



UCRRA Recycling Outreach Team Youth Programs

Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency



www.UCRRA.org

2026 Youth Program Guide

Ulster County Recycles is a county-wide outreach education and community engagement program administered by UCRRA's Recycling Outreach Team.

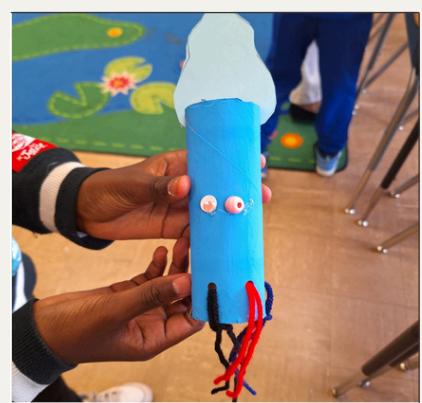
The Agency proudly fosters environmental literacy in the communities we serve, believing that educating the public about recycling, composting, and waste reduction has incredible social, environmental, and economic impacts.

By promoting literacy in these areas, UCRRA strives to help build resilient communities that engage youth and citizens to demonstrate concern for the environment, so residents and community leaders can act on the environmental challenges of the future.

Our Recycling Outreach Team provides FREE youth programming to Ulster County schools, clubs, libraries, and youth community centers. Please consider contacting us 30 days in advance to discuss your program, as our availability and schedule fills up very quickly.

I hope you enjoy browsing our 2025 class catalog.
I look forward to connecting on how we can help you reach your goals with environmental education!

Angelina Brandt, Director of Sustainability





Facility Tours

The Agency offers free guided tours of the recycling and composting facilities, by appointment. Tours must be scheduled on weekdays between the hours of 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Tours can be tailored to your group's interests or provide a complete overview of waste, recycling, and composting. Minimum five (5) and maximum twenty five (25) guests per tour group. Children must be accompanied by teachers or parents/guardians at all times. Tours are typically 45–90 minutes. Safety is our top priority; all visitors must wear hard hats during tours (provided by the Agency) and open shoes are expressly prohibited (no sandals, flip flops, etc.). A safety briefing will be emailed to you to further set expectations about tours. Tours are seasonal; scheduled April – October.

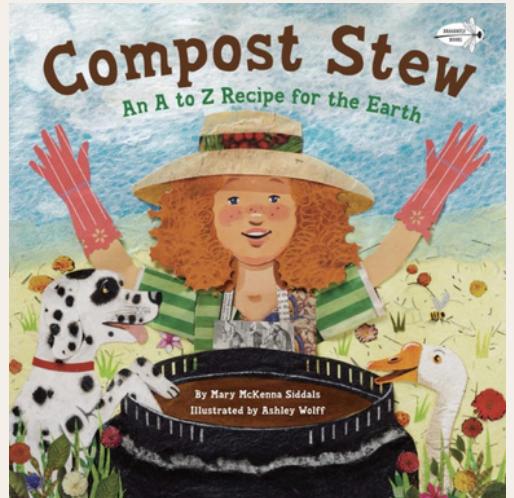
Home Composting Demonstration Garden

The Compost Demo Garden is an outdoor learning center for hands-on instruction on backyard composting systems, troubleshooting tips, and best practices. The Garden features various styles of compost bins, educational signs, and other interactive tools. A visit to the Demo Site can be a stand-alone session or added to a facility tour.



Intro to Composting

This 15–20-minute discussion introduces the principles of home composting. The program can be adapted to all age groups. Participants will learn about how we can “recycle our food” through composting, the basics of how composting science works, and why composting is good for the environment by reducing landfill waste. Participants learn what items can be composted through an interactive reading of the book Compost Stew! This short program can be stand-alone or added to the Working with Worms program.





