

San Diego Area Food Recovery

Links and Resources 2016

Learn about some food recovery alternatives in the San Diego Area. EPA's Food Recovery Hierarchy prioritizes these food waste strategies from most to least preferable.

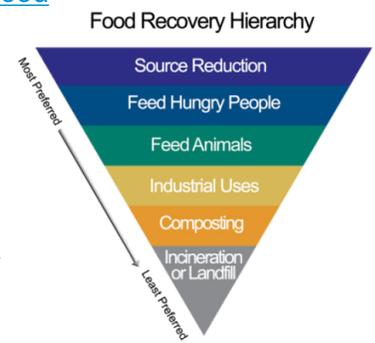
1. Source Reduction

Source reduction is the strategy of preventing food from becoming waste in the first place. There are many resources able to tackle source reduction:

- **U.S. EPA Food Recovery Website:** <http://www.epa.gov/sustainable-management-food>

Toolkits and resources on this site include:

- » Food and Packaging Waste Prevention Tool – <https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-management-food/resources-assessing-wasted-food>. Excel spreadsheet to identify patterns of waste.
- » Reducing Wasted Food & Packaging: A Guide for Food Services – <https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-management-food/resources-assessing-wasted-food>. Provides guidelines on using the prevention tool tracking results to save money and reduce waste.
- » Food Waste Assessment Guidebook – <https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-management-food/resources-assessing-wasted-food>. Shows how to do a one-time snapshot wasted food assessment.



- **National Restaurant Association ConServe Program:** <https://conserve.restaurant.org/>: Connects restaurant owners or managers to tools and information to reduce waste.
- **Leanpath:** www.leanpath.com: Assists foodservice operations in reducing food waste. The website provides many free tools, videos and case studies.
- **Save the Food:** www.savethefood.com: Provides food storage tips and other waste reduction strategies for households, as part of a national campaign.
- **San Diego Resources:**
 - » **City of San Diego** has a Zero Waste resolution, and is working toward diverting more and more waste from the landfill. The zero waste plan can be found: <http://www.sandiego.gov/mayor/pdf/2015/ZeroWastePlan.pdf>
 - » The City offers info on food waste diversion and a commercial food scrap composting program: <https://www.sandiego.gov/environmental-services/miramar/greenery/foodwaste>.

The Good Samaritan Act was created to prevent good surplus food from going to waste by protecting donor companies from liability when donating to charitable organizations.

Highlights:

- Encourages the donation of surplus food.
- Protects all food and grocery donors who donate in good faith to a non-profit organization.
- Exceptions are noted for gross negligence.
- Provides protection for food and grocery products that meet all quality labeling standards imposed by federal, state and local laws and regulations.

- » **The County of San Diego** provides ways to minimize food waste and maximize source reduction. The County also offers technical assistance to businesses and schools in the unincorporated areas of the county that want to reduce, donate or divert organics, including food waste. For more information visit: <http://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/dpw/recycling/Food.html>.
- » **The City of Chula Vista** offers tips for shopping and food storage to help households to minimize food waste. For more information please visit: <http://www.chulavistaca.gov/departments/public-works/environmental-fiscal-sustainability/environmental-services/food-waste>.
- » **The City of Oceanside** is on the Road to Zero Waste with a goal is of reaching a 75-90% diversion/recycling rate by 2020. The City also offers technical assistance to businesses within their jurisdiction. For more information please visit: http://www.ci.oceanside.ca.us/gov/water/services_programs/recycling/.

2. Feed Hungry People (Donations)

Help curb hunger in our region. Businesses and others can help by donating surplus food. See below for organizations that help fight hunger in San Diego.

Ways to Donate

Food Banks: Food banks collect, store, and distribute food to networks of food pantries, homeless shelters, and other charities that rely on donations. Some provide food directly to the hungry. The larger food banks can help donors to find local charities that can accept their food donations.

Food Pantries and Soup Kitchens: San Diego County has hundreds of local, small scale, charitable organizations that provide food directly to those in need. This may be perishable food, packaged food or meals that are pre-prepared in their kitchens. Often they have limited space to store food donations.

