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Department of Environmental Protection

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Reducing Food Waste

A How to Guide for Businesses and Institutions

Updated June 2013

Why prevent Food Waste?

- **Improve your bottom line** through cost savings from improved purchasing and preparation practices and reduced waste disposal fees.
 - Food waste losses account for \$30-\$40 billion annually within the commercial and institutional sector, according to the U.S. EPA. (1)
- **Support** your community by using leftover food to feed people in need.
- **Reduce your environmental footprint** and greenhouse gas emissions.
 - According to the U.S. EPA, food waste accounted for 14% or 35 million tons of total municipal solid waste in 2010.
- **Get recognized** for your achievements with food reduction and recovery programs.
- **Access free technical assistance** setting up your program and undertaking food recovery with RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts.

How to prevent food waste - Steps your business or institution can take:

1. Reduce

- **Order or produce less** – By modifying your ordering/purchasing – both quantities and timing – you can greatly reduce the amount of surplus food. Simply, buy only what you will use.
 - One of the best ways to determine what can be modified is by conducting an organics waste audit. This will help establish a baseline measure of the amount of food you throw away.
 - EPA provides a template for a food waste tracking log:
<http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/consERVE/pubs/food-waste-log.pdf>
- **Proper Storage and Preparation** – Continually review production and handling practices to make sure food is being handled and stored in the best possible way.

(1) EPA: Putting Surplus Food to Good Waste - <http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/consERVE/pubs/food-guide.pdf>

This information is available in alternate format. Call Michelle Waters-Ekanem, Diversity Director, at 617-292-5751. TDD# 1-866-539-7622 or 1-617-574-6868
MassDEP Website: www.mass.gov/dep

Printed on Recycled Paper

- For example, by reviewing your menus and what you offer to employees at meetings or in the cafeteria, you can determine if certain items account for excessive preparation waste.
- **Cook as you go** – Batch cooking is a great way to help reduce waste in the kitchen, especially in large cafeterias or corporate dining facilities where food is made to order.
- **Use every last bit** – By using as much as possible of your cooking product, you are not only helping to reduce waste, you are also providing different food options.
 - For example, consider all secondary uses for excess food – leftover bread can become croutons, excess rice can become fried rice, and brown bananas can be used for banana bread.
 - Try this website for some ideas: <http://www.delish.com/recipes/cooking-recipes/ideas-for-common-leftovers-recipes>
- **Go Trayless** – Studies show that diners provided with trays tend to take additional servings just because there is room left on their trays in the lunch room. Switching to trayless service can greatly reduce food waste.
- **Invite a culture shift** – By educating your employees about the benefits of food waste reduction through discussions and visibility, you can help usher in a culture shift in the workplace.

2. *Redistribute/Donate*

- **Feed people in need** – Donate extra food to local food banks, shelters and soup kitchens. There are many people in need that may be located right in your neighborhood.
 - Many national organizations offer free bins and free pickup for surplus.
- **Feed animals** – Divert food scraps to animal feed at a nearby farm. Many local farmers would be more than happy to cut down on their overhead costs and feed your food scraps to their animals.
- **Follow the pyramid** – For food that cannot be reduced or donated, seek other alternatives to disposal such as composting or anaerobic digestion using EPA's food pyramid as a guide: <http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/conservation/pubs/food-guide.pdf>

How does the law protect businesses from liability?

- The "Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act" ([Public Law 104-210](#)) makes it easier for businesses to donate to food banks and food recovery programs. It protects donors from liability when donating to nonprofit organizations and protects donors from civil and criminal liability should the product donated in good faith later cause harm to the needy recipient.

Please see the end of this document for a partial list of donation locations in Massachusetts.

For a searchable directory of food pantries, please visit: www.findafoodpantry.org

Food Banks and Other Food Donation Options

Non-perishable and unspoiled perishable food can be donated to local food banks, soup kitchens, pantries, and shelters. Doing so helps to feed the hungry, prevents good, edible food from going to waste, as well as reduces the quantity of food waste that goes to landfills. Massachusetts has a number of such organizations such as food banks, soup kitchens, youth or senior centers, shelters and pantries willing to take donations.

