

# Food Donation

Program Guide for Central Contra  
Costa Businesses



## Helping Your Business Help the Hungry

### Donating Your Food is Easy!

Every year, Central Contra Costa restaurants, grocery stores, and other businesses discard tons of edible food. Businesses can now redirect that food to the plates of hungry families.

Food donation is a safe, simple practice with meaningful benefits for local businesses and our community—helping reduce food waste while helping feed our county's food insecure residents.

Working with participating vendors, businesses can easily donate foods to local non-profit organizations.



### Why Donate?

- **Support local communities**
- **Reduce waste**
- **Save money**

## New Legislation

California Senate Bill 1383 mandates that by 2025 at least 20% of the edible food that is currently disposed must be recovered and donated for human consumption. Local businesses will have to comply with these new regulations. Setting up a food donation system now makes it easier to comply with future State mandates.

### Who has to comply:

- Tier One Generators (supermarkets, grocery stores, etc.)
- Tier Two Generators (restaurants, hotels, institutions with food facilities, etc.)





# Food Donation **Helps Your Business**

## Public Recognition

Donating food demonstrates your dedication to the local community.

## Smarter Choices

Tracking the amount of food you produce helps your business become more efficient.

## Tax Incentives

Donating food that would have been discarded may qualify you for higher tax deductions.

# Food Donation **Helps Our Communities**

## Less Waste

Food Donation reduces the amount of food that goes into our landfill or compost stream.

## Healthy Environment

Less waste means lower greenhouse gas emissions and a better use of resources.

## Healthy Families

Food Donation provides nutritious meals for thousands of Contra Costa households in need.

## How it works

Food Donation is safe, simple, and easy!

- 1 Contact a participating vendor from the list on the back of this guide.
- 2 Work with them to create a program that suits your needs.
- 3 The vendor will make sure your food is delivered to those who need it.



## Case Study: Whole Foods Market Walnut Creek

Whole Foods Market Walnut Creek on Newell Avenue has been a long-standing participant in surplus food donation, working currently with White Pony Express to manage their donations. According to Program Coordinator Melody Mestemacher, donating usable food fits perfectly with one of Whole Foods Market's core values—caring for its communities and the environment. "And it just feels right," she says. The program has had an impact on the store's staff, too—they have taken tours of the White Pony Express facility for a first-hand look at the organizations it serves, and the experience has influenced other community engagement initiatives at the store. For businesses thinking about starting their own surplus food donation program, Ms. Mestemacher offers this encouraging advice:



***"It takes such little time and effort to make such a big impact on people's lives."***

## Enhanced Tax Savings\*

The federal tax code allows businesses to claim enhanced deductions on donated food; either: a) twice the basis value of the donated food, OR b) the basis value of the donated food plus one-half of the food's expected profit margin, whichever is smaller. Either way, this deduction is higher than claiming a loss on unused food.

\*Consult a tax professional for more information.



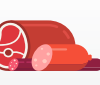





## Legal Protections

California's Good Samaritan Donation Act (AB 1219) helps protect donors of food from liability. Businesses are legally protected from criminal and civil liability when food is donated to non-profit or charitable organizations in good faith, using standard safe food handling procedures.



## Acceptable Food Types

You can donate a wide range of food types. If you have questions, a participating vendor can help.

-  Shelf-stable items (canned goods, etc.)
-  Produce (fruits and vegetables)
-  Meat, poultry, and fish / deli goods
-  Dairy goods
-  Prepared foods
-  Baked goods
-  Frozen food
-  Beverages



# Participating Vendors

The following organizations can help you set up and manage your food donation program:



**White Pony Express**  
whiteponyexpress.com



**Food Bank of Contra Costa**  
foodbankccs.org



**Copia**  
gocopia.com



**Replate**  
re-plate.org

**ChowMatch**



**ChowMatch**  
chowmatch.com

For more information, contact RecycleSmart

**RecycleSmart.org/food-recovery | authority@recyclesmart.org | 925-906-1801**



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