

Master Recycler Vancouver Course Outline

The Master Recycler program is aimed at helping anyone understand how our waste system works. We provide high level descriptions of our system's parts and ground them in local examples. Classes are a mix of group work, interactive exercise, lecture and discussion. Most classes feature an expert from the industry relevant to the topic and are held in locations relevant to the topic where possible. The program is revised and updated yearly to keep with current information.

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 also learn about and design our own waste audit to be conducted in the community or at home.

Class 2 - Is Recycling the Solution? You Decide

Recycling is the last of the three R's, yet the most popular. In this class, we explore what recycling is all the way down to the molecule and all the way up to the commodities market. We learn about the main recycling streams worldwide and enter the 'single' versus 'multi-stream' recycling debate.

Class 3 - Where is 'Away'?

Trick question! There is no away. In this class we get the big picture on how and where waste moves throughout the lower mainland. We look at the waste infrastructure map, follow different waste streams to their 'away', and negotiate waste contracts.

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.

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.

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

Give waste management a makeover! 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 previous eight weeks and what it's meant to you the participant. We share our experience from our completed waste audits, review all the projects and outreach plans the team will be starting up in our local communities.