Working with Worms

This is one of our most popular workshops! This 15–20 minute interactive discussion introduces how Red Wiggler Worms are a natural part of the soil food web and they make great composters, too! This program can be adapted for many ages, and works best in small groups. Participants will get to see inside a live worm bin and learn about worm ecology, the worm lifecycle, how a worm bin is built, designed, and managed, and why worm poop is some of the best fertilizer on Earth! This short program can be stand-alone or added to the Intro to Composting program.

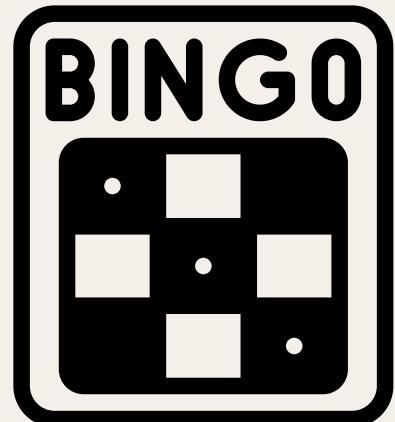
Making Seed Bombs

This 30 minute hands-on activity is recommended for students in grades K-3 and works well in small groups. Participants are introduced to the importance of how healthy soils can help healthy plants grow to support people, animals, and pollinators. Participants then create small “seed bombs” which are balls of clay mixed with compost and wildflower pollinator-friendly seed mix. Program needs: shared table space for a few stations, table cloths, and access to handwashing station(s).



Recycling B-i-n-g-o!

This 30–40 minute activity is great for all ages! Participants will hear a brief introduction about the importance of recycling before learning how to play our custom bingo game that emphasizes common recyclable and compostable items with each bingo pull. Special prizes will be provided for BINGO winners, while a complimentary small prize is given to all players. Everyone is a winner when we all recycle and take care of the planet! All program materials provided.



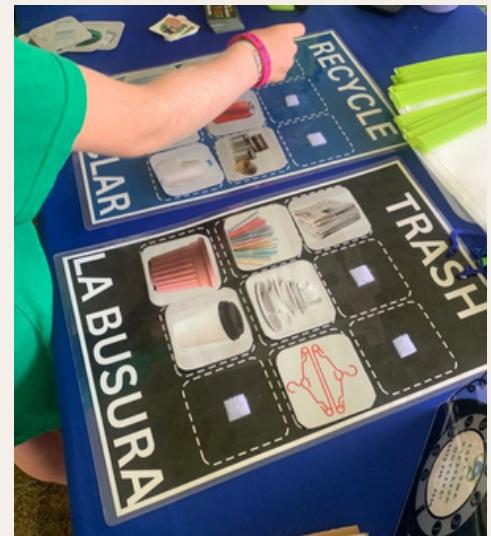


Recycling & Composting “Jeopardy”

This is one of our most popular workshops! This 40+ minute trivia game can be customized to share facts about waste-sustainability, recycling, waste reduction, reuse, composting, and the waste-climate connection. This program works well for groups of 10-30 students in grades 4-12. After a brief introduction, participants will be divided into two teams and compete by answering easy, medium, and difficult questions about the topic (category) of their choice to earn points to win real prizes.

Recycle Right: Sort It Out

This is one of our most popular workshops! This 30 minute game can accommodate groups of all sizes/ages and is recommended for grades 2-6. After a short introduction about what goes into the recycling bin and why “wishcycling” is such a crime, participants put their new knowledge to work sorting out various items into trash or recycling. Each participant gets 1-2 cards to sort, and their fellow classmates can call in to help them recycle right. Participants gain a very deep understanding of how to recycle correctly.



Upcycling Crafts

Our upcycling programs emphasize creativity, fun, and reuse! These programs can be adapted based on available craft materials or your special topics/themes of interest. These programs typically run for 40 minutes and work best with smaller groups of 5-20 students. Participants get to see various examples of upcycled things and learn about how upcycling and reuse are good for the planet and help to reduce waste. Then, most of the workshop time is dedicated to a specific craft with full instructions and demonstration of the craft provided. Examples of what can be made in this workshop include robots, valentines, masks, puppets, paper jewelry, ocean animals, reusable bags, or other. Program needs vary and may require collaboration on sourcing craft materials.

