



## Save Money and Help Fight Hunger

In 2010, **one in seven households** in Washington State struggled to provide enough food for their families. While hunger relief agencies such as food banks struggle to keep up with demand from those in need, millions of tons of wholesome, edible food is thrown away by restaurants, hotels, schools, grocers, and other businesses.

Instead of throwing edible food away, donate it to hunger relief organizations.

### What are the benefits of donating food?

- Save money in disposal costs.
- Support your community and fight hunger.
- Enhance your business image in the community while increasing employee pride.
- Keep foods out of landfills to reduce greenhouse gas and water quality impacts.
- Possibly receive tax benefits.

### Donating food

The following abbreviated lists provide general guidelines for donating food. Please review the Washington State Department of Health Charity Food Donation Guidelines at <http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/food/guide-charitydonations.pdf>.

#### Basic Facts

- Approximately 100 billion pounds of food are thrown away in the United States each year, more than enough to end hunger nationwide.
- Food waste represents more than 14 percent of the entire municipal solid waste stream generated in the United States.
- Less than 3% of food waste is recovered and recycled.
- Food waste losses account for up to \$100 billion per year.

To learn more about food waste, visit [www.epa.gov/organicmaterials](http://www.epa.gov/organicmaterials).

#### YES please donate

- Bagged grains, beans, beverages, condiments, sauces, and spices.
- Fresh produce such as vegetables and fruits.
- Dairy, meat, and eggs past the original manufacturer's "sell by" (or "best if used by") date, but not past the "use by" date.
- Fresh chilled or frozen meat.
- Prepared, but not served foods from restaurants, corporate dining rooms, caterers, hotels, and grocers.
- Food packages with labeling or shipping errors or manufacturing glitches.
- Distressed but still safe foods.

#### NO do not donate

- Home canned, vacuum-packed or pickled foods.
- Foods in soiled containers or in sharply dented or rusty cans.
- Perishable foods past a "use by" date, unless frozen.
- Foods in opened or torn containers exposing the food to potential contamination.
- Unpasteurized milk or foods with an "off" odor.
- Foods prepared, cooked, cooled, or reheated at home (except for baked goods).

## Do the federal and state laws protect you from liability for food donation?

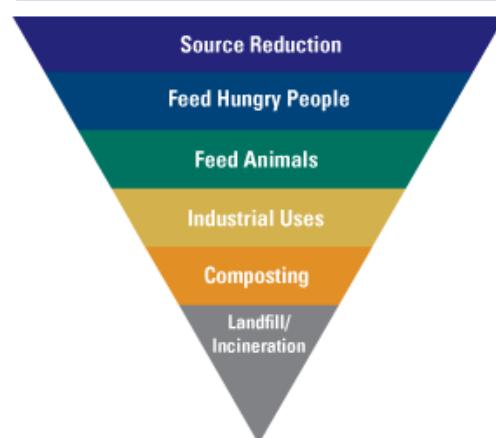
- The federal bill Emerson Good Samaritan Donation Act (<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/PLAW-104publ210/pdf/PLAW-104publ210.pdf>) and the State Good Samaritan Laws (<http://www.doh.wa.gov/hsqa/emstrauma/download/goodsam.pdf>) protect you from legal liability when donating to organizations in good faith.
- Hunger relief organizations like food banks and hot meal programs protect their donors by strictly following Washington State Health Department Codes.

## What other options do you have if you have unavoidable surplus food?

If you have unavoidable surplus food, in addition to donating it to feed the hungry, other options may include:

- Food waste reduction – look at Environmental Protection Agency's website for programs and ideas to get you started; [www.epa.gov/foodrecoverychallenge/](http://www.epa.gov/foodrecoverychallenge/)
- Animal feed- work with Washington State Department of Agriculture; <http://agr.wa.gov/FoodAnimal/AnimalFeed/>
- Industrial uses – provide fats for rendering, oil for fuel, food discards for anaerobic digestion. Check out the National Renderers Association for more information; <http://nationalrenderers.org/>
- Composting - recycle food scraps into a nutrient rich soil amendment.
- Landfills– dispose of food scraps in landfills as the last option.

EPA's "food recovery hierarchy" shows preferred options for managing excess food.



## Who should you contact to start donating?

To learn more about food donation or arrange for food distribution organizations to pick up the surplus food, please contact:

### **Northwest Harvest**

Phone: 1.800.722.6924

Web: [www.northwestharvest.org](http://www.northwestharvest.org)

**Union Gospel Mission/Salvation Army:** For contact information, check your local phone directory.

### **Food Lifeline (West of Cascades)**

Toll Free: 1-877-404-7543

Website: <http://www.foodlifeline.org>

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Harvest of the Inland Northwest (East of the Cascades)**

Phone: 509.252.6241

Web: <http://www.2-harvest.org/>

### **List of Local food banks and pantries:**

<http://www.win211.org/>

### **Special accommodations:**

If you need this document in a format for the visually impaired, call the Waste 2 Resources Program at 360-407-6900. Persons with hearing loss, call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability, call 877-833-6341.