

# Food Recovery

Actions Local Governments Can  
Take to Help Businesses Prevent  
Waste and Feed Hungry People

prepared for the

Institute for Local Self-Reliance

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# Why Food Recovery?

- Reduce Waste
  - 18% of discarded municipal waste is food
    - 31 million tons/year nationwide
  - Mid-Atlantic average tipping fee: \$46/ton
  - 38% of the world's land is used for agriculture
  - 25% - 40% of food is wasted in the US



# Why Food Recovery?

- Reduce Waste
- Reduce Carbon Footprint
  - Landfills are 2<sup>nd</sup> largest anthropogenic source of methane
  - Methane is a greenhouse gas 25x as potent as CO<sub>2</sub>, 72x as potent in the short term



# Why Food Recovery?

- Reduce Waste
- Reduce Carbon Footprint
- Feed Hungry People
  - DC has a food insecurity rate of 11.9%
  - Child food insecurity rate of 21.4%

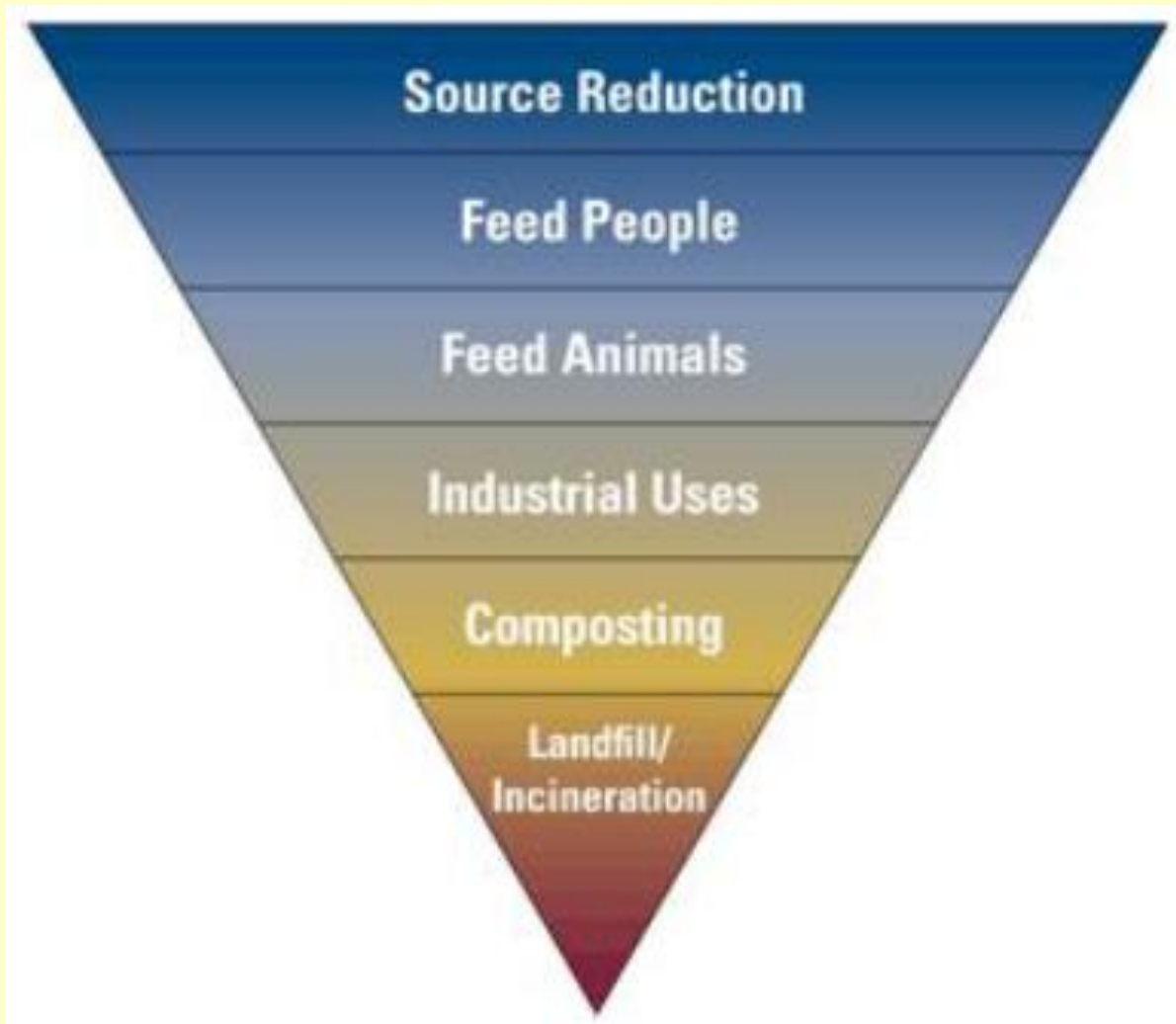


# Why Food Recovery?

- Reduce Waste
- Reduce Carbon Footprint
- Feed Hungry People
- Strengthen Community Relationships
  - We like to help our neighbors!



# Food Waste Hierarchy



# Strengths

- **Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act** protect donors
- Large number of food distribution organizations (Banks, Pantries, Meals) in region.
- Many potential donors already donate food!
- Governments already promote recycling & waste reduction.

# Opportunities for Governments

- Help establish a norm:  
Donating food is safe, right thing to do!
- Educate potential donors:  
How to donate safely, Where to donate.
- Waste management grants to provide infrastructure
- Create a food policy council  
Include reducing food waste in mission
- Leadership: Roundtable on Food Recovery



# Educate and Promote

- Website
  - Single, regional, food donation website
  - List of food banks
    - Possibly interactive mapping tool
    - Where they are, what they accept, do they pick up
  - Liability information
  - How to prepare & store food for donation
