



Bureau of Waste Prevention, Reuse and Recycling
 NYC Department of Sanitation
 PO Box 156
 Bowling Green Station
 New York, NY 10274-0156

INSIDE: Information on FREE training to become a Master Composter!

Train to be a certified Master Composter!



Become a neighborhood compost expert

Help make NYC cleaner & greener—become a Master Composter!

Develop composting expertise and share your knowledge with family, friends, neighbors, kids, and co-workers to help create a more beautiful and sustainable city. The citywide Master Composter Certificate Program is designed to promote the practice of composting in NYC and to reduce the city's solid waste. (See details about the Master Composter Certificate Program, and how to apply, inside.)



What Is Compost?

Compost comes from decomposed organic material. It is a rich, dark, crumbly material that looks, feels, and smells like good potting soil.



Why Compost?

Composting is a good horticultural practice that benefits the environment. Adding compost to soil improves soil structure, prevents erosion, increases moisture retention, and increases the availability of nutrients that are essential to plant health. Soil in gardens, street tree pits, and potted houseplants all benefit from regular additions of compost.



Help Reduce NYC's Waste

Improving your garden with compost is also good for New York City.

The average New York City household discards **1.3 pounds of food and yard waste each day**, which has to be transported and disposed of by the Department of Sanitation. This adds up to more than 750,000 tons per year. When we throw this "waste" away, we lose a valuable resource that can help beautify our parks, gardens, lawns, and houseplants.

By composting food scraps, leaves, and yard trimmings, New Yorkers can recycle these valuable organic nutrients.



About the Master Composter Certificate Program

The Master Composter Certificate Program is offered every spring by the NYC Compost Projects at the botanical gardens in Brooklyn, the Bronx, Queens, and Staten Island; the Manhattan Compost Project offers the program in the fall.

The Master Composter Certificate Program is a “train-the-trainer” course with a community service component. Modeled after successful programs in other states, it is adapted by NYC Compost Project staff to the unique challenges of composting in New York City.

Contact your local Compost Project (listed at right) for specific dates and application deadlines, or go to www.nyccompost.org/resources/calendar.html

Participants in the Master Composter Certificate Program:

- Learn how composting benefits backyard and garden soil.
- Gain a thorough understanding of the composting process.
- Receive detailed information on how to use finished compost.
- Get hands-on experience in designing and building compost systems appropriate for many situations.
- Explore techniques for teaching others about composting.



Program requirements:

- 18–23 hours of classroom instruction
- 2 field trips
- 15 hours of supervised community training
- 15 hours of independent projects/community service.

Participants design their independent/community service projects according to their interests. Projects might include giving classes at schools, building compost bins at community gardens, giving workshops at block parties, working at demonstration sites, or giving presentations to civic associations.



Materials deposit:

This program is FREE, thanks to funding provided by the NYC Department of Sanitation. There is a materials deposit of \$20, which is refunded upon completion of all class requirements.

Registration:

Please complete the attached application form, and mail or fax it to the appropriate NYC Compost Project.

The program is open to all NYC residents. You are encouraged to apply to the Compost Project closest to where you live.

The course is limited to 15 participants in each borough. No phone registration is available. For application deadlines, please contact the NYC Compost Project nearest you, or go to www.nyccompost.org/resources/calendar.html.

Application deadlines for the spring programs in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens, and Staten Island vary, but are generally in February; the deadline for the fall program in Manhattan is normally in September.



NYC Compost Project contact information



THE NEW YORK
BOTANICAL GARDEN

Bronx Compost Project

The New York Botanical Garden
Bronx, NY 10458-5126
www.nybg.org • bronzgreenup@nybg.org
compost helpline: (718) 817-8543
fax: (718) 817-8018



BROOKLYN
BOTANIC
GARDEN

Brooklyn Compost Project

Brooklyn Botanic Garden
1000 Washington Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11225
www.bbg.org • compost@bbg.org
compost helpline: (718) 623-7290
fax: (718) 941-4774



Manhattan Compost Project

Lower East Side Ecology Center
P.O. Box 20488
New York, NY 10009
www.lesecologycenter.org •
info@lesecologycenter.org
Rotline: (212) 477-3155
fax: (212) 420-0621



Queens
Botanical Garden

Queens Compost Project

Queens Botanical Garden
43-50 Main Street
Flushing, NY 11355
www.queensbotanical.org •
compost@queensbotanical.org
compost helpline: (718) 539-5296
fax: (718) 463-0263



STATEN ISLAND BOTANICAL GARDEN, INC.

Staten Island Compost Project

Staten Island Botanical Garden
1000 Richmond Terrace
Staten Island, NY 10301
www.sibg.org • ask@sibg.net
compost helpline: (718) 362-1010
fax: (718) 442-3645



City of New York, Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor
Department of Sanitation, John J. Doherty, Commissioner
Call 311 or visit www.nyc.gov/sanitation

For compost info see: www.nyccompost.org
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Master Composter Certificate Program application form

Please complete all questions, and mail or fax this form to the NYC Compost Project nearest you (see list at left for all contact information).

For information about program dates and locations, as well as application deadlines, please contact the NYC Compost Project nearest you, or go to www.nyccompost.org/resources/calendar.html

Name

Address

City/State/Zip

Phone (day)

Phone (evening)

Email

Please answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper and include with your completed application.

1. What kind of composting experience do you have, if any?
2. Why are you interested in becoming a Master Composter?
3. How would you use your Master Composter credentials in the future?
4. Please list any community organizations with which you are affiliated.

Applicants accepted to the program will receive a confirmation letter with information about where the class meets and what to bring.