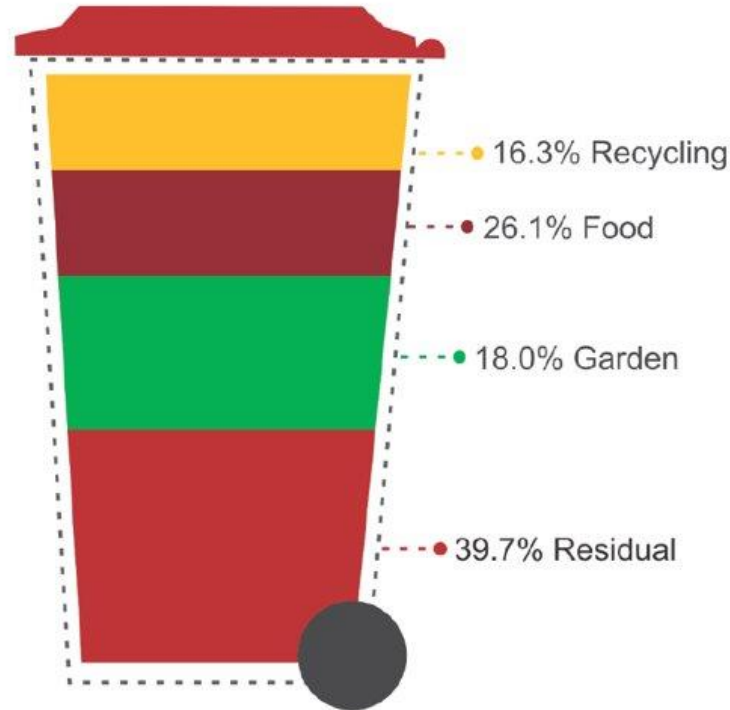
- Intensive in-depth course for experienced composters
- designed to build networks and community to promote and support composting
- Includes:
 - the science of composting
 - worm farming, Bokashi, black soldier fly larvae
 - Composting industry
 - business and employment opportunities
 - facilitation skills, advocacy and networking
- On completion:
 - 20 volunteer hours
 - Master Composter certificate
- Only master composter course in Australia



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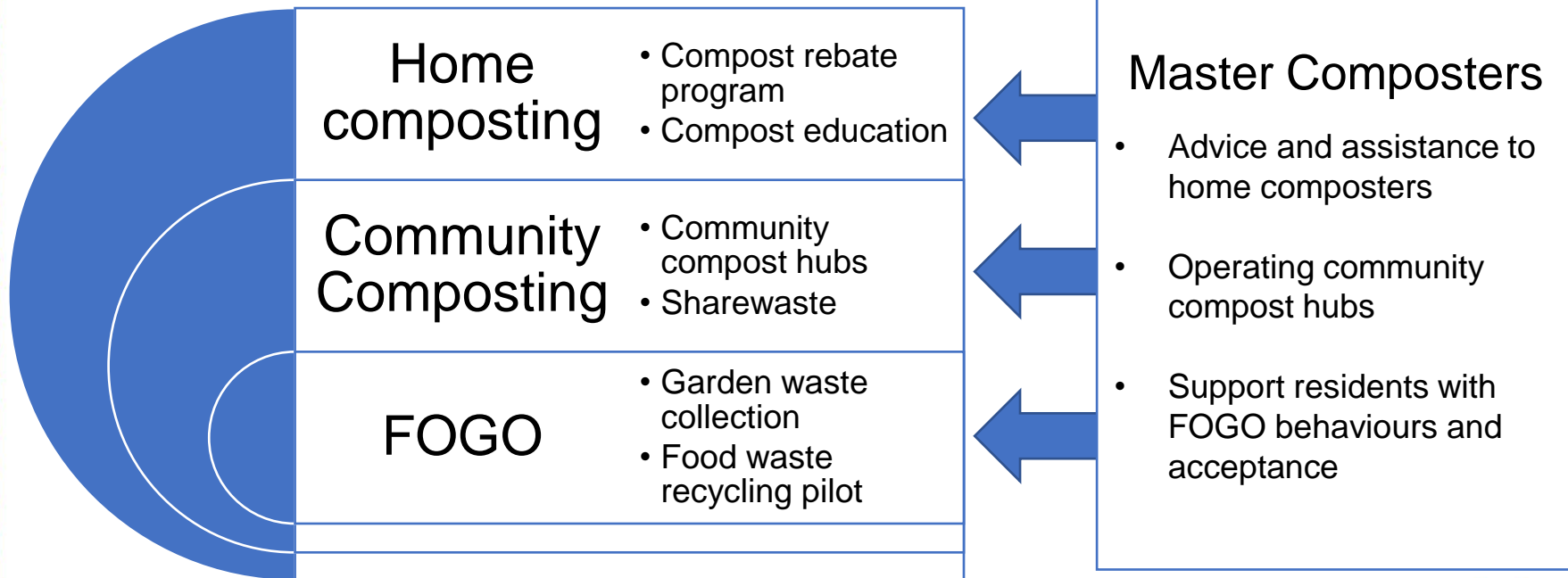
Background

- About half of the general waste bin is organic waste
- Increasing costs and landfills bans
- Environmental impact:
 - Lost resources for soils
 - Greenhouse gas emissions
 - Compost sequesters carbon



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Multi targeted approach



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International examples

CLASSES START MARCH 29TH!

