



We are delighted to announce the establishment of Cré Compost Skillnet, a new training organisation which will provide appropriate low cost training for compost facility operators, anaerobic digestion facility operators and organic growers/farmers until December 2011.

The Cré Compost Skillnet, funded by Skillnets Ltd., is a training initiative for employees in the compost/anaerobic digestion industry as well as job seekers. Skillnets has approved funding to the newly formed Cré Compost Skillnet from the Training Networks Programme (TNP) 2010-2011. Additional funding will be invested by the member companies of the Cré Compost Skillnet.

Skillnets is funded from the National Training Fund (NTF) through the Department of Education and Skills (DES) and enables groups of companies to set up training networks. Networks choose training methods, courses, trainers and priorities that are most relevant to their companies and Skillnets supports these choices through facilitation and funding.

#### The objectives of the Cré Compost Skillnet are to:

- ▶ train facility operators in the production of quality assured compost.
- ▶ train organic farmers and growers on using compost products.
- ▶ train employed and unemployed people from the composting and organic farming sectors to improve their employability.
- ▶ provide training in all aspects of the manufacturing and use of quality compost, ranging from facility management to marketing and public relations.
- ▶ increase competitiveness: Organic farmers are importing certified organic compost at a significant expense. There is a huge opportunity to improve the competitiveness of Irish organic farmers of getting cheaper compost sourced in Ireland and for Irish compost facilities to sell compost to organic farmers. This would result in imported compost being substituted with Irish compost.
- ▶ grow the size of the network by actively engaging organic farmers/growers to use organic compost.

The Cré Compost Skillnet is funded by member companies and the Training Networks Programme, an initiative of Skillnets Ltd. funded from the National Training Fund through the Department of Education and Skills.

## **SKILLNETS**

Established in 1999, Skillnets has a unique ethos and approach to the delivery of enterprise-led training and upskilling programmes for industry. The Training Networks Programme (TNP) funds demand-led training through a network model, where companies from networks representing specific industry sectors or geographical regions co-operate to deliver training programmes specifically designed and adapted to current market requirements. Since 1999, Skillnets has facilitated over 50,000 Irish enterprises, in over 300 networks to improve the range, scope and quality of training and allowed over 240,000 employees to upskill and meet their work related training needs.

A pioneering new feature of the programme is the provision of training for unemployed people. Unemployed individuals train with those in employment, thereby enhancing their knowledge of current market trends in the sector/region and improving their potential for employment through training and networking. Skillnets funds networks by co-investing with network member companies in the delivery of training. Networks are co-financed at up to 50% by Skillnets which demonstrates a significant investment by enterprise. Details on Skillnets on [www.skillnets.ie](http://www.skillnets.ie)

## **MATCH FUNDING INCOME**

Match funding is the enterprise sector's contribution toward the costs of the network activity. Match funding will be from course fees and sponsorship from the private sector and not from other public funds.

## **ELIGIBLE cré MEMBERS FOR SKILLNET FUNDING**

Cré members who have companies in the Republic of Ireland are eligible for Skillnets funding. Public or voluntary sector entities are ineligible for Skillnets funding.

## **NETWORK STEERING COMMITTEE**

The network is managed through a steering committee from member companies within the network.

## **COURSE FEES**


All courses are subsidised, this means Cré can offer them at a very reasonable cost to its members.

## **ORGANIC FARMERS AND GROWERS**

Organic farmers and growers are welcome to attend training courses. Please contact the network manager for details.

## **FREE TRAINING FOR UNEMPLOYED**

There are a limited number of free places available on each training course for unemployed people. There are certain conditions which apply to be eligible. These conditions can be found on the Cré Compost Skillnet webpage on [www.cre.ie](http://www.cre.ie) or contact the Network Manager for details.



# TRAINING COURSES 2011

## **Social Media Training**

This will explain how to use facebook, linkedin, u tube, twitter to boost your business sales.

## **National REFIT Conference**

This event will train people how to apply for the Renewable Energy Feed in Tariff (REFIT).

## **HACCP**

The course will explain on food waste composting facilities can develop their own HACCP plan to produce high quality compost.

