



Master Recycler Program FAQs

Questions from ecomaine's Informational Sessions 3/9/2021

Is this the first time ecomaine is offering this program?

Yes! This is a brand new program being offered by ecomaine. Our team hopes to provide a deep-dive into all things recycling and disposal that allows our community members to become experts where they live, work, and play. Because this is a new program, we want to hear from our cohorts about the process, and hope that this feedback will help us make the program better over time.

Is there a cost to sign up for the Master Recycler Program?

There is no cost to participate in the Master Recycler Program. As always, our goal is to provide information and resources to our communities (and other communities around us) that helps us put materials to their best and highest use possible. By participating in our programming, participants are helping us keep recycling clean, keep items out of landfills, and advocate for good long-term solutions to our biggest waste problems -- those actions are the greatest reward!

What supplies do I need to participate?

Because this program will be offered virtually for all 2021 cohorts, a device (phone, tablet, or personal computer) and an internet connection will be strongly recommended. For those without stable internet service or an internet-capable device, ecomaine can provide a hard copy of the course and all course readings upon special request. ecomaine will provide all necessary reading materials electronically and can provide supplies for all activities upon request.

Do I need to live in an ecomaine community to participate?

While the curriculum was designed to provide an inside look at recycling systems from ecomaine's perspective, the content of the course is not exclusive to ecomaine communities and could be applicable to anyone throughout the United States who wants to learn more about how waste and recycling are managed and how ecomaine is responding to challenges within the industry.

What happens if I am added to the waitlist?

Our Master Recycler program is brand new and has gained a lot of attention in recent weeks as we worked to recruit our first groups of Master Recyclers. To keep groups manageable and ensure that each participant has an opportunity to get adequate feedback and support from our staff, cohorts of Master Recyclers have been limited to 10-12 people. Our cohorts for 2021 are now filled, but individuals who are interested can sign up to join a waiting list to be added to an existing cohort should an opening become available. In the event that someone drops out of the program or wants to join at a later time, those openings will be offered to individuals on our waitlist first. Should no openings become available in 2021, those on our waitlist will be offered first priority to register for our cohorts in 2022.

What is the time commitment for participants who are in the program? What if I get busy during a chapter and fall behind on assignments?

Life happens and things get busy -- we totally understand! Participants have six months to complete the program from their start date, with 3-4 activities assigned each month (see below for a more detailed breakdown of assignments and estimated time needed for each). In the event that you are falling behind, let us know as early as you can and we can come up with a plan.



Program Outline

Orientation and Pre-Assessment

2 assignments, 10-15 minutes each*

Chapter One: What's in your bin?

4 assignments, 30-60 minutes each*

Chapter Two: How recycling works

5 assignments, 30-60 minutes each*

Chapter Three: Which bin does it go in?

4 assignment, 45-90 minutes each*

Chapter Four: Recycling and waste management policy

3 assignments, 30-90 minutes each*

Chapter Five: The value of recycling

4 assignments, 60-90 minutes each*

Final and Post-Assessment

2 assignments, 120+ and 10 minutes, respectively*



*Please note that these are approximations and do not include time needed to complete reading materials

Can a team from a business sign up for the Master Recycler Program and complete it together?

Yes! We highly encourage businesses to reach out to us if they have a group interested in participating in our Master Recycler Program. In select cases, businesses can choose to complete the program together and host monthly check-ins with ecomaine as they complete assignments as a group. For more information about Master Recycler for businesses, reach out to our Communications and Education team at info@ecomaine.org

If I'm signed up for a class in 2021 and change my mind, how can I "opt out" of the program?

No worries! We acknowledge that the time commitment for the program may not be a perfect fit for everyone. If you've received a confirmation from ecomaine to join one of our 2021 cohorts and things don't work out, reach out and let us know. We can try to accommodate a later start date, or cancel your registration altogether. You're always welcome to join us at another time.

For individuals who complete the Master Recycler Program, is there a community service requirement? What should I do if I want to get involved in volunteering in my community after the program?

While there is no requirement or obligation for community service with the Master Recycler Program, we highly encourage participants who are interested in using this knowledge to help their community by volunteering time to educate their neighbors. Contact your course moderator or our education team at info@ecomaine.org and we can connect you to local volunteer opportunities where you can show off those recycling skills!

What does this program look like for those participating?

The Master Recycler Program is a self-paced course with 5 chapters related to recycling that cover topics including (but not limited to) sorting technology, contamination and acceptable materials, waste management policy, community resources, and environmental solutions for waste. Each month, participants will receive check-ins from their course moderator to answer questions and get feedback on their assignments and projects.



Cohorts Explained

Starting in April, cohorts of 10-12 Master Recyclers will begin the program each month. Within the first 6 months, our Master Recycler Program will begin consistently hosting nearly 80 students at the same time, all at different stages of the course.

