
INFO SESSION:

Community Composter School

**TRAINING & CERTIFICATION PROGRAM FOR
COMMUNITY-SCALE COMPOST MANAGERS**

Drop your name and neighborhood in the chat, we'll get started around 5 after



Introductions



Background

- **Folks in many cities are working to reduce waste and improve urban soils by strengthening composting systems at personal, neighborhood, and municipal levels**
- **There's a lot of 101-level composting education available to the public, but less resources for those who want to take it to the next level, and grow to be capable of teaching others at this level**
- **Community composting sites are becoming more common, and could use more support**
- **Community Composting School (formerly “Master Composter”) came from several Pittsburgh organizations’ input towards creating this type of support in our region**



Background cont.

- **Organizations in Pittsburgh collaborated to pilot 2020's Pittsburgh Master Composter Program**
 - **Grow Pittsburgh**
 - **Pasa Sustainable Agriculture**
 - **Pittsburgh Food Policy Council's Urban Soils Working Group (started the Three Rivers Urban Soil Symposium)**
- **The NYC Master Composter Certification Program was used as a model for Pittsburgh's 2020 pilot, hosted primarily by Grow Pittsburgh**
- **The Community Composting Working Group is linked today**



Goals

- **Train community members on**
 - **composting management**
 - **grassroots education & engagement**
- **Improve composting systems at community sites (usually linked to community gardens)**
- **Strengthen community-level efforts to**
 - **operate composting systems**
 - **build healthier soils in our region**



Who is this for?

- **6-10 participating sites (generally 1-2 people per site)**
- **All participants must**
 - **work with an existing shared compost system**
 - **manage the composting system as part of a community garden, community farm, or similar collaborative effort**
 - **plan to attend all sessions**
 - **spend 40 hrs volunteering with related projects**
 - **complete an independent project (ongoing compost system management counts for this)**



What's the format?

- **2 online classes and 4 on-site classes**
- **1 field trip and an end-of-year gathering**
- **Access to consultation with compost educators**
- **Support with your independent composting project**
- **We have some budget to help improve the supplies and system at your compost site**
- **We'll distribute a copy of NYC's "Master Composter Manual" to all participants**

Schedule of topics

- **Module 1, 6pm April 7 - Soil & Decomposition Science**
- **Module 2, 6pm April 21 - Composting Basics**
- **Module 3, 6pm May 5 - Compost Systems**
- **Module 4, 6pm May 19 - Site Design & Management**
- **Module 5, 6pm June 2 - Rebuilding our Urban Soils**
- **Module 6, 6pm June 16 - Reaching and Teaching Others**
- **Final celebration, TBD - late summer**

virtual

in person



How to apply

- **Talk with us to make sure you'd be a generally good fit**
- **Apply through the google form starting today, March 6**
- **Applications accepted on rolling basis**
- **Apply early; spots will fill up!**
- **Application closes Monday March 30**
- **Participants notified of acceptance by April 3**
- **Cost of \$35 to participate**
 - **Helps to offset some minimal program costs**
 - **Can apply to have this covered by Urban Growers' fund**



What if this isn't the right fit for me, but I'm still looking for educational opportunities around compost management?

