

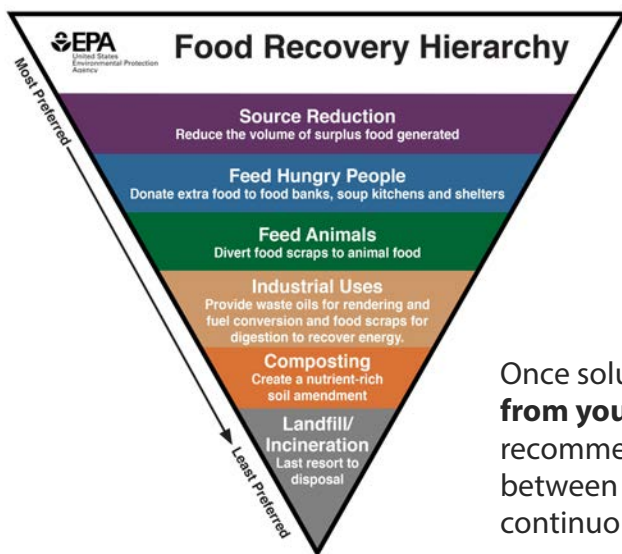
Reducing Food Waste in Carlsbad

Finding the Cause of Waste

Food waste is created in both the kitchen and the dining area of a food generating business.

- Kitchen waste can be generated through over ordering, overproduction, spoilage, trim waste, and more.
- Plate waste is affected by menu options, portion sizes, offer vs. request policies, food presentation, and more.

The **Food Recovery Hierarchy** established by the EPA helps guide priorities for managing excess food.



Benefits of reducing food waste:

- ✓ Saving money
- ✓ Providing food to those in need
- ✓ Creating a positive image for your business
- ✓ Improving the health of the environment

The first step to reducing waste is understanding the **Why, What, Where, and How Much of your food waste**. Implementing a **waste tracking method** will give you the necessary insight to determine where action is needed.

Waste audit tools:

1. Waste Assessment Guide:

[EPA's Guide to Conducting and Analyzing a Food Waste Assessment](#)

2. Pen and Paper Tracking:

[EPA's Tracking Sheet Template](#)

3. Digital Food Waste Tracking Technologies

Once solutions have been identified it is critical to get **buy-in from your staff** by creating an atmosphere that invites recommendation and input. Implementing a **feedback loop** between the front and back of house provides for continuous insight into further improvements.

Laws Around Waste

AB341	Businesses generating over 4CY of solid waste must recycle.
AB1826	Businesses generating over 2 CY of waste per week must divert organics.
AB827	Businesses must provide organics and recycling bins and signage to customers.
SB1383	Businesses must divert organics through edible recovery or by sending them to organics diversion facilities, given that their jurisdiction provides this service.

DISCLAIMER: This information does not reflect the entirety of solutions that are available. No single entity or product is endorsed.

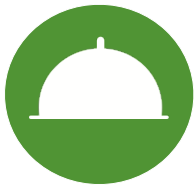
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Solutions to Waste



Purchasing

1. Adjust purchasing with demand and request flexibility from provider.
2. Practice consistent inventory management procedures.
3. Buy in bulk, Buy seasonal, Buy local.
4. Arrange to receive produce with cosmetic imperfections at a reduced cost.



Storing

1. Understand best storage and handling for each item and implement solutions to elongate usage (freezing, dehydrating, etc).
2. Make sure all staff are following "first in first out" storage process.
3. Implement a descriptive labeling system.



Preparing

1. Refine knife skills to reduce waste during trimming and cutting.
2. Utilize 'root to stalk' and 'nose to tail' methods to get the most out of your ingredients.
3. Implement just-in-time systems to reduce overproduction.



Menu and Serving:

1. Identify and drop poor performers.
2. Maximize cross-utilization of ingredients across menu items.
3. Repurpose leftovers into new dishes.
4. Offer seasonal dishes and specials to utilize ingredients before spoiling.
5. Reduce portion sizes and garnishes
6. Ask if customers are interested in sides and complimentary appetizers rather than automatically serving them.

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Food Rescue Options

FOOD DONATION

After implementing the measures to reduce the volume of surplus food, the second most preferred option to deal with excess food is donation.

By donating food, businesses can:

- ✓ Help the local community in need
- ✓ Save money through tax incentives and reduced waste hauling fees
- ✓ Transform waste to a resource
- ✓ Prevent organic waste from going to the landfill

Tax Incentives

If your business donates food to a charitable organization, you can potentially claim a deduction. Your business must generate taxable income and retain a donation record from the charitable organization. To learn more, access [Tax Deduction for Food Donation: A Legal Guide](#).

Worried about liability?

No lawsuit related to donated food has ever been filed in U.S. history. To learn more about the liability protections that exist at Federal and State levels, access [Food Donations FAQ & State Law Protections](#).



Steps to set up food donation:

1. Identify type and amount of extra food
2. Determine packaging, labeling and storage requirements
3. Understand frequency of donation need
4. Select a food rescue partner
5. Establish the process and transportation plan. Maintain logs of food donation



Recycling – What to do with waste that is unavoidable?

There are several options for recycling unavoidable portions of food waste such as diverting it as **animal feed, composting, or oil recycling**. Check our resources table to **learn more about companies that provide these services in San Diego County**.

City of Carlsbad is currently working with CalRecycle, the city's trash hauler, Waste Management, and other jurisdictions in San Diego County to find a regional solution for composting and energy cogeneration option. More information will be available soon.

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Resources

Link to resources	Organization
Food Waste Prevention	
Guide to Food Waste Reduction	CET Food Waste Tool Box
Guide to Food Waste Separation	CET Food Waste Tool Box
50 food waste prevention ideas	LeanPath
Reducing Wasted Food & Packaging: A Guide for Restaurants	EPA
A Guide on How to Conduct and Analyze Food Waste Assessment	EPA
Food Donation	
Guide to Food Rescue	CET & Solana Center
County's food donation guide	County of San Diego
Safety and Liability	
Food Donations FAQ & State Law Protections	County of SD & SDFSA
Tax Incentives	
Tax Deduction for Food Donation: A Legal Guide	Harvard Food Law and Policy Clinic
Rescue Agencies	
Feeding San Diego / download MealConnect app	Contact Kate Garret - kgarrett@feedingsandiego.org
San Diego Food Bank	Kayla Thomson - kthomson@sandiegofoodbank.org
Interfaith Services	Carlsbad Service Center - Phone: (760) 448-5696
Recycling Services	
Animal feed	Imperial Western Products
Oil Recycling	Imperial Western Products Liquid Environmental Solutions

For more information and to access this document electronically, please visit carlsbadca.gov/recycling, or email recycle.trash@Carlsbadca.gov.

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