

Compost Facility and Research Cooperative Student Internship

Background: The NC State Compost Facility and Research Cooperative is permitted by the NC Department of Environmental Quality as a Large Type 3 facility. All food waste that is collected on campus, as well as paper towels, greenhouse waste, animal bedding from the NC State Veterinary School, and wood chips are composted at the facility. Prior to composting, all incoming feedstocks are mixed using a specialized piece of equipment which helps ensure quality and consistency. Composting takes place using an aerated static pile system in which air is forced through the piles. With this system we're able to expedite the time it takes to reach the internal temperatures necessary to kill any pathogens and weed seeds that may be present in the compost. After composting and curing, the final product is screened, allowing it to be used as a soil amendment in the landscape across campus and at the Agroecology Farm. This process creates a closed-loop organic waste management system for the university.

Position Description: This position will assist with operations at the Compost Facility and Research Cooperative and also to work to advance the effectiveness of composting programs on campus. This hands-on experience will provide the intern with the knowledge necessary to operate a large-scale compost facility, as well as professional development skills related to program management. The Compost Facility is open Monday – Friday, 6am – 2:30pm. We offer a flexible schedule of about 10 hours per week. This position will start in Fall and conclude at the end of the Spring semester, 2026. Pay will be \$15/hour, benefits are not provided.

Responsibilities:

- Assist with daily operations, including taking temperatures of compost piles. Maintain records, record and analyze data.
- Learn how to safely operate a skid steer loader to manage compost and feedstocks
- Assist with site maintenance and help remove contamination from incoming feedstocks as well as from screened compost
- Collect samples of finished compost to be sent to the lab for analysis
- Participate in tours of the facility
- Work on small compost-related projects, such as plant bioassays and recipe development.
- Work with campus partners to reduce contamination being sent to the facility and identify opportunities to expand compost collections
- Help members of the campus community understand what is compostable

Requirements:

- Valid drivers license and reliable transportation to the Compost Facility off Lake Wheeler Rd.
- Ability to work safely in a variety of weather conditions
- Willingness to be trained in operating a small tractor and skid steer
- Excellent communication and organization skills
- Seeking to strengthen leadership skills
- Passionate about sustainability, compost, waste diversion, agriculture and/or horticulture

How to apply:

Please email resume and cover letter as a pdf to Matt Ball

Contact Information: Email: mgball@ncsu.edu