MASTER COMPOSTERS/ RECYCLERS PROGRAM

LEARN HOW TO REDUCE WASTE THROUGH
HOME COMPOSTING AND RECYCLING!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, EMAIL
KMAJOR@SPOKANECITY.ORG OR CALL
509-625-6521



www.SpokaneCountySolidWaste.org

Program supported in part by a grant from the WA Dept. of Ecology. Printed on recycled paper.

Neighborhood Soil Rebuilders

COMPOSTER TRAINING PROGRAM

COMPOSTING
LET'S GET DOWN TO EARTH

Volunteer as a
Master Composter
and reduce waste
in North Somerset



North Somerset
garden.organic



**DENVER
MASTER
Composter**



**Suffolk
Master
Composter
Volunteers**



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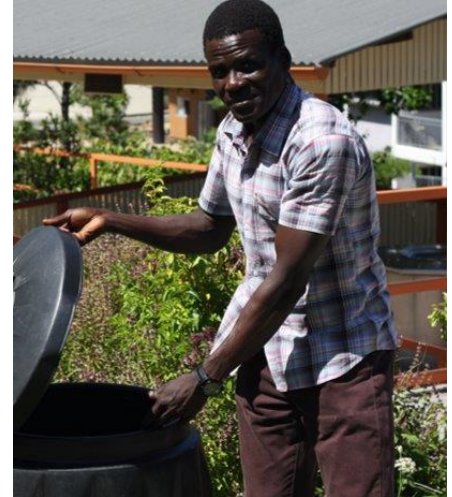
Course outline

DAY 1

- Site tour
- Intro to waste issues
- Reducing food waste
- What is compost?
- How to compost
- Trouble-shooting
- Worm farming
- Black Soldier Fly Larvae
- Guest speaker from industry
- Intro to soil

DAY 2

- Revision
- Soil testing
- Guest speaker: previous graduate
- Encouraging composting
- Advanced composting methods
- Practical activities
- Planning volunteer hours and future activities



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Resources



Brisbane City Council

Home > Clean and green > Green home and community > Sustainable gardening > Compost and food waste recycling > Become a master composter


Language support: Auslan Translate Contact Council

About Council Planning and building Traffic and transport Clean and green Laws and permits Community and safety Things to see and do

Become a master composter

Are you an experienced and passionate composter who would like to inspire others in your community?

Brisbane City Council offers a free two-day advanced training course in composting to help you gain further skills and knowledge so that you can encourage others in your local community (e.g. retirement village, apartment complex, local school, kindy etc.) to take up composting.



About the course

The Master Composter course is two full days of in-person sessions. Following the completion of the course, participants are required to use their new skills by completing 20 hours of volunteer work (within 12 months of completing the training) on food recycling in the community before receiving their Master Composter certificate.

The course provides in-depth training on:

- the science of composting
- composting methods
- other food recycling techniques (such as worm farming, bokashi, and black soldier fly larvae)
- invertebrate composting
- fertilisation skills
- helping others learn about composting.

Master Composter course booklet

This course book is designed to be a reference which accompanies the course. The course will follow part of the material in this booklet and in roughly the same order.

Download the booklet in your preferred format:

- Master Composter Brisbane Course booklet (PDF - 4.5Mb)
- Master Composter Brisbane Course booklet (Word - 489Kb)

Eligibility requirements

To be considered for the course you must:

- have current working knowledge of composting or worm farming, either composting at your own home or at a community garden
- be willing and able to attend two full days of in-person training
- be willing and able to complete 20 hours of volunteer work (within 12 months of completing the training) which promotes and assists composting in the community.

Examples of volunteer work include:

- volunteering at a community composting hub
- volunteering at a school, retirement home, workplace, or community centre to help with composting
- running compost workshops
- providing information to the public on composting at community events (e.g. fetas, fairs)

After completing your volunteer hours, you will receive a certificate of completion.





Course dates

The Master Composter course is held twice yearly. Complete this online form to submit your expression of interest for the next course.

You will receive an email when new course dates are confirmed.


