

PROGRAM OVERVIEW



PHASE 1: Classes and Coursework

Eight classes, including two field trips. Class homework involves course-related reading, videos, and waste audits.

CLASS 1:

Intro to the 6 R's of Sustainability and A Look At the State of Recycling

While we prioritize starting at Refuse and Rethink to reduce waste at the source, we know many people rely on Recycling as their primary waste management strategy.

CLASS 2:

Fieldtrip to the Resource Recovery Facility

See what happens to the 30-50 tons of material that Santa Cruzans place into their recycle bins every single day.

CLASS 3:

Food Waste Prevention

In 2022, the average American threw away \$759 worth of uneaten groceries. Learn the truth about date labels and best practices to prevent food waste.

CLASS 4:

Diversion, Collection, & Processing of Food Waste

A look at how the City is meeting new state mandates to recover edible food and divert food scraps from our landfill.

CLASS 5:

Rethink Your Habits

Field trip to the Grey Bears campus. Expand your knowledge of the R chain to include repair cafes, clothing swaps, and more. Show and tell with a local Waste Whiz on how you can rethink your purchases.

CLASS 6:

Green Businesses & Other City Programs

CA's Green Business program supports local businesses that are striving to help the community's sustainability goals. Plus, learn more about Waste Reduction programs the City offers.

CLASS 7:

Preparing to Share What You've Learned

Review and summarize what we've learned thus far. We will set up the outreach booth and practice common outreach scenarios.



CLASS 8:

Launching into Phase 2, Volunteering

Guest presentation from the CityServe Volunteer Coordinator. Plus, learn how easy it is to reach 20 volunteer hours in the first year. The class will conclude with a potluck and swap.

PHASE 2: Community Outreach

Share what you learned through volunteer projects and service within the City of Santa Cruz. City staff organize volunteer opportunities like tabling at local events and the Downtown Farmers' Market, civic group presentations, and outreach (20 hours total).



Mary Scheller, Master Recycler Volunteer 2019-present

"Being a Master Recycler has opened my eyes to the importance of reducing waste upstream. Sharing information with the community and working on solutions has been transformational."

Why a Master Recycler Volunteer Training Program?

Most people seem to enter the “R” chain of sustainability at the last R for solid waste and food, "Recycling/Rot." The Master Recycler Volunteer Training program creates a cadre of well-informed individuals who leverage the resources and knowledge of Waste Reduction staff out into our community through education and outreach.

Is this program for you?

Are you passionate about the 6Rs of Zero Waste? Do you enjoy helping others learn how to reduce waste and Recycle Right? This program is for you.

You will emerge a community champion of all things related to waste and recycling! Gain the knowledge and confidence to educate and empower friends, neighbors, schools, businesses, and more to waste less, rethink habits, and Recycle Right! Use your new knowledge to advocate for and inspire change in your community.

What is the level of commitment?

Participants must commit to eight in-person classes and 20 hours of volunteer service. The volunteer hours can be satisfied within 12 months of taking the classes.

Note: This program uses the online platform Discord for communication and instructional material archives.

Join Us!

Waste Reduction Department
City of Santa Cruz Public Works

MASTER RECYCLER

Volunteer Training Program

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Educate, Engage, and Inspire Change!



Sponsored by the City of Santa Cruz
A CityServe Volunteer Program