

Office of Sustainability – Compost Cats Student Compost Specialist

Apply on Handshake: <https://arizona.joinhandshake.com/jobs/4139449>

The University of Arizona Office of Sustainability Compost Cats Program seeks **two to four** highly qualified undergraduate or graduate students to assist with day-to-day operations. This includes, but is not limited to, the creation and management of compost/composting systems, waste management, K-12 and community-focused STEM programming/curricula, trainings for commercial business employees, potential operation of small-scale equipment for organic materials processing, collection and reporting of data to the Compost Cats Program Manager, auditing and/or decontamination of food waste loads (please be prepared to get dirty), participation in zero-waste effort events, and more. The successful candidates will inform and inspire the Tucson community about food waste reduction, materials cycling, soil health, sustainable agriculture, and environmental stewardship.

This position does not require prior experience or knowledge in composting or sustainability. All skills and required knowledge will be provided by the Compost Cats program and the Office of Sustainability.

Compost Cats currently employs six student employees and one full-time Program Manager. Since it began in 2011, Compost Cats has diverted over 20 million pounds of food scraps, brush, animal bedding, and other organic waste from Tucson landfills, transforming it into nutrient rich soil amendments for local farms, gardens, and landscapes, including UArizona grounds. This program is unique in the United States and sets UArizona apart as an innovator and leader in waste diversion and environmental engagement initiatives. Compost Cats is currently expanding its capacity to serve a greater portion of the Tucson community in close partnership with the City of Tucson. These student employees will assist the Compost Cats Program as it expands its offerings in training, education, and research, while working closely with the City of Tucson to continue increasing organic waste diversion from landfills.

Additional responsibilities may include supporting broader Office of Sustainability initiatives to promote a campus culture of sustainability. This position may also occasionally assist with administrative and office support tasks within the Compost Cats program.

Work study preferred but not required. Ability to speak Spanish preferred but not required.

Program location: Remote; Office of Sustainability (ENR2 N495); off-campus demonstration/educational & training sites (including, but not limited to Los Reales Landfill, local schools and businesses, etc.).

Hours per week: 10-25

Pay rate: \$12.50/hour

Responsibilities:

- Complete required University, safety, and operation trainings (10-25+ paid hours);
- Design and maintain small compost systems, operate small-scale equipment, and collect samples and data;
- Conduct introductory, experiential composting workshops and trainings for a range of audiences, including K-12 students, adult community members, and business partners;
- Develop and conduct virtual and in-person trainings for local businesses and community partners (FoodCycle Program participants);
- Take part in educational events, presentations, special projects, events, film screenings, and other occasional/periodic campus and community happenings (when appropriate);
- Attend weekly general employee meetings and other meetings as assigned;
- Maintain clear and open lines of communication with everyone in the program, particularly the Program Manager and any relevant student leadership positions;
- Some early morning, evening, and weekend work will be required.

Required Qualifications:

- Valid driver's license and successful completion of UArizona defensive driver training is required;
- Strong interpersonal skills, with the ability to positively represent Compost Cats and the Office of Sustainability to our campus and community stakeholders;
- Advanced written and verbal communication skills, including a strong proficiency in public speaking;
- Ability to push, pull, or lift 25 pounds individually and 50 pounds or more in cooperation with another staff member is required;
- Ability to work in a diverse team environment;
- **Must graduate in May 2022 or later.**

Preferred Qualifications (highly desirable, but not required):

- Access to personal vehicle - must be able to provide your own transportation to various off-site locations;
- Background/interest in sustainability, environmental conservation/management, and/or social justice;
- Experience in writing grants, marketing communications, media releases, business reports and/or outreach materials, or similar documents;
- Experience/interest in public education, community engagement, and volunteer recruitment activities;
- Ability to work during summer breaks.

University of Arizona Diversity Statement

At the University of Arizona, we value our inclusive climate because we know that diversity in experiences and perspectives is vital to advancing innovation, critical thinking, solving complex problems, and creating an inclusive academic community. As a Hispanic-serving institution, we translate these values into action by seeking individuals who have experience and expertise working with diverse students, colleagues, and constituencies. Because we seek a workforce with a wide range of perspectives and experiences, we provide equal employment opportunities to applicants and employees without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, protected veteran status, or disability. As an Employer of National Service, we also welcome alumni of AmeriCorps, Peace Corps, and other national service programs and others who will help us advance our Inclusive Excellence initiative aimed at creating a university that values student, staff and faculty engagement in addressing issues of diversity and inclusiveness.

Office of Sustainability Diversity Statement

The Office of Sustainability upholds the University's commitment and refutes all forms of inequity and discrimination in our workplace. We value all campus and community partners and their contributions, and we believe diversity in our workplace promotes innovative problem-solving that is crucial for the development of sustainability on campus and in the broader community.

We recognize that social and environmental justice are directly connected: Communities of Color are disproportionately affected by systemic racism and the climate crisis. Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) have not had equitable access to environmental resources or sustainability spaces and have historically been excluded from environmental decision-making. It is thus imperative that the Office of Sustainability's work contributes to anti-racist solutions, empowers Communities of Color, and supports organizations that reform and rebuild broken systems.

*With the help of dedicated students, staff, and partners, we advance our mission to be **Environmentally Sound, Socially Just, and Economically Viable.***