

# Master Recycler Course

**Learn**

**Inspire**

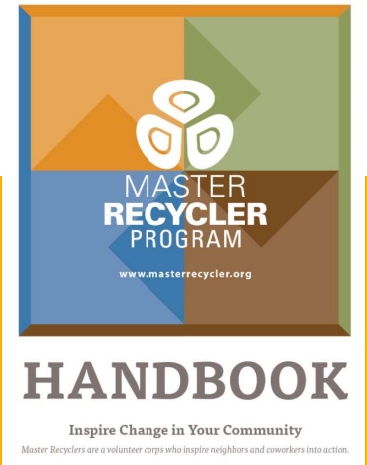
**Make a Difference**



**Yvonne Jacobs, January 22, 2025**

## Master Recycler Program History

- Originated in Portland, Oregon, 1990
- Patterned after Master Gardener & Master Composter programs
  - volunteer 30 hours after completing the course
- In past 30 plus years, Portland area has instructed over 2,000 students who have volunteered over 20,000 hours.
- Oregon State University developed a Master Recycler Handbook (22 Chapters)
- Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, along with various counties and cities, sponsor the programs.
- Others inspired: Utah, Ohio, Maine, Indiana, Wisconsin, Minnesota, California +



## Why? West University Place Master Recycler Program

- Extensive community outreach by board members: Little League, Elementary School, City Events, New Neighbors, Special Waste Recycling Events, writing articles, etc.
- Research says you are most effective in educating your community when folks interact with a knowledgeable person.
- Board needed a source of educated volunteers
- 2 years to develop 8 2-hour classes. 3-4 Recycle Board members met regularly. Work divided up and individually developed.





## Mission Statement

Educate area residents about recycling and waste reduction in their homes and workplaces and inspire them to become ambassadors who educate others to recycle more and waste less.

## What topics are covered in the eight 2-hour sessions?

1. Municipal Solid Waste, Landfills, Why Recycle ?
2. Curbside Guidelines, Wish Cycling, Recycling Myths, Contamination, MRFs, Financials
3. Recycling at Home and Elsewhere, Waste Audits, Swedish Death Cleaning and Changing Behavior
4. Recycling Beyond Curbside and Reuse
5. Backyard Composting and Worm Composting
6. Reducing Your Waste
7. Sustainability, Circular Economy and Zero Waste
8. Investigating Possible Projects & Becoming a Recycling Ambassador



## General Class Structure

- Name tags for all
- Power Point Presentations which always include learning objectives and waste hierarchy.
- Some hands on games, show and tell, personal inventories, etc.
- Homework assignments
- Resources and References
- Attendees evaluate each session
- \$35 fee for 8 session (3 free stand-alone sessions)
- T-shirt for completing 8 session.
- Field trip (MRF), if possible
- Certificate for completing 8 sessions and 20 volunteer hours.



## Successes so far

- In four years, 30 have attended the 8 session course, more have attended when you include Free Session and folks that repeat the course.
- One attendee works at the Zoo and has instituted some recycling behaviors in her work area.
- One attendee is a physician at TIRR in the Med Center and has been working for three years on instituting recycling. Signs of success are beginning to show.
- One attendee was able to get her Church to recycle more and waste less.
- Two attendees have written short articles that have been published in their neighborhood newspaper and professional newsletter.



This program is entirely replicable and transferable to other communities..... just make edits to reflect your community's rules and offerings.

We are willing to share all of our materials: power points, forms, game instructions, flyers, etc.





Contact information:

Yvonne Jacobs

[yvonnejacobs@mac.com](mailto:yvonnejacobs@mac.com)