

**2008 Master Recycler/Composter Training Schedule:**  
**(Field Trips follow)**

**First Session:**

Wednesday, March 19

**6:45 – 7:15 PM**

- Sign contracts
- Introduce participants

**7:15 – 9:00 It's More than Dirt**, Life Below the Ground – Craig MacConnell WSU Faculty, Cooperative Extension Chair

**Second Session:**

Wednesday, March 26

**6:45 – 7:45 PM Fundamentals of Compost (The Dirt on Compost)**, -- Joyce Jimerson. If time, watch: *Compost: Truth or Consequences*

**8:00 – 9:00 PM Alternative Energy Choices**, Dana Brandt, Solar and Wind Energy Consultant. <http://www.ecotechenergy.com/> Dana has an extensive background in alternative energy, with a European Master's degree and experience installing systems in many countries

**Third Session:**

Wednesday, April 2

**6:45 – 9:00 PM Worm Composting: Letting worms work for YOU.** Joyce Jimerson. Look at various types of worm bins, Watch **Wormania** by Mary Appelhof, play "Earthworm Maze" and review resources for teaching vermicompost and composting

**Fourth Session**

Wednesday, April 9

**6:45 – 7:15 Tour of Compost Demonstration Site**, look at various types of compost systems

**7:30 – 9:00 Reuse & Recycle** Christina Reeves, Whatcom County Conservation Specialist. Learn where to take various recyclables in Whatcom County, and how to reduce your waste.

**Fifth Session**

Wednesday, April 16

**6:45 – 7:45 PM Raingardens** Cheryl Lovato-Niles (Watershed Masters Coordinator) & Joyce Jimerson on using soils and plantings to protect our waters.

**8:00 – 9:00 PM Weeds and Compost** – Laurel Baldwin, Whatcom County Noxious Weed Control. To compost or not to compost. That's the question.

**Sixth Session**

Wednesday, April 23

**6:45 – 7:45 PM Whatcom Recycling and composting, SSC's "Food-Plus."** Rodd Pemble, Sanitary Services Company. Rodd will address how residents and schools have joined the effort to compost organics.

**8:00 – 9:00 PM A Boatload of Reasons to Keep Biodiesel Afloat**  
- Ken Carrasco, Marine Biologist and boat owner

## **Seventh Session**

Wednesday, April 30

### **6:45—9:00 Soils and Composts and the critters that make it live**

Alex Hall, Soil Scientist, Resource Conservationist with NRCS. Test your soil/compost and bring the readout to have a real expert interpret!

Colleen Burrows, IPM Program Manager, Whatcom County Extension

(We will look at various types of soils and identify differences, and look at some worm bin critters alive and through the microscope)

## **Field Trips (All on Saturday AM)**

### **March 29**

**9:30 – 10:30—Ryzex Company.** <http://www.ryzex.com/> A ZERO waste company, devoted to recycling e-waste. Ron Biery, tour leader

**10:45 – 11:45—Northwest Recyclers.** See what happens to our bottles and plastics in Whatcom County. Marty Kulgis, tour leader.

### **April 5**

**8:30 – 9:15 Disposal of Toxics** See our 4 star facility, the swap shop, and learn how to properly dispose of your household chemicals, paints, etc. Alice Cords, tour leader.

**9:30—11:30** Tour and talk at the **Vehicle Research Institute at WWU**. See the alternative energy cars, and learn about the methane digester developed there. Eric Leonhardt

### **April 12**

**9:00 – 10:30 Smit Dairy compost**, tour with Nathan Smit of separated solid cow manure composting operation. See his bagging operation.

**10:30 – 12:00 VanderHaak Dairy Biogas Anaerobic Manure Digester** This is a state of the art dairy manure digester located in Lynden, WA. Steve VanderHaak, tour leader.

### **April 19**

**9:00 – 10:30 Green Earth Technologies**, Gore-Tex compost site. Gore-Tex has a very innovative system that has been used in Europe for years. This facility was the FIRST in the United States! Stephanie Harvey is tour leader.

**10:45 – 12:00 Compost Demonstration Site.** Bring work gloves, hat and clothes and hope for sun! We'll spruce up the site and make a bin or two.

### **April 26**

**9:00 – 10:00 Mt. Baker School system** school wide recycling program tour with Becky Phillips.

**10:45 – 12:00 Ostroms Mushroom Farm Tour** – Leo Gonzales, Mushroom Grower & phenomenal compost maker.