Gleaning: Gleaning is the act of picking the excess fruit or vegetables that are left on trees or plants after the owners or farmers have harvested what they want to eat, or what they can sell. San Diego gleaning groups organize volunteers to harvest produce from backyards, orchards, and farms. Donors may claim tax deductions. Why let this fresh food go to waste?

Organizations Accepting Food Donations: The food banks in San Diego County are listed in the table below, along with other organizations able to accept large donations of food. If you are looking to donate to any of these organizations please contact them using the information listed below.

Donation Center	Location	Contact
Feeding America Food Bank	9445 Waples St., Suite 135 San Diego, CA 92121	http://feedingamericasd.org/ (858) 527-1419
San Diego Food Bank	9850 Distribution Avenue San Diego, CA 92121-2320	http://sandiegofoodbank.org/ (858) 452-3663
San Diego Food Bank - North County	680 Rancheros Road Suite 100 San Marcos, CA 92069	http://sandiegofoodbank.org/ (760) 761-1140
Catholic Charities: Food Resource Centers:		http://www.ccdsd.org/programs/
(1) FRC- Downtown	349 Cedar Street, Room 102 San Diego, CA 92101	Downtown (619) 231-2828 x102
(2) FRC – College Area	6360 El Cajon Blvd, Suite B San Diego, CA 92115	College Area (619) 286-1100
(3) FRC – El Centro	250 West Orange Avenue El Centro, CA 92243	El Centro (760) 353-6823
(4) FRC – Vista	917 East Vista Way Vista, CA 92084	Vista (760) 631-4792
Community Resource Center North County	650 Second Street Encinitas, CA 92024	http://crcncc.org/ (760) 753-2200

Donation Center	Location	Contact
Interfaith Services:		http://www.interfaithservices.org/contact/
(1) Inland	550 W. Washington Ave. Escondido, CA 92025	Inland (760) 489-6380
(2) Coastal	4700 North River Road Oceanside, CA 92057	Coastal (760) 721-2117
(3) Veterans	1617 Mission Ave. Oceanside, CA 92058	Veterans (760) 529-9979
San Diego Rescue Mission	5150 University Ave. San Diego, CA 92105	http://www.sdrescue.org/our-programs/hunger-relief/partners-for-hunger-relief/ (888) SDRESCUE
Kitchens for Good	404 Euclid Ave. San Diego, CA 92114	http://kitchensforgood.org/ (619) 450-4040
United Services Organization (USO) San Diego	3350 E Street San Diego, CA 92102	https://www.uso.org/ (619) 446-2100
Father Joe's Villages	3350 E. Street San Diego, CA 92102	http://my.neighbor.org/ (619) 446-2100
Got Your Back San Diego	4061 Oceanside Blvd. Ste E Oceanside, CA 92056	http://www.gybsd.org/ (760) 575-4571

(1) LIABILITY OF PERSON OR GLEANER – A person or gleaner shall not be subject to civil or criminal liability arising from the nature, age, packaging, or condition of apparently wholesome food or an apparently fit grocery product that the person or gleaner donates in good faith to a nonprofit organization for ultimate distribution to needy individuals.

— Courtesy of the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Act

Tools for Finding Food Charities

- **2-1-1 San Diego:** <http://www.211sandiego.org/new/>: Serving San Diego County, 2-1-1 San Diego connects you with community, health and disaster services through a free, 24/7 stigma-free phone service and searchable database. Simply dial 2-1-1 or search their online database.
- **San Diego Food Bank – Food Pantry Zip Code Search:** <http://sandiegofoodbank.org/get-help/need-food-zip-code-search/>: The Food Bank offers a 'zip code finder' search for residents to use to find nonprofit partners who offer food assistance. Residents can also call at (866) 350-FOOD (3663).
- **Feeding America San Diego – Food Distribution Partner Search:** <http://feedingamericasd.org/need-help/>: Feeding America San Diego connects residents in need with their local partners or mobile pantry locations through a searchable map. Residents can also call (858) 452-3663 or email info@feedingamericasd.org
- **I Love A Clean San Diego:** <http://www.WasteFreeSD.org>: ILACSD's recycling database and call center is a one-stop resource which offers information on donating perishable and non-perishable food—as well as how to divert household items, recyclables, and household hazardous waste from our landfills. Easy access information connects to local resources that reduce waste.
- **Ample Harvest "Find a Pantry":** <http://ampleharvest.org/find-pantry/>: This national site provides a map tool for finding local food banks and pantries.
- **County of San Diego - Soup Kitchens List:** <http://sandiego.networkofcare.org/veterans/services/subcategory.aspx?tax=BD-5000.8300>: The County of San Diego's Health and Human Services website provides a list of soup kitchens as a resource for veterans.

