

Syllabus

Marion Resourcers Movement Volunteer Training

Fall 2023

Dates & Location: September 7 th -October 12 th , 2023 Thursdays 5:30pm-8:00pm Location: Chemeketa Woodburn Cost: Free	Coordinator: Dakota Tangredi, Marion Resourcer Coordinator, Waste Reduction Coordinator dtangredi@co.marion.or.us
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Mission Statement

Marion County Environmental Services' Marion Resourcers Movement program strives to create a far-reaching sustainability network that provides engaging community service focused on the future of sustainable materials management.

Course Description:

The program will serve to educate, equip, and empower cohort members to be sustainability leaders in Marion County. Program volunteers will learn about sustainable materials management (the life cycle impacts of our products) while leading and supporting community sustainability efforts aimed at waste reduction locally. Each week, cohort members will learn about specific waste reduction issues that Marion County residents face and work together to imagine and develop tailored solutions in their own communities.

Course Goals:

Cohort members in the program can expect development opportunities to improve their communication skills, advocacy strategies to message and educate, and coordination skills in creating actionable community projects centered in waste reduction and related sustainability issues more effectively. Upon completion of the course, program members will also receive ongoing support that includes:

- Membership within the volunteer network and access to network contacts
- A monthly newsletter around volunteering opportunities, program updates, and job opportunity updates
- Volunteer badge, certificate of completion and additional acknowledgements/incentives with action hour tier completion
- Website portal access to log action hours and connect with fellow volunteers
- Quarterly meetups and continued education opportunities
- An assigned mentor to support projects, and
- Updates on continued professional development and education around waste reduction

The course utilizes a cohort model to connect action-minded individuals with common values. This ensures they can work to support each other through mentorship and resource sharing while volunteering in the community. Similarly, a popular education approach to learning is used in this course, prioritizing more discussion, practice-based learning, and group activities. This reduces the need for pure lecture time.

Course Structure and Expectations:

The course is free to reduce barriers to access. Cohort members are expected to attend class each week (6 class days) as well as an additional half day field trip during week 1 (Saturday, 7 classes total). Each class is held Thursday evenings from 5:30pm-8:00pm with a 10-minute break at the midpoint of class. Meals will be provided to participants.

In terms of cohort atmosphere and safety, we ask that cohort members keep an open mind to learning and new points of view. Cognitive dissonance and disagreements may happen as we dive into new topics, but we expect the cohort to remain a welcoming space to learn and share in.

Accommodations

We want to involve as many communities within Marion County as possible in the volunteer network and waste reduction action. For this reason, we have options for those in need of accommodations to ensure course attendance and positive course experience. **Accommodations include:** transportation support to and from classes (bus tickets or carpooling), and meals during class days.

Course Schedule

- Weeks 1-4 we will cover the core elements of sustainability as they relate to waste reduction and materials issues, avenues for action, and designing community action projects.
- Week 5 will feature two elective focus areas chosen by the cohort. There are five electives to choose from: schools waste reduction, toxics reduction, multifamily recycling and waste reduction, water conservation, and sustainable event planning 101.
- Week 6 is graduation! We will practice tabling and presenting with peers and make volunteers aware of how to participate with Marion County Environmental Services in the future (volunteer event calendar, speaker events, etc.)

Sampling of some topics covered during the course

- Marion County curbside recycle list and recycling facility tour
- The 5 R's: Reduce, Reuse, Repair, Rethink, and Recycle
- Community project planning and coordination
- Outreach and social media campaigns
- Greenwashing
- Sustainable Materials Management (life cycle impacts of our stuff)
- Sustainable Business certification with Marion County EarthWISE
- Repair Culture and organizing repair fairs
- Extended producer responsibility
- Green economy

- Sustainable behavior change
- Food waste reduction