Countdown to the Breakdown

This 20+ minute interactive discussion is recommended for students in grades 5-12. Participants will make connections about how waste ends up in a landfill where it may stay for hundred of years, creating pollution. Participants learn that recycling conserves raw materials and natural resources because all the objects we use in our daily life come from the natural world around us. Participants are shown common objects we throw away everyday and are asked to think critically about the biodegradability of the objects and how long they will take to break down. Students leave with many ideas for alternative ways to reuse, repurpose, recycle, or avoid waste.

The Tiffin Project

Unlock the power of reuse with this 40+ minute discussion and deep dive into the world of single use disposable take-out containers. This workshop is recommended for students in grades 7-12. Participants will learn about the shocking amount of single use packaging used in the food industry, the impact of "to-go" food and drink containers on litter and waterways, and are introduced to how single use packaging may affect our public health. Most importantly, participants will learn about the power of reuse through "tiffins" which are reusable stainless steel food containers, and other ways to avoid single use items when dining on the go!

I Want to Be Recycled

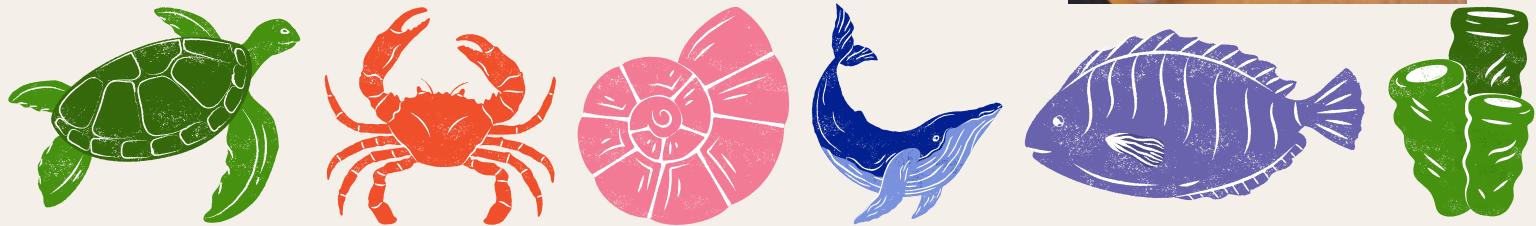
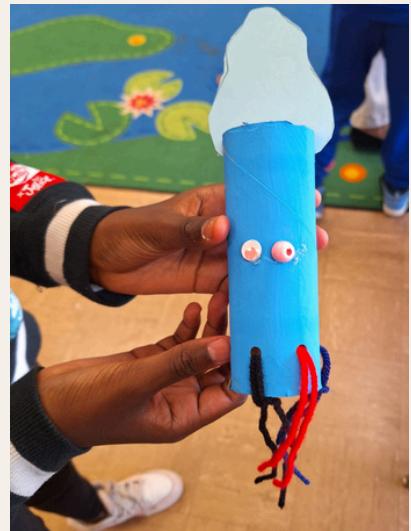
This 5 minute table-top game is a great addition to a school or community festival. Participants will sort and match cards to pair the recycling-bin item with the object it can be transformed into. Participants learn recycling tips as they play and will win a complimentary prize for participating.

Spin to Win - Trivia with Prizes

This 5 minute table-top game is a great addition to a school or community festival. Participants will spin a trivia wheel and answer a question to win a special prize whether they answer correctly or not. Everyone is a winner when we recycle!