Gleaning Organizations

- **Feeding America:** <http://feedingamericasd.org/get-involved/donate-food/residential-harvests/>: Feeding America sends requests for gleaning to local organizations (like the ones below) who can come out to farms, orchards, or backyards to pick the remaining crop for distribution to the hungry. Residents can also call 1-866-350-FOOD (3663) to access this information.
- **CropSwap:** www.producegood.org: Based in North County, ProduceGood operates the CropSwap gleaning program which organizes teams of volunteers to pick fruit from private groves and orchards throughout San Diego County. Gleaned fruit is donated to food banks for distribution to the hungry.
- **Harvest CROPS:** <http://harvestcrops.org/>: Based in Lemon Grove, Harvest CROPS organizes teams of volunteers to pick fruit from backyards and orchards throughout San Diego County. The gleaned fruit is donated to local charities for distribution to the hungry.
- **Senior Gleaners :** <http://seniorgleanerssdco.org/>: These volunteer gleaners aged 55+ harvest from backyards and farms throughout San Diego County, and collect unsold food from grocery stores and restaurants. Gleaned food is distributed at no charge to agencies feeding low income residents.
- **San Diego Roots Sustainable Food Project:** <http://www.sandiegoroots.org/harvesting.php>: Connects local tree farmers with food pantries who send volunteers out to get the fruit and bring it back to the people who really need it.

Working Towards a Fuller Future

These organizations coordinate efforts to reduce food waste and end hunger in San Diego County.

San Diego Hunger Coalition: <http://www.sandiegohungercoalition.org/>: San Diego Hunger Coalition is working to remove barriers that make it difficult for families to receive CalFresh aid as well as helping to make the funds from the federal government more available to help more of the children who qualify for the free and reduced lunch programs.

San Diego Food System Alliance: <http://www.sdfsa.org/>: The Alliance is a collaborative that works to address several aspects of hunger and food waste in San Diego. They are striving towards making the food system sustainable, equally available, and economically feasible for all.

North County Food Policy Alliance: <http://www.regionalsolutions.net/#!/food-policy-council/c5zn>: The purpose of the North County Food Policy Council is to find solutions to address the unmet food security needs of the residents of North County and to increase access to a secure and nutritionally quality food supply and food shed.

3. Feed Animals

Food that is not suitable for donation to hungry people may be valuable for farmers with animals to feed. For instance, many breweries in San Diego donate their spent grain to farms and dairies in the region as well as out of state. The Ramona Unified School District uses food scraps from schools to feed animals in the agricultural program.

- For information on which farms are in need of spent grain or other food donations, please contact **San Diego County Farm Bureau:** www.sdfarmbureau.org or call (760) 745-3023.

4. Industrial Uses

Fats, Oils and Grease, also known as FOG, can be converted into fuel and has various industrial uses. There is increasing interest in finding effective means to obtain biofuel and bio-products from wasted food. San Diego regional options include:

- **New Leaf Biofuel:** <http://www.newleafbiofuel.com/>. Collects grease from restaurants, schools, hotels and other businesses to convert the cooking oil that would otherwise be discarded into biodiesel fuel.
- **Buster Biofuels:** <http://busterbiofuels.com/>. Partners with different businesses and corporations to collect and repurpose their used kitchen oils and grease to convert it into biofuel.



5. Food Scraps Composting

Composting turns food scraps into a nutrient-rich soil amendments and can be done on site in smaller amounts or on a larger scale at a municipal or commercial level.

Composting Facilities

The San Diego region has facilities that accept food scraps for composting.

