

2026 SKAGIT COUNTY MASTER COMPOSTER RECYCLER VOLUNTEER TRAINING

All classroom sessions take place at **Skagit County Commissioners' Building, Crane Room**, and run from **2:00 p.m. until 4:30 p.m.** each session, unless otherwise noted.

Please note that *guest speakers and scheduled field trips may change because of weather conditions or unforeseen scheduling changes.*

Thursday, February 5th

Solid Waste in Skagit County

- 2:00 – 2:30 pm Class Welcome & Introductions
- 2:30-3:30 pm Solid Waste Systems in Skagit County: Guest Speaker, Margo Gillaspay of Skagit County Public Works
- 3:30-3:35 pm Break
- 3:35 – 4:20 pm Recycling Markets
- 4:20 – 4:30 Preview & Prep for Next Class
 - Create Small Groups

Thursday, February 12th

Recycling

- 2:00 pm – 2:30 pm Class Welcome & Small Groups
- 2:30 – 3:30 pm Recycling Programs in Skagit County
- 3:30 – 3:35 pm Break
- 3:35 pm – 4:25 pm Recycling Yes/No & Small Group Recycling Share
- 4:25-4:30 Preview & Prep for Next Class

Thursday, February 19th

Waste & Human Health

- 2:00 – 2:05 pm Class Welcome & Speaker Introduction
- 2:05 – 2:55 pm HHW Basics & EPR Programs in Washington
- 2:55-3:00 pm Break
- 3:00 – 4:00 pm Intersections of Solid Waste & Public Health: Guest Speaker, Heather Lopes of Skagit County Public Health
- 4:00 – 4:25 pm Small Groups
- 4:25 – 4:30 pm Preview & Prep for Next Class, Field Trip

Field Trip #1 Saturday, February 21st

- 10:00 – 11:00 am Group Tour: Skagit County Transfer & Recycling Station
- 11:00 – 12:00 noon Group Tour: Lautenbach Recycling

Thursday, February 26th

Soil Health

- 2:00 – 2:05 pm Class Welcome
- 2:05 – 2:55 pm Importance of Healthy Soils
- 2:55 -3:00 pm Break
- 3:00 – 4:00 pm Basics of Home Composting
- 4:00 – 4:25 pm Small Groups
- 4:25 – 4:30 pm Preview & Prep for Next Class

Thursday, March 5th

Food Waste

- 2:00 – 2:20 pm Class Welcome & Small Groups
- 2:20 – 3:20 pm Food Waste Prevention: Guest Speaker, Jenny Bryan-Goforth of WSU Extension
- 3:20 -3:25 pm Break
- 3:25– 4:25 pm Getting Started with Vermicomposting
- 4:20 – 4:30 pm Preview & Prep for Next Class

Thursday, March 12th

Waste Reduction

- 2:00 – 2:30 pm Class Welcome & Small Groups
 - All Class Clothing Swap
- 2:30 – 3:15 pm Beyond Recycling: Reuse, Swap, Repair & Rent
- 3:15 -3:20 pm Break
- 3:20 – 4:20 pm Everyday Zero Waste Practices
- 4:20 – 4:30 pm Preview & Prep for Next Class

Thursday, March 19th

Putting it into Practice

- 2:00 – 2:10 pm Class Welcome
- 2:10 – 3:00 pm Waste Policy in Washington State: Guest Speaker, Heather Trim of Zero Waste Washington
- 3:00 -3:10 pm Break
- 3:10 – 4:20 pm Make & Take Zero Waste Projects

- 4:20 – 4:30 pm Preview & Prep for Next Class, Field Trip

Field Trip #2 Saturday, March 21st

- 10:00 – 11:00 am Group Tour: Skagit Soils
- 11:00 – 11:30 am Break & Travel Time to Next Learning Site
- 11:30 – 12:30 pm Group Potluck at WSU Discovery Garden
- 12:30 -2:30 pm Hands on Composting Methods at the WSU Discovery Garden

Thursday, March 26th

Becoming an Official Volunteer

- 2:00 – 2:30 pm Small Groups
- 2:30 – 3:15 pm Introduction to Volunteer Season
- 3:15 -3:20 pm Break
- 3:20 – 4:00 pm Class Graduation Ceremony
- 4:25 – 4:30 pm Volunteer Sign-Up & Group Farewell