



The Master Composter program

an organics diversion tool





Presentation Overview

- Green Action Centre
- What is the Master Composter program?
- Why invest in a MC program?
- GA's experience
- What's required?
- Challenges
- Measuring / Impact
- Maureen
- Questions?





Who we are

- Manitoban non-profit hub for greener living.
- We encourage practical green solutions for homeowners, workplaces, schools and communities
- Focus is on waste reduction and sustainable transportation.





What is the Master Composter Program?

- Train-the-trainer composting course and volunteer program
- Promotes and enables composting in communities
- 30 hours of required volunteer work
- Network of passionate individuals
 - Events, tours, newsletter
 - Sharing resources





Other Master Composter Programs

- Most are coordinated by municipal governments
 - BC (Okanagan, Comox, Columbia Shuswap regions),
Edmonton, New York City, San Diego
- Some by non-profits
 - Green Action Centre
 - Saskatchewan Waste Reduction Council
- Program flexibility
 - Master Gardener vs Master Composter



Why invest in a MC program?

- Increase organics diversion
 - Low-carbon foot print (backyard/community) composting
- Great return on investment for municipalities
- Helps to normalize composting
- Creates community





GA's experience

- Program established in 2004
- Overall program funded by Province
- MC courses funded by various grants communities, City of Winnipeg (and Province)
- 10 courses in Winnipeg
- 5 courses in other Manitoban towns, cities
- High demand, minimal advertising





Evolution of our program

Course details	High cost course	Low cost course
Course length	30 hours (in Winnipeg) 18 hours (outside Winnipeg)	12 hours
Cost for participants	Free	\$100
Supplies for participants	Training manual, compost aerator, pail, compost, book	Training manual
Food	Lunches and snacks	Snacks



What's required for a successful course?

- Application and reference forms
- Training manual
- Guest speakers
- Food
- Suitable classroom
- Hands-on learning, tours and group discussions
- Access to active compost bins
- Annual course





What's required for successful program?

- Coordinate and deliver course with paid staff
- Show appreciation and provide rewards
- Have frequent volunteer opportunities available
- Provide tools (power points, publications and props)
- Develop networking opportunities
 - Events/additional training/tours



Type of volunteer activities

- Help friends, neighbours with composting
- Start workplace, school, community composting
- Staff booth at community events (ex. compost bin sale)
- Deliver presentations
- Write articles
- Etc.





What is tracked by MCs?

Date	Location	Type of Work	Details	# of hours	# of people reached





Program statistics (10 year period)

- Over 180 MCs trained since 2004
- 68 MCs are considered active volunteers
- Over 6000 volunteer hours recorded
- Average of 34 hours volunteered per MC
- 47% of MCs complete their required hours





Measuring impact of a Master Composter

- One household can divert 0.45 tonnes/year when composting
- Cost of collection and processing is \$150\$/tonne
- Yearly cost of training and coordinating one MC is \$450.
- If a MC completes its 30 hours by training 10 households to successfully compost....
- Municipal savings is about **\$700/yr**
- In 10 years, savings of **\$7000** if those households continue composting

Challenges

- Lack of studies on the impact of Master Composter Programs to justify funding
- Funding cuts
- Some never volunteer
- Volunteers not reporting their hours
- Seasonal limitations



Exceptional volunteer: Maureen

- Class of 2007
- Volunteered over 250 hours
- Started composting program at workplace and church
- Wrote articles, delivered presentations, staffed booths,
... you name it!



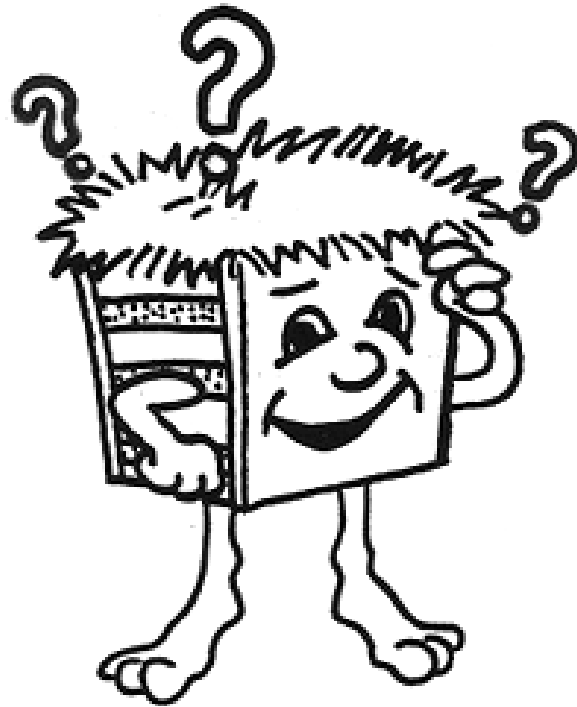


Conclusion: MC program is ...

- A cost-effective, low-carbon footprint
- An excellent approach to organics diversion
- Flexible, can be adapted as needed
- Establishes a network of dedicated and passionate individuals



Questions?



Thank you!

