OCEAN COUNTY MASTER COMPOSTER TRAINING PROGRAM

The Ocean County Master Composter Training Program is being offered this spring to train a knowledgeable core of citizens who can provide the residents of Ocean County with information on managing the organic waste they generate from their homes. Trained volunteers agree to provide a total of **24 hours** of outreach, education and service to promote the benefits of home composting.

This 12-hour training program is provided free of charge to Ocean County residents and taxpayers. ***Non-residents must pay a fee of $75.00 and must also complete their outreach commitment in Ocean County.*** The course is limited to ***twenty persons*** on a first come, first served basis.

Volunteers should be familiar with gardening and composting, and have experience with speaking to small groups. Each applicant is *encouraged* to be sponsored by a group or organization as this ensures the opportunity to establish an outreach network for the program. Many types of groups can sponsor an applicant. Some examples are garden clubs, municipalities, and environmental commissions, recycling committees, retirement communities or service clubs.

The two day Ocean County Master Composter Training Program will be held at the Ocean County Recycling Education Center at the County's Northern Recycling Center, Lakewood Township, on ***Saturday March 24 (9:00 am to 3:00 pm) and Saturday March 31 (9:00 am to 3:00 pm).*** Light refreshments in the morning and lunch will be provided by the County for both days. Upon completion of the twelve-hour training program, volunteers will be given a Master Composter T-shirt, a compost bin, a composting reference book, a pitch fork, thermometer, and a name badge that identifies the volunteer as an Ocean County Master Composter.

As a Master Composter, volunteers are required to complete a total of 24 hours of service and community outreach. There is no time frame for completion of this outreach. They are encouraged to tailor their outreach activities to their individual strengths and preferences. Examples of activities are: conducting backyard composting education programs at the County's Recycling Education Center and Composting Demonstration Site for local schools, community groups and organizations, conducting tours of the County's Backyard Composting Demonstration Site, participating in a Speakers' Bureau for home composting, and staffing booths at a fair or garden show. In general, being an advocate for home composting.

Sandra Blain-Snow, an Ocean County Master Composter and Master Gardener, and a member of the Island Heights Garden Club, is the instructor for the Master Composter Training Program.

Ocean County's Composting Program at its Northern Recycling Center produces thousands of tons of compost and wood chips annually. Through the Master Composter Training Program, the County's goal is to provide more education to the public about the benefits of using the County's compost and wood chip products. These products are available to County residents and municipalities free of charge.

For additional information, please contact Mary E. Jerkowicz, Program Monitor, Ocean County Department of Solid Waste Management, at 732-506-5047.

APPLICATION

OCEAN COUNTY MASTER COMPOSTER PROGRAM – SPRING 2012

Name_____

Address_____ **Town**_____ **NJ (Zip)**_____

Phone(day)_____ **(evening)**_____

E-mail_____

Occupation_____

Hobbies/Interests_____ **T-shirt size**_____

Training will take place at the Ocean County Recycling Education Center over two days: Saturday, March 24, (9:00 am to 3:00 pm) and Saturday, March 31 (9:00 am to 3:00 pm).

After you complete your Master Composter training, you are responsible for completing a total of 24 hours of outreach. There is no time frame for completion of this outreach.

Non-residents must pay a fee of $75.00 and must complete their outreach commitment in Ocean County.

Why do you feel you should be considered for this program? (Continue on separate sheet if necessary.)

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How did you learn of our program?_____

Please include:

1. **Letter of support from sponsoring organization explaining why your participation would benefit this program and how the sponsor will assist you with Master Composter outreach efforts.** ***If you are a Master Gardener, a letter of support from a sponsoring organization other than the Ocean County Master Gardeners is encouraged, but not required.***

2. **A list of experience you have had with any of the following:**

   Public Speaking **Teaching (list grades or groups)** **Composting and/or Gardening**

Please return completed application by *March 9th, 2012* to:

Ocean County Department of Solid Waste Management
P.O. Box 2191
129 Hooper Avenue
Toms River, New Jersey 08754-2191
Attention: Mary E. Jerkowicz, Program Monitor