Oceans of Possibilities

This 40+ minute discussion and upcycling activity is recommended for students in grades 5-12. This program focuses on how litter contributes to pollution in our environment and discusses topics like ocean plastic pollution, microplastics, and the impact on marine wildlife and habitats. Participants learn tips to reduce waste and litter, and are introduced to upcycling. Various upcycled art project examples are shown to re-enforce how creativity can re-imagine our waste! Participants then create their own sea creature using up-cycled materials. Program needs: shared table space for a few different craft stations, hot glue, toilet paper roll tubes for each student.



Meet the Team



Angelina Brandt, Director of Sustainability

Prior to joining the Agency in January 2019, Angelina was the Recycling and Composting Educator at Cornell Cooperative Extension, Schenectady County. Angelina holds a Bachelor of Technology from the Department of Agricultural Engineering at SUNY Cobleskill, where she studied Environmental Energy Technologies in Waste Management and Renewable Energy. In college, she was involved in a MSW gasification pilot project, spearheaded an award-winning college campus composting initiative, and completed internships with UCRRA, and with Community Compost Company. In her current role, she oversees the overall efficacy of waste sustainability programs at UCRRA, assists with technology research, supervises outreach staff and volunteers, and is sustainability liaison to elected officials, private industry, and other stakeholders. A life long local, Angie is happy to bring her passion to her hometown communities! She jokes that reduce-reuse-recycle is in her blood, having grown up in her parent's antique store in Saugerties as a kid! She still believes that one person's trash can be another person's treasure, and you'll often find her thrifting, yard sale-ing, upcycling, and stopping at the side of the road to rescue junked furniture or other cool vintage finds. There's something truly magical about recycling... her favorite trick is to transform food scraps into vermicompost!

Meet the Team



Eva Barnett, Recycling Educator

After earning her BA in Film/Video from Evergreen State College in 2005, Eva moved to NYC to explore storytelling through dance and film. However, when she gained access to a small garden in Brooklyn, her focus shifted. In 2008, she moved to the Catskills to work on organic farms, deepening her connection to fresh, locally grown food. Her passion for sustainable food led her to work with renowned chefs, including Mary Cleaver, a leader in local sourcing and sustainability. In 2016, Eva opened her own café, Adella Dori, in Callicoon, NY, offering a menu based on what was available at the farmer's market. As the café grew in popularity, so did the waste it produced, prompting Eva to become a passionate advocate for recycling, composting, and sustainable waste management within her community. After selling the café in 2019, Eva furthered her knowledge by becoming a certified soil health analyst through Dr. Elaine Ingham's Soil Food Web School, where she studied the biology of healthy soils. In 2024, she joined the UCRRA's Master Composter/Master Recycling Certification course as a volunteer, and officially joined the UCRRA Recycling Outreach Team as Recycling Educator in March 2025. Eva loves connecting the dots between what we eat, what we waste, and how we can do better and is excited to help her community look at trash and see a valuable treasure trove of resources.

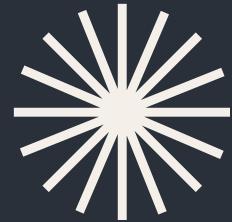
Meet the Team



Ellie Reese, Administrative Assistant

Ellie is a seasoned community outreach and administrative professional, currently serving as the Administrative Assistant for the Recycling Outreach Team at UCRRA. With a rich background in community engagement and environmental education, Ellie has previously worked with the Wallkill Valley Land Trust and the Woodstock Land Conservancy, where she helped foster connections between local communities and conservation efforts. A lifelong resident of Ulster County, Ellie is deeply committed to both the region's environmental sustainability and its long-term growth. She is an alum of SUNY New Paltz, where she studied Communications with a focus on political communications, environmental justice, and community engagement. Over the past 15 years, Ellie has applied these skills in the nonprofit sector, working with a variety of organizations to support and uplift Ulster County communities. Driven by a passion for environmental advocacy and service, Ellie brings a unique, well-rounded perspective to her role at UCRRA, where she continues to make meaningful contributions to the region's sustainability initiatives.

Ulster County *recycles!*



Contact Us

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