

Master Recycler Vancouver Course Outline 2017

Class 1 - Waste: Up Close and Personal

Waste is not what you think it is. In this class we introduce the topic of waste *as a concept*, and how it touches every aspect of our lives, in some cases very personally. We will also learn about and design our own waste audits to be conducted in the community or at home.

Class 2 - Is Recycling the Solution? You Decide

Recycling is the only the last of the four R's. In this class, we explore downcycling all the way down to the molecule and up to the commodities market. We learn about the 3 main recycling streams worldwide and enter the 'single' versus 'multi-stream' recycling debate. Then we zoom in on the one material increasingly present in our lives and oceans: *plastics*. We explore what this means for wildlife and our own health, and discuss why we should switch our priorities from recycle to refuse as fast as we can.

Class 3 - Where is 'Away'?

Answer: There is no away! In this class we get the big picture on how and where waste moves throughout the lower mainland. We will chart waste infrastructure and follow different waste streams to their 'away'. We also will learn first hand what it's like to run a waste management company and best practices for the public to interact with them.

Guest Speaker: Louise Schwarz - The Recycling Alternative

Special Location: The Recycling Alternative @ the Green Hub. 449 Industrial Avenue, Vancouver

Class 4 - Back to the Future: a Circular Economy

Get the dirt on waste. In this class we travel in time and explore the past of waste creation and management just enough to launch us into the circular economy future, which is very real. We explore the linear (take-make-waste) versus the circular economy approach and understand why change is happening. We also explore some local Extended Producer Responsibility programs and learn how we can be part of these changes now.

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Class 5 - From Soil, to Soil: Deep Dive into Compost and Anaerobic Digestion

Soil is not dirt, soil is alive! In this class we dig up everything there is to know about compost. We explore organics recycling, why we do it and all the different ways it's done in practice. We also gain new appreciation for worms and how they can compost your food scraps for you. A live vermicompost demonstration will be lead by a former Master Recycler from Edmonton.

Special Location: Homestead Junction @ 649 East Hastings St, Vancouver

Class 6 - You Can Fix That! Toxic Waste

There is some waste you really don't want. In this class we explore the darker side of our electronics through the lens of hazardous waste. We learn what it takes to make our electronics and how cheap electronics is a myth. We also hear stories from far and abroad of how fixing is making a comeback and how thoughtful consumption is well, thoughtful.

Special Location: Maker Labs @ 780 E Cordova St, Vancouver

Class 7 - Your Turn Now: Behaviour Change and Reaching Out

Give waste management a make-over! In this class, we go from A to Z on behaviour change and on being a changemaker. Consumption as a system is challenged and we look deeper at what it means to need versus want.

Class 8 - Wrapping Up: Participant Presentations and What Comes Next?

No plastic wrap allowed. In this class, we sit down as a group and re-hash the last eight weeks, what it's meant to you and the next steps for the program and you, the participant. We share our experience from our completed waste audits, and review all the projects and outreach plans the team will be starting up in our local communities.