  - Social & tax benefits



SEARCH THE SITE

x advanced search

- HOME
- CALENDAR
- + PLACES AND ACTIVITIES
- GARBAGE AND RECYCLING
  - WHERE TO TAKE GARBAGE AND RECYCLING
  - DONDE LLEVAR SU BASURA Y RECICLAJE
  - GUIDE TO HAZARDOUS WASTE
  - RECYCLE AT HOME
  - RECYCLE AT WORK
  - RECYCLE AT SCHOOL
  - CLEAN UP YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD
  - FIND YOUR GARBAGE HAULER
  - FIND A RECYCLER
  - METRO RECYCLING INFORMATION HOTLINE
- + SUSTAINABLE LIVING
- + PLANNING AND CONSERVATION
- + MAPS AND DATA
- + GRANTS
- + JOBS AT METRO

## Find a food rescue program

GARBAGE AND RECYCLING > RECYCLE AT WORK > FORK IT OVER! FOOD DONATION > FIND A FOOD RESCUE PROGRAM

Use Metro's interactive search tool to find a nearby food rescue agency that fits your needs. Enter your address and the types of food you have to donate and get maps, contact information and program details.

**Note:** Always call ahead to confirm operation hours and ensure that the organization can accept the food you wish to donate.

[HELP] [NEW SEARCH]

### SEARCH RESULTS

**101 programs** accept one or more of the types of food you selected. Distance is calculated from **3029 SE 21ST AV, PORTLAND**.

PROGRAM ▼	PICKUP ▼	DISTANCE ▼	SCORE ▼	dairy products and eggs ▼	dessert and sweets ▼	fresh produce ▼
Fish Emergency Services (503) 233-5533 1335 SE Hawthorne Blvd., Portland		0.9 miles	9 of 3	✓	✓	✓
St. Vincent de Paul Food Recovery Network (503) 234-1114 5120 SE Milwaukie Ave., Portland		1.1 miles	9 of 3	✓	✓	✓
St. Francis Dining Hall (503) 234-2028, 232-5880 330 SE 11th Ave., Portland		1.4 miles	9 of 3	✓	✓	✓

- FORK IT OVER! FOOD DONATION
- FIND A FOOD RESCUE PROGRAM
- FOOD PROGRAM LIST
- FEATURED FOOD RESCUE PROGRAM
- FREE ASSISTANCE
- FEATURED DONOR
- WHY DONATE?
- HOW TO DONATE
- WHO IS DONATING?
- LIABILITY PROTECTION
- + CONSTRUCTION SALVAGE AND RECYCLING
- + BUYER'S GUIDE TO RECYCLED PRODUCTS

### Disclaimer for this guide

This guide was prepared by Metro solid waste and recycling department.