- **Miramar Greenery – City of San Diego:** <https://www.sandiego.gov/environmental-services/miramar/greenery/foodwaste>. Accepts commercial food scraps from pre-approved businesses to be taken to the Greenery and turned into compost. San Diego residents are allowed to take up to two cubic yard of compost for free. The Miramar Greenery website also list the uses for compost.
- **El Corazon Compost Facility – City of Oceanside:** <http://www.agriserviceinc.com/>. The City of Oceanside's green waste program takes all green waste collected curbside to the El Corazon Compost Facility to be composted. The El Corazon Compost Facility is also currently accepting vegetative food scraps from pre-approved businesses in Oceanside. Oceanside residents are allowed to pick up compost for free with proof of residency: www.oceansiderecycles.org.
- **City of Chula Vista:** <http://www.chulavistaca.gov/departments/public-works/environmental-fiscal-sustainability/environmental-services>. Chula Vista is currently operating a pilot program where vegetative food waste is being collected from homes and businesses, and taken to the Otay Mesa Landfill Compost Facility.

Do Your Own Composting

Food scraps, spoiled and leftover food are perfect for composting. When combined with yard trimmings, this material provides the nutrients needed to form a balanced compost pile. In gardens, backyards, and farms, composting may be done in a pile or a bin. Vermicomposting, or composting with worms, uses less space than traditional composting and produces worm castings instead of finished compost. "In-vessel" composting is an alternative that keeps materials contained and allows composting to be done in a range of locations. For more information please contact your local jurisdiction.

Composting Tips and Resources

Several local governments in the San Diego region offer online composting guides, workshops, and discounted prices on compost bins. See below for examples.

- **County of San Diego:** <http://www.sandiegocounty.gov/dpw/recycling/composting.html>
- **City of San Diego:** <https://www.sandiego.gov/environmental-services/recycling/residential/composting>
- **City of Chula Vista:** <http://www.chulavistaca.gov/departments/public-works/environmental-fiscal-sustainability/environmental-services/composting>
- **City of Oceanside:** www.oceansiderecycles.org

5. Food Recovery Successes

The San Diego region has some notable successes in food recovery.

Petco Park: <http://www.petcoparkevents.com/>: This large public venue and home to the San Diego Padres donates large amounts of food to Feeding America for distribution to those in need. All concession stands and restaurants within Petco Park participate in a food waste diversion program. That includes the composting of food waste at the conclusion of any game or major event. Petco Park's food waste is then taken to the Miramar Greenery where it's turned into compost. The compost is periodically returned on site for use in the ballpark landscaping.

San Diego Airport Authority: <https://www.biocycle.net/2015/08/18/flying-high-with-food-diversion/>: Since 2013 they have begun a food waste diversion program. Apart from donating food to feed people, they divert food scraps generated by the on-site food prep in all 40 of the airport's restaurants, three prep kitchens, and the USO Airport Center, by composting it at the Miramar Greenery.

San Diego Zoo: <http://sandiegozoo.org/sdzglobal/> donates food after catered events, and composts animal food prep waste at their Children's Zoo facility and all food waste from all their restaurants at the Miramar Greenery. The Safari Park composts all main kitchen and restaurants food prep waste at the Miramar Greenery.

Ramona Unified School District: <https://www.biocycle.net/2015/03/31/school-district-rolls-out-food-waste-reduction/>: The district's innovative program finds the highest and best uses for unserved food and food scraps. Unserved food is collected by a local pantry and donated to feed people; vegetative and bakery food scraps suitable for animal feed are delivered to the district's agricultural program; and high school students compost other food scraps in an onsite Earth Tub composting unit. Landscape trimmings help provide the "brown" carbon materials needed in the composting process, and the finished compost is used in school landscapes and gardens.

Sharp Memorial Hospital: <https://www.biocycle.net/2012/12/18/hospital-chain-on-board-with-food-scrap-diversion/> has been composting all their food waste at the Miramar Greenery since 2012, and in 2016 started donating their edible food scraps to local charities.

In addition to those examples, many grocery stores, restaurants, hotels and caterers donate leftover or unsold food to hunger relief organizations.



For More Information:

EPA Sustainable Food Management Website:
<http://www2.epa.gov/sustainable-management-food>