

Default Question Block

Hello Vermont Master Composter Volunteers,

Thank you for your volunteer efforts this year! Your volunteerism is making a difference as you help Vermonters become better composters, diverting food scraps from waste streams and providing low-cost fertility to Vermont gardens!!

On this form, you will enter the volunteer efforts you conducted for the 2025 calendar year 2025 (January 1 - December 31, 2025).

Please complete this form whether you were able to volunteer this year or not -- we need to hear from everyone. **The deadline to submit hours is January 31, 2026.**

Volunteer Requirements:

To earn certification, Vermont Master Composter (VMC) interns must contribute at least 10 volunteer hours on approved VMC projects and/or backyard/community composting education programs within 2 years of

completing the course. Volunteers who are already certified must earn at least 5 hours per year to maintain their certification, one of which can be a continuing education hour. There is no annual renewal fee to maintain certification for Vermont Master Composters.

Completing the Form:

To ensure that you don't lose responses, be sure to use only one device (computer, cell phone, tablet, etc.) to complete the entire survey. You should be able to come back to your entries until you hit the completed button.

An answer is required for all questions. If a question does not apply to you, enter N/A to move forward.

For Extension Master Gardeners (EMGs) Who Are Master Composters:

If you are both an EMG and a Vermont Master Composter volunteer, please enter here only the hours you contributed to backyard/community composting volunteerism. Do not enter your EMG hours here. Thanks!

Questions? Email master.gardener@uvm.edu if you have questions or need assistance in completing the form.

Contact Information:

Please enter your contact information. We use this information to ensure that our database and listserv(s) are up-to-date.

First Name

Last Name

Street/Mailing Address

City/Town

State

Zip Code

Email Address

Preferred Phone #

County of Residence

Your Volunteerism in 2025

Please respond to the questions below, even if you did not volunteer in 2025 (0 hours). It is important to us to learn from you about the successes and challenges you encountered during the year.

Please select the option that applies to you.

- ☐ I am a certified volunteer and I was able to volunteer this year.
- ☐ I am a certified volunteer and I did NOT volunteer this year.
- ☐ I am an intern and I was able to complete my 10 intern volunteer hours this year.
- ☐ I am an intern and am still working on my volunteer hours.
- ☐ I am an intern and I did NOT volunteer this year.

You indicated that you did not volunteer this year. Please let us know below the challenges you faced that prohibited

you from volunteering.

Do you intend to volunteer in 2026?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No, please move me to Alumni status.
- ☐ Not Sure

VOLUNTEER HOURS:

Please report below the total hours you volunteered in 2025. These are hours you spent preparing for and delivering education to others. They may include time preparing articles, presentations, and/or working on approved projects; delivering education to Vermonters; responding to volunteer opportunities from the listserv; staffing information tables & exhibits; and staffing the Helpline..

Do **NOT** include your continuing education hours here (hours you were learning yourself).

If you are unsure if an activity is eligible for volunteer hours, [please check our website](#). Remember that our program's

primary purpose is community service through education. In the case of our program, we serve Vermonters through the education of gardeners and the public interested in home or community composting.

Enter numbers only. (No text, please. If you did not volunteer, enter 0).

CONTINUING EDUCATION HOURS:

Please enter the hours you spent learning about backyard and community composting through activities like workshops, demonstrations, and other education provided by educators, professionals or VMC volunteers. Continuing education should include science-based educational content and may include VORS, our program's advanced training, Chapter meetings, and educational events at colleges & universities, solid waste districts, state agencies, non-profits like CAV, etc.

Because interns have recently participated in the course, they do not report continuing education hours during their internship. Certified VMCs may apply up to 1 continuing education hour towards their 5 hours per year.

Please choose your total continuing education hours for the year.

0 (zero)

1 (one)

In a few words, please describe the topics covered in the continuing education events you attended.

HOW DID YOU VOLUNTEER?

Please list the approved VMC projects for which you volunteered. If you conducted other program volunteer activities in 2025, please describe those efforts here too.

WHO YOU REACHED

We ask how many people you reached so we can understand the scope of the program's reach. Do your best to give as accurate numbers as you can--it is okay to

provide a realistic estimate.

If you reached the same person with different educational activities, it is okay to count them more than once.

Direct Contacts: These are direct educational exchanges with the public/clients. Examples: Helpline clients, workshop participants, students in a class or presentation, people you interacted with at an Info table or compost demo, etc. Think of direct contacts as face-to-face.

Indirect Contacts: These are people you reached through outreach efforts like newsletters, written works, television, social media, etc. Think of indirect contact as people you reached but did not have direct interaction.

Enter numbers only (no text or symbols please) for the # of adults and kids you reached.

	# of Adults	# of Youth
Direct Contact	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Indirect Contact	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

YOUR 2025 VOLUNTEER STORY

What types of educational activities and compost support did you offer this year? How many, and on what topics? Your detailed story helps us capture and celebrate the impact volunteers are making across Vermont. You may respond with a bulleted list or a short paragraph—specifics are especially helpful.

Examples:

- I taught 18 eight graders about compost ecology at CVU in Hinesburg.
- I assisted Natasha at CAV with the VORS conference.
- I helped Cat with compost turning at Westshire Elementary School in West Fairlee on four occasions.

SHARE YOUR 2025 "SO WHAT'S" & SUCCESSES

Please write a short paragraph about your individual volunteer successes. We want to hear your "so whats" or the outcomes of your amazing efforts. This is your chance to share what you were most proud of this year. What do you want people across the state to know about your volunteer efforts? Collectively, we can demonstrate the value of our program in the daily lives of Vermonters!

Photos

Please upload photo(s) that capture your volunteerism this year. Photos that show volunteers working together, answering questions, table exhibits, giving a presentation to the public, VMC project signs, etc. are all examples of great photos to share.

Upload Photo:

Upload Photo:

Upload Photo:

FOR INTERN VOLUNTEERS ONLY WHO HAVE COMPLETED THEIR INITIAL 10 INTERN VOLUNTEER HOURS:

If you are an intern and have completed your initial 10 intern volunteer hours towards certification (within 2 yrs. of taking the course), please write your name below as you would like it to appear on your badge.

Enter your name here.

Project Leader Section

Did you lead / co-lead an approved Master Composter project in 2025?

If your name does not appear below, select "no".

2025 approved EMG project leaders: Cat Buxton, Phil Carter, Emily Johnson, Bruce MacDonald, and Patti Westberg.

☐ Yes

☐ No

What is the name of the approved Master Composer project(s) that you lead?

BIG PICTURE STATEMENT

Describe the long-term or “big picture” impacts you are accomplishing or intend to accomplish with your project. You may include health, social, environmental, or economic impacts that you and your fellow volunteers have made. Think broadly and into the future. Please do not skip this question—it is essential for our reporting.

If you wish, select one of the following sentence starters to help you respond.

- Our project is helping our community by...

- Because of our efforts, Vermonters are now...
- This project supports healthier communities by...
- In the future, we expect our efforts to result in...
- One lasting impact of this project is...

Do you intend to lead your project(s) again in 2026?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No (please contact debra.heleba@uvm.edu so she can assist with recruiting for a project leader replacement).

Voluntary Donation

Your generous donation will support our volunteers by providing such items as project signs, informational table brochures, member badges, certificates, and volunteer recognition at the state level. It also supports advanced trainings and classes. Upon completion of your volunteer hours form, you will be directed to the UVM Foundation website where you can donate, if you choose -- it is completely optional.

If you do not choose to make a donation, you can just close out of the UVM Foundation website.

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Use only to assist with preparation for online hours reporting only.