

Upper Peninsula Initiative Composting Project

Food Donation Basics

REDUCE WASTED FOOD BY FEEDING HUNGRY PEOPLE

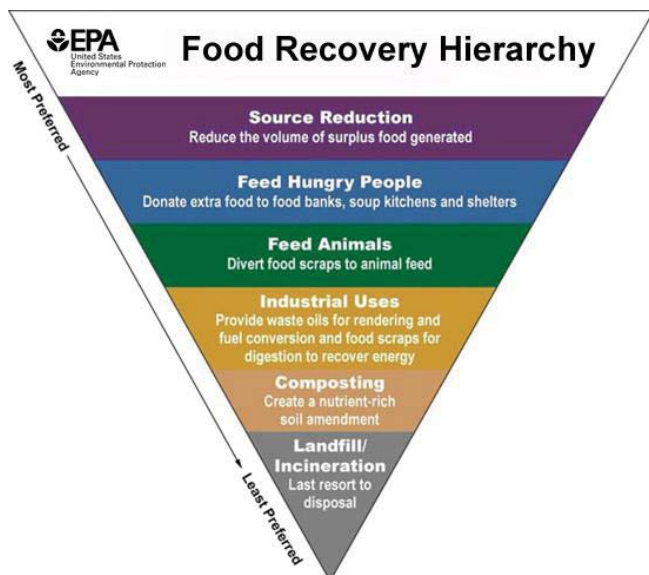
The EPA estimates 37 million tons of wasted food were thrown away in the United States in 2013.

At the same time, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, approximately 14 percent of American households were uncertain of having or unable to acquire enough food to meet the needs of all of their members at some time during 2013.

We can be leaders in our communities by collecting unspoiled, healthy food and donating it to our neighbors in need. By donating food, we're feeding people, not landfills, supporting local communities, and saving money.

FOOD RECOVERY HIERARCHY

Feed Hungry People is the 2nd tier of EPA's Food Recovery Hierarchy, illustrating it is **most preferred to donate unspoiled food before composting**.



The EPA Food Recovery Hierarchy prioritizes actions organizations can take to prevent and divert wasted food.

The top levels of the hierarchy are the best ways to prevent and divert wasted food because they create the most benefits for the environment, society and the economy.

LEGAL BASICS

Corporate donors are protected from liability under the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act (1996). Under this Act, as long as the donor has not acted with negligence or intentional misconduct, the company is not liable for damage incurred as the result of illness.

The Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act of 1996 exempts those who make good faith donations of food and grocery products to nonprofit organizations that feed the hungry from liability for injuries arising from the consumption of the donated food.

SAFETY BASICS

Many non-perishable and unspoiled perishable foods can be donated to local food banks, soup kitchens, pantries, and shelters if the transaction is managed properly. Check with local organizations for safety info.

TAX BENEFITS

There are potential tax benefits for companies that donate food. Internal Revenue Code Section 170(e)(3) provides enhanced tax deductions to businesses to encourage donations of food to qualified non-profit organizations serving the poor and needy.

LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS ACCEPTING PREPARED FOOD

Neighborhood House

77 America Street

Contact: Vonceil Mitchell at (843) 805-8064

Accepting: Most prepared food; non-perishable food

Loving America Street

51 Reid Street

Contact: Samantha Sammis at (443) 799-0414

Accepting: Bread & bakery items; non-perishable food

Star Gospel Mission

474 Meeting Street

Contact: (843) 722-2473

Accepting: Most prepared food; non-perishable food