THE FOOD DONATION ACTION PLAN FOR THE SAN DIEGO REGION

The food system includes all processes and infrastructure in place to feed a population. Food donation plays an important role in a food system in building healthy communities, supporting the economy, and enhancing the environment. Promoting and increasing food donation is one of the priorities of the Live Well San Diego Food System Initiative, which supports the Live Well San Diego vision of a region that is building better health, living safely, and thriving. To enhance region wide food donation efforts, the Food Donation Action Plan was created in collaboration with regional stakeholders to support and improve food donation and help address food insecurity, while also reducing wasted food.

ABOUT PROGRESS UPDATE, FALL 2020

Progress Update, Fall 2020 provides statistics and information on efforts taken in support of the Food Donation Action Plan, as well as steps to move forward to further support the regional food system. Since the Plan was developed, the County Board of Supervisors approved waiving the fees associated with registering or obtaining a health permit for Charitable Feeding Organizations, paving the way for 85 Charitable Feeding Organizations to increase food security and support food donation. Across food donation organizations, 75 million pounds of food was distributed, 62 million meals were served, and 27 million pounds of edible, surplus food was recovered which otherwise would have gone to waste this year. The infographic on the following page includes statistics of efforts from calendar year 2019 up to August 2020.

WHY NOW

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted gaps in our regional food system on a social, economic, and environmental level. Progress Update, Fall 2020 strives to highlight the efforts taken thus far as well as indicates future concerted efforts to strengthen the resiliency of our regional food system by improving food security, enhancing food donation, and reducing wasted food.
14.4% of the population in the San Diego region face food insecurity (2019)

75 million pounds of food distributed to those in need by the food banks and partners in the San Diego region (2020)

521,000 people receive food monthly from the food banks and pantries (2020)

62 million meals served to those in need (2020)

46% increase in food delivered from 2018

352,000 people receive CalFresh benefits (2020)

The Food Donation Action Plan was developed to help address food insecurity, improve food donation, and reduce wasted food in the region.

18 pantries added since January 2020

530,000 tons of food is wasted each year in the San Diego region (2018)

42% reduction of wasted food in 15 commercial kitchens through Smart Kitchens San Diego waste tracking technology and coaching (2020)

16,100 Too Good To Waste guides sent by the County to food facilities to promote food donation and reduce wasted food (2019)

1,040,000 people reached with Save the Food, San Diego! (2020)

39% of waste disposal in the unincorporated county is organic material (food scraps and yard waste) (2019)
PROGRESS ON RECOMMENDATIONS

What is measured: From the number of meals served to food insecure individuals to food safety training and outreach, the Food Donation Action Plan tracks 21 measures that were developed to assess progress on improving food donation efforts, reducing food insecurity, and reducing wasted food. Since the Plan's implementation, 16 of the measures have made quantifiable progress with 9 being measured as completed. The remaining 5 measures require the development of programs or plans to start tracking progress.

How is it measured: The County measures progress toward our goals by capturing the number of pounds of food or meals provided to food insecure individuals, the number of fee waivers for Charitable Feeding Organizations, the amount of funding or materials provided to pantries for food storage or safety, the number of pounds of edible food rescued from the landfill, the amount of resources provided on reducing wasted food or improving food safety, and much more. Review detailed information about the measures by reviewing the full Plan here.

How we adapt: COVID-19 has presented new challenges and highlighted areas of improvement within our regional food system and this Plan. The County and our stakeholders quickly adapted to the region's immediate needs by increasing services and implementing new programs. Since March 2020, the region has seen a 200% increase in applications for food assistance and has responded by increasing the number of individuals served by 48%, quadrupling meals served in the region's senior meal programs, and opening 35 Super Pantries for high-volume food distribution in the most food insecure areas.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE
Continued monitoring and evaluation will be conducted with lead organizations measuring ongoing and pending measures. In addition, the County and our regional food system stakeholders will update the Food Donation Action Plan to add new measures that focus on building a more resilient and nimble food system that is able to quickly respond and adapt to the needs of our population.

Check out the Food System Initiative website
PARTNERS
The efforts of the Food Donation Action Plan, as well as the creation of Progress Update, Fall 2020 was done through the continued collaboration and support of food system and food donation organizations in the region.

Leading Organizations
Feeding San Diego
Jacobs & Cushman San Diego Food Bank
Leah’s Pantry
San Diego Food System Alliance
County of San Diego
- Department of Environmental Health
- Department of Public Works
- Health & Human Services Agency, Aging & Independent Services
- Health & Human Services Agency, Eligibility Operations Office
- Health & Human Services Agency, Public Health Services
- Land Use & Environment Group

Network of Organizations
See page 21 of the Food Donation Action Plan for full acknowledgment of stakeholders, organizations, and pantries involved in the survey and development of the Plan.

City of Carlsbad
City of Chula Vista
City of Oceanside
City of San Diego
Community Health Improvement Partners
Community Resource Center
County of San Diego Department of Agriculture, Weights & Measures
County of San Diego Sheriff’s Department
EDCO
Escondido Union School District
Food and Beverage Association
Grossmont Union High School District
Heaven’s Windows
Interfaith Community Services
Jewish Family Service
Kitchens for Good
Lemon Grove School District
My Momma’s Place
ProduceGood
Public Health Alliance of Southern California
Republic Services
San Diego County Farm Bureau
San Diego County Office of Education
San Diego Hunger Coalition
San Diego Roots Sustainable Project/ Victory Gardens San Diego
San Diego State University – Dining Services
San Diego Unified School District
San Diego Zoo
San Dieguito Union High School District
Solana Center for Environmental Innovation
Stehly Farms Organics
The Foundry Community Church
Transportation Alliance Group
University of California San Diego (UCSD) – Center for Community Health
University of San Diego (USD) – Caster Family Center for Nonprofit and Philanthropic Research
USA Cab
Vista Unified School District
Waste Management
Yellow Cab

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