



US Virgin Islands Organics Education Stewardship Program Description Environmental Finance Center at Syracuse University

Thank you for your interest in becoming a part of the US Virgin Islands Organics Education Stewardship Program, based out of the Environmental Finance Center at Syracuse University (EFC) in collaboration with the US Virgin Islands Recycling Partnership (VIRP). Stewards for this program will be chosen on the basis of education, experience, participation at a daylong training on May 25, 2014 (offered at no cost to them), and demonstrated dedication to community service. Below is a guideline of what is expected and required of Stewards over the course of the program. We're excited to see the results of your work over the next few months!

Position title: Steward for the US Virgin Islands Organics Education Stewardship Program (aka: Composting Consultant)

Position dates: June 2014 through August 31, 2014

Number of hours and pay rate: 40 hours, at \$10/hour (maximum of 40 hours)

Steward Duties:

- Attendance at Training and Meetings
Stewards will receive hands-on organics management training on May 25th and be required to have brief bi-weekly phone meetings with the EFC Program Coordinator, Laura Cardoso. Time allocated for the training and meetings will be included in the total number of hours worked.
- Engagement of School(s) and/or Community Sites
From June through August, 2014, Stewards will be asked to convey lessons learned to community groups by setting up training projects. They can contact places where they have a personal connection to, or research other sites in close proximity to their home or work – the decision is up to the Steward. These community groups may include: schools (individual classes, groups of teachers, or administrators); youth groups; community organizations and other approved locations. Interns will schedule a time to visit one or more sites.

- Preparing Lesson Plans and Composting Plans
Interns will work with their chosen sites to establish a more sustainable organics management plan, as well as teach students/educators/staff about composting. EFC staff, Ana Arache and Laura Cardoso, are available to answer questions regarding educational methods/tools and discuss questions and ideas for their lesson plans and composting plans.
- The intern will be able to work with EFC and VIRP with any help they need along the way. Examples of lesson plans can be found at these links:
 - cwmi.css.cornell.edu/resources.htm#youthteacher
 - prrecycles.org/school-chapter.html
- Implementation of Lesson Plans & Composting Plans
Interns will visit schools and/or community sites to teach in classrooms and in the community, to introduce to them the composting systems that will be established. Stewards are encouraged to work in groups and will have the flexibility to do a range of projects within one of the **3 categories listed below**.

They will set their own schedules, and will be free to choose when and where they do the projects, as long as they are within the US Virgin Islands and within the specified project period (May 25, 2014 through August 31, 2014). However, we encourage interns to choose to do projects where there is greatest need, such as in public and rural schools.

- Final Report
Interns will be required to submit a 1-2 page final report to EFC with the following information:
 - Introduction to the team and the school(s) and or community site(s) engaged
 - Overview of what was accomplished
 - Statistics: how many students or community members were taught, how many pounds of waste are expected to be diverted through the established composting system, etc.
 - Recommendations for how to improve, build upon, or replicate the program at another site – what worked? What didn't?

VI Organics Internship Project Categories

For each of the following Stewardship project categories, interns are expected to first gain permission from a contact at their designated project site(s) as well as from Laura Cardoso.

Category A (complete 3 projects, approximately 12 hours each) Category A consists of organizing 3 or more small projects, such as (but not limited to) organizing 3 of the following:

- A classroom lesson and activities on composting
- A composting presentation and community dialogue at a local community event
- A composting demonstration to a camp, school or community group. (Ie: Bring examples of food and yard waste to use as a demonstration to teach and discuss.)

Category B (complete 2 projects, approximately 20 hours each) Category B consists of planning and dedicating time to 2 larger composting projects, such as (but not limited to) 2 of the following projects:

- A workshop on assembling worm boxes and/or compost bins and how to use them.
- A workshop on how to build a compost system. (Ie: Bring examples of food and yard waste to use as a demonstration and discuss and actually build a compost system.)

Category C (complete 1 project, 40 hours) Category C consists of dedicating time to one in-depth project at a single location. In order to choose this option you should establish a good relationship with contacts at a particular site and make a semester long commitment to an educational program that you design. An examples of this option is:

- Design and implement a multi-day project to establish an organics composting program for a school, housing development, youth group, or community organization. . You will be expected to periodically visit the site and assist in their compost maintenance.

Thank you for your interest in the Organics Education Stewardship Program.

To apply send a short description of your experience in community and environmental stewardship, your availability and interest in participating in this program to Laura Cardoso at Lcardoso@syracusecoe.edu.

Let's get composting!