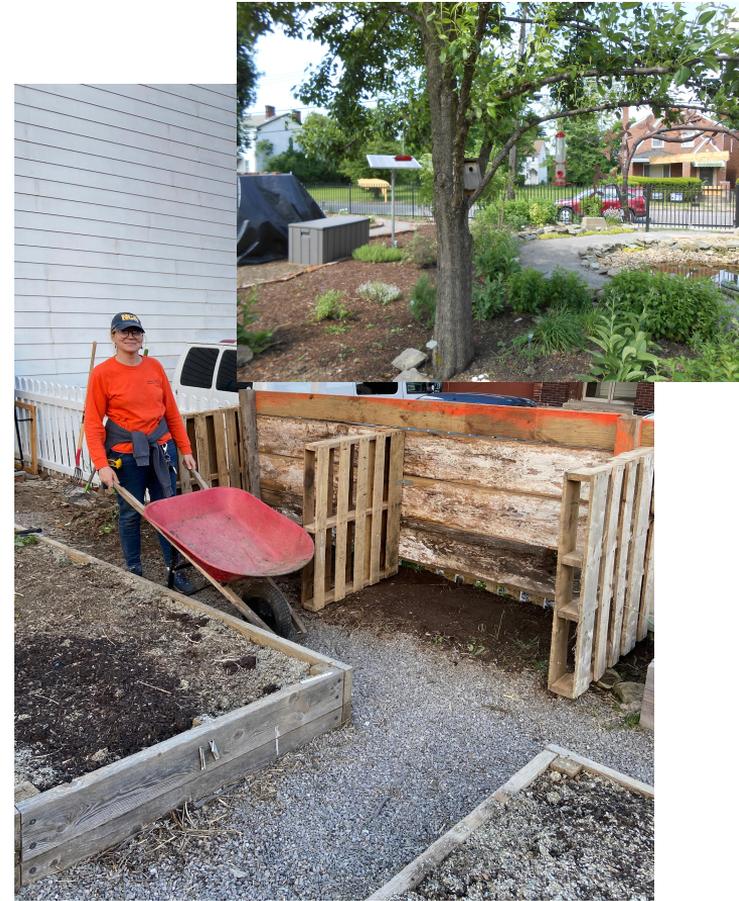
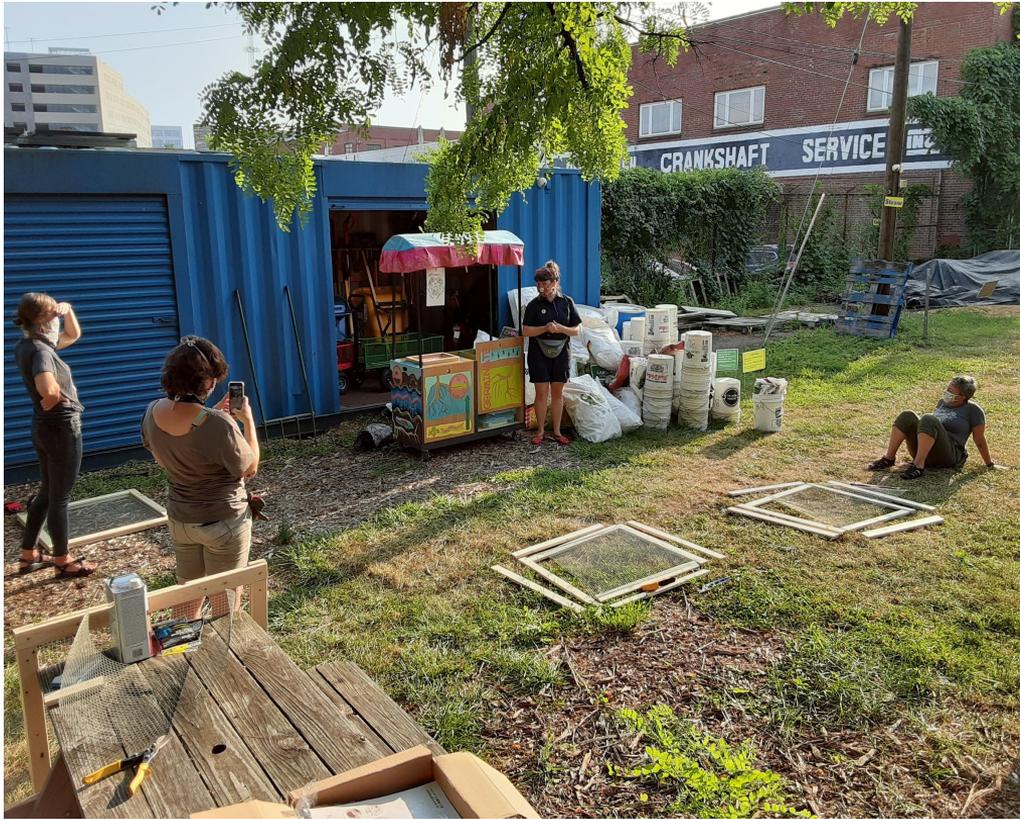
- Learn by getting involved with community composting sites
- Complete composting workshops @ PA Resource Council
- Keep an eye out for Grow Pittsburgh's Composting 101 workshop (next date TBD)
- Join the Community Composting working group

Photos from previous years

















Questions?