More information

- Compost and work firm workshops
- Compost rebate program

Share:    

Topics: [compost](#)

Last updated: 30 June 2022



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Site tours



Practical activities



- Soil testing
- Sieving compost
- Turning compost
- Compost building
- Harvesting worm castings
- Removing contaminants
- Smelling, touching and looking at compost



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Collaboration



- Problem solving
- Creating friendships



- Networking
- Sharing experiences



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Industry knowledge



- Industrial composting
- Challenges and opportunities
- Innovations
- Future thinking



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Volunteer hours: logbook

Master Composter Volunteer Hours - intentions			Actual volunteer hours			
Types of Activity	Intention - yes or no	Details	Date/s	Hours	No. of people attending/involved	Notes/ comments/ links / photos etc
Being involved and helping at a community compost hub - The Gap	Yes	Yoolara St Community Garden	18/10/20 1/11/20 20/12/20 24/1/21 28/2/21	10	6 to 8	Emptying large bays, creating compost mounds covered with tarps for community use. Re-filling bays with all the various dry and wet mediums available - food scraps, clippings, newspaper, coffee grounds, fresh garden waste etc etc. Allowing 6-8 weeks to mature, repeat cycle. Really good results - volunteers very happy with the result. Lesson learnt - best not to use the large twigs and branches layer to start off (as done at Northey St) as this make it too difficult to spade out finished compost.
Being involved and helping at a community compost hub - Mitchelton	Yes	Brook Community Garden	27/9/20 8/11/20 28/3/21	6	3 to 4	Smaller scale than Yoolara St - smaller volume of food scraps ets - so bays take longer to fill. But still sufficient compost created for Community garden needs. Lesson learnt - the food scraps bins on base of brick pavers - not required... straight onto soil is easier to keep bins level ; no wobbles or gaps.
Composting neighbour's waste using 'Sharewaste')	Yes	Own suburb	Since 2018	1 hr weekly for 3 yrs		3-4 kgs gets dropped off every Monday - for 3yrs now.
Composting waste from own local street	Yes	Eranga & Talinga St's	Since 2019	1 hr weekly for 2 yrs		Another 2-3kgs is dropped off every day - from 3 families, a ChildCare centre and a mowing contractor.
Assisting friends, family or neighbours with their composting	Yes	Friends, family and interested persons	2020	5		Have been asked to assist with other people's composting problems - too wet, too smelly, taking too long etc etc - and been able to assist.
Helping a school, university or other institution set up and/or maintain a compost system						
Assisting at a BCC event (eg CCH launch, Green Heart Fair etc)						Would be keen to assist at any local events - if the date and time was known in advance and was free.
Promoting composting at a fete, festival or other event bu having a stall, information booth or roving conversations	Yes					Would be keen to assist at any local events - if the date and time was known in advance and was free.
Assisting friends, family, neighbours and workmates to reduce food waste						
Developing educational materials to share with others about composting						



Volunteer activities



- Community compost hubs
- School gardens
- Grow-it-forward gardens
- Setting up composting at multi-unit dwellings
- Running workshops
- Online advice
- Information stalls
- Helping friends, family and neighbours
- Setting up workplace composting
- Speaking at the Master Composters course



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Graduates

- Wendy: micro business
- Renae: Recycling centre
- Chris: Connecting community
- Michael: mini circular economy



Compost Side Hustle

By Michael Reed, Brisbane, Qld

Michael is making a difference, one wheelie bin full of waste at a time, thanks to a mutually beneficial deal with local cafes.

Most of us shy away from doing it. It's messy, it's smelly, and it's a pain in the neck. But as many more cities across the world have discovered, it's not just a waste of space, it's a waste of time. It's a waste of money, too. It's a waste of resources. It's a waste of energy. It's a waste of effort. It's a waste of life.

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Engagement HQ platform

BRISBANE LOVES COMPOST

Brisbane Loves Compost

Facebook share icons



Welcome to Brisbane Loves Compost.

This is your page to connect with Brisbane composters and to find out what's happening across Brisbane to do with composting.

Whether you're involved in the [Community Composting Hubs](#), the [Master Composter Course](#), [ShareWaste](#), or [home composting](#), you can find and share compost news, events and ideas on this page. Subscribe to the right of the page to receive updates.

Compost Notice Board | Volunteering | Conversations | News

Share your composting experiences, initiatives and other updates.

Share your stories and photos from home composting, Community Composting Hubs, the Master Composter course, ShareWaste and other experiences in your neighbourhood or further afield. You can also share local initiatives that you're involved in and call-out for input from the community.

- Interaction with each other and outside visitors to the site
- Capturing feedback, insights and suggestions
- Volunteer opportunities and events
- Relevant videos, photos and other shared pieces



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Outcomes

- The course has been run 6 times over 3 years
- 131 people have attended the course
- 2,620+ volunteer hours in the community
- Average cost per course \$4,000 (approx. \$183 per person)



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Benefits

To Council:

- reduce waste to landfill – more home composters
- provides troubleshooting support for home composters – prevents people 'giving up'
- develops community acceptance of composting and related programs
- improves quality of home compost for soils
- reduces contamination in FOGO bins
- reduces GHG emissions
- improved relationship and trust for Council
- high return on investment

To the community:

- empowers community members to take 'expert' roles
- provide a local, accessible source of advice and help
- relaxed learning from friends, family or neighbours
- information can be provided with cultural and language nuances
- strong community connections are formed
- supports community composting initiatives
- supports urban agriculture
- enhances small business, start-ups and innovations



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Questions?



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