This is not necessarily a complete listing. Information relating to agencies may have changed. Use this guide to find the food rescue



Reduce • Reuse • Recycle

## ecofindeRRR

This is where you'll find out where to recycle and properly dispose of just about everything!



1 Food & Cookware ▾

2 Food for Donation ▾

3 94102

[Advanced Search](#)  
[Company Search](#)  
[SF City Depts.](#)

search site/keywords

what, when & how?

Cans, bottles, cardboard, food scraps, newspapers & pick up times. [Get quick answers.](#)



[sign-up for our e-newsletter](#)

### ecofindeRRR

2 companies found for "Food & Cookware - Food for Donation" for ZIP 94102.

Free Pick-Up:			
Company	Distance	City	Customers Served
<a href="#">Food Runners</a>	N/A	San Francisco	Residential Commercial
<a href="#">San Francisco Food Bank</a>	N/A	San Francisco	Residential Commercial
Free Drop-Off:			
Company	Distance	City	Customers Served
<a href="#">Food Runners</a>	1.2 miles	San Francisco	Residential Commercial
<a href="#">San Francisco Food Bank</a>	1.4 miles	San Francisco	Residential Commercial

Is the information above incorrect?

# Educate and Promote

- Website
- Produce Brochures
  - How to donate food (refer to website)
  - Basics: what sort of food is acceptable?
  - Distribute with all commercial kitchen inspections
  - Distribute with waste reduction campaigns to businesses

# Educate and Promote

- Website
- Produce Brochures
- Produce Laminated Kitchen Posters



## Food Donation Guidelines

### How to store foods

- Tins of prepared foods should be 75 to 100 percent full.
- All pans must have lids that are secured firmly to prevent spillage.
- Only put ONE type of food in each pan. (I.e. do not put two types of food, such as potatoes and rice, in the same pan.)



**GOOD:** This pan contains just one type of food and is filled to the brim. We can send this to our clients.



**BAD:** Two types of food are put in the same pan. We cannot serve cross-contaminated food to our clients.

### Foods we do accept

- Leftover prepared food – such as pasta, meat, vegetables or casseroles – that meets the above

### Foods we do not accept

- Tins that contain multiple types of food mixed together
- Cooked fish, other than shrimp

# Educate and Promote

- Website
- Produce Brochures
- Produce Laminated Kitchen Posters
- Recruit, Recognize & Award Donors



# Use waste management funds to provide infrastructure

- City & County of San Francisco Recycling Program grants to food banks
  - \$258,600 in 1996-1999
  - Refrigerated trucks, driver salaries, gas, sorting conveyer, forklift, etc.
  - 3000 tons/year of edible food recovered



# Use waste management funds to provide infrastructure

- **Portland Metro's Fork It Over Grants:**
  - \$580,000 in 1999 - 2003
    - ❖ 4 walk-in coolers;
    - ❖ 18 reach-in refrigerators;
    - ❖ 19 reach-in freezers;
    - ❖ 10 outdoor shelter canopies; and
    - ❖ 2 collection trucks, and 9 months driver salary and volunteer driver gasoline allowances
- **Along with marketing, printing, outreach:**
  - 9000 tons/year additional food recovered
  - \$31 benefit / grant dollar



# What do food banks need?

- Diverse Needs & Capabilities
  - DC Central Kitchen: 4000 meals/day
    - Can only pick up donations > 50 pounds of food
    - Wide range of perishable food accepted
  - Many smaller organizations currently cannot handle perishable food

# What do food banks need?

- Diverse Needs & Capabilities
- Transportation Resources
- Education of Donors
  - Food Safety
  - What kind of food is most needed
  - What food cannot be accepted