## **Best Practice Tour to a European Country to View Composting Plants which have Technologies to Remove Contamination in Anaerobic Digestion/Compost Process**

This tour will visit composting and anaerobic digestion facilities which have the latest technologies which can remove contamination from feedstocks (e.g. brown bin).

## **Energy Efficiency at a Compost Facility**

The course will train people how to conduct energy audits of the entire composting process. This course would identify the economic benefits of energy efficiency. Specifically the course will examine what oxygen level is required to be provided in the composting process. This in turn will relate to the amount of oxygen needed to be provided by fans or how often to turn the compost pile by a loader. This process might also give option based on energy consumption on the best size loader or screen.

## **Compost Site Visit & Field Trip on Soil Biology/Crop/Vegetable Growing**

This course will involve a visit to a composting site. Training will be provided on growing crops/vegetables and on soil biology followed by a trip to a field for practical learning on soil biology.

## **Health and Safety**

Training tailored to the specific needs of the composting industry (e.g. plant & equipment, legal obligations, emissions, hygiene etc).

## **Maximising the Value of Compost to Produce Niche Compost Products**

It is known that by blending waste of different properties you can tailor the type of compost you want to produce (slow release of nitrogen) which will result in a value added product worth more than normal compost. This course will look at the blending of different waste feedstocks to produce specific properties required in the end product compost. The course will identify the cause and benefit of disease resistant properties of compost which are due to the parent waste feedstock used in the process. The course will examine the detailed science on the microbiology/chemistry of composting (e.g. pH management on nitrogen loss), disease suppression, supplying nutrients etc The course will also provide recipe blends of compost (e.g. how to manufacture topsoil). The addition of rhizomes to compost will be shown.

## **Understanding Laboratory Analysis Results of Compost**

This course is to equip composters with a better understanding of their process, products and potential customers by explaining what all of the numbers mean that come back from the laboratory. This will enable composters to amend their process to produce composts of different properties for different uses.

## **Certificate in Compost Facility Operation**

This course provides compost operators, regulators of facilities and anyone interested in starting a composting facility with the practical knowledge on how to compost properly, how to produce a high quality compost product and how to be compliant with all the regulations.

## **Employment Law for Small Businesses**

This course will train company managers on employment law.

## **ISO 9001:2008 Quality Management System for Composting sites**

Many organisations are interested in applying a formal structure to the management of their activities. This course is designed to introduce the concept of Management Systems as described in ISO 9001:2008 and describes the requirements and how they will apply in individual companies.

## **Public Relation Training**

This training course will be provided to compost/anaerobic digestion site managers on how to deal with: the media, the public, how to handle bad news situations, regulators and end users of compost. This course will train people on how to promote a positive image of the industry to the general public as organic nutrient processors.

## TRAINING COURSES COST & PROPOSED DATES

Course	Duration	Proposed Date of Course	Cré Compost Skillnet Member's Cost	Reduction on Market Price
Social Media Training	0.5 day	September	€50	60%
National REFIT Conference	1 day	September	€70	50%
Best Practice Tour to a European Country to View Composting/ AD Plants which have Technologies to Remove Contamination	2 days	22 & 23 September	€499	50%
Understanding Laboratory Analysis Results of Compost	1 day	October	€145	50%
Energy Efficiency at a Compost Facility	1 day	October	€145	50%
Compost Site Visit & Field Trip on Soil Biology/Crop/Vegetable Growing.	1 day	October	€25	75%
On-site Health and Safety on Different Compost Sites	2 days		€750 per site	50%
Certificate in Compost Facility Operation	6 days	October/ November	€995	17%
Maximising the Value of Compost to Produce Niche Compost Products	1 day	November	€145	50%
HACCP	2 days	November	€345	50%
Employment Law for Small Businesses	0.5 day	November	€50	50%
ISO 9001:2008 Quality Management System	2 days	November	€295	50%
Public Relation Training	1 day	December	€145	63%

The training programme and course prices are subject to change. Some courses have restriction on the number of attendees. Courses are offered on a first come basis.

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

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