Feeding People In Need:

(Listed alphabetically by city/town name)

- **The Arlington Food Pantry**
Church of Our Savior, 21 Marathon St., Arlington, MA 02476
Website: http://www.town.arlington.ma.us/public_documents/arlingtonma_hserve/pantry/index
Donations: Non-Perishable Food, Baby Food and Baby Care Items, Beverages & Condiments, Personal Care Items
- **Beverly Bootstraps Food Pantry**
371 Cabot St., Beverly, MA 01915
Phone: 978-927-1561
Website: www.beverlybootstraps.org
Donations: Food and Personal Care Items
- **The Greater Boston Food Bank**
70 South Bay Ave., Boston, MA 02118
Phone: 617-427-5200
Website: www.gbfb.org
Donations: Prepared Foods, Fresh Produce, Back Pack, Salvage
- **Boston Rescue Mission**
39 Kingston St., Boston, Massachusetts, 02112
Phone: 617-338-9000 (x 1225)
Website: <http://www.brm.org>
Donations: Food, Toiletries, Clothing, Small Appliances
- **Bourne Friends Food Pantry**
20 Commerce Park, Pocasset, MA 02559
Phone: (508) 759-3351
Website: www.bournecouncilonaging.org/foodpantry.html
Donations: Perishable and Non-Perishable Food
- **Braintree Community Food Pantry**
594 Washington St., Braintree, MA 02184
Phone: (781) 277-1609
Website: www.braintreefoodpantry.org

Donations: Non-Perishable Food

- **Charity Guild the Food Pantry**
501 Main St., Brockton, MA 02305
Phone: (508) 583-5280
Website: <http://thecharityguild.org/foodpantry/>
Donations: Perishable and Non-Perishable Food
- **Burlington Community Food Pantry**
10 Saint Marks Rd, Burlington, MA 01803
Phone: (781) 270-6625
Website: <http://peoplehelpingpeopleinc.org/communityPantry.html>
Donations: Non-Perishable Food, Beverages & Condiments, Personal Care Items, Detergents & Cleaning Agents, Paper Products
- **Canton Helpline Food Pantry**
960R Washington St., Canton, MA 02021
Phone: (781) 821-8062
Website: town.canton.ma.us/pantry/Default.htm
Donations: Non-Perishable Food, Personal Care Items, Household Products
- **Dedham Food Pantry**
600 Washington St., Dedham, MA 02026
Phone: 781-320-9442
P.O. Box 46
Website: www.dedhamfoodpantry.org
Donations: Non-Perishable Food and Personal Care Items
- **Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry**
234 Barnum Rd., Devens, MA 01434
Phone: (978) 772-4627
Website: <http://www.loavesfishespantry.org>
Donations: Non-Perishable Food, Personal Care Items
- **Easton Food Pantry**
136 Elm St North Easton, MA 02356
Phone: (508) 230-0663
Website:
http://www.easton.ma.us/easton_residents/financial_assistance/easton_food_pantry.php
Donations: Non-Perishable Food, Personal Care Items, Pet Food, Reusable Tote Bags
- **Franklin Food Pantry**
43 West Central St., Franklin, MA 02038
Phone: (508) 528-3115
Website: www.franklinfoodpantry.org
Donations: Perishable and Non-Perishable Food, Personal Care Items, Household Cleaning Items, Reusable Shopping Bags
- **Acord Food Pantry**

69 Willow St., Hamilton, MA 01982

Phone: (978) 468-7424

Website: <http://www.acordfoodpantry.org/>

Donations: Non-Perishable Food, Beverages & Condiments, Toiletries, Paper Products, Household Cleaning Products

- **The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts**

97 North Hatfield Road, Hatfield, MA 01038

Phone: 413-247-9738; Fax: 413-247-9577

Website: www.foodbankwma.org

Donations: Fresh Produce, Salvage

- **Hingham Interfaith Food Pantry**

685 Main St., Hingham, MA 02043

Phone: (781) 740-8180

Website: <http://www.sharingweb.org/agencies/orgdetail.asp?OrgID=27>

Donations: Food

- **Holliston Pantry Shelf**

23 Water St., Holliston, MA 01746

Phone: (508) 429-5392

Website: hollistonpantrysshelf.org

Donations: Food and Personal Care Items

- **Merrimack Valley Food Bank**

735 Broadway St., Lowell, MA 01854

Phone: 978-454-7272; Fax: 978-454-1717

Website: <http://mvfb.org>

Donations: Food and Personal Care Items

- **Food Pantry of Merrimack Valley**

70 Lawrence St., Lowell, MA 01852

Phone: (978) 454-9946

Website: <http://www.ccab.org/lowell-food-pantry.html>

Donations: Food

- **The Open Pantry of Greater Lowell**

200 Central St., Lowell, MA 01852

Phone: (978) 453-6693

Website: <http://theopenpantry.org>

Donations: Perishable and Non-Perishable Food, Personal Care Items, Paper Products, Pet Food

- **Marshfield Food Pantry**

1981 Ocean St., Marshfield, MA 02050

Phone: (781) 837-0359

Website: <http://marshfieldfoodpantry.org/index.html>

Donations: Non-Perishable Food, Pet Food

- **Our Daily Bread Friends Caring & Sharing**

15 West St., Mansfield, MA 02048

Phone: (508) 339-1343

Website: http://www.occmansfield.org/Food%20Pantry_files/foodpantrysite/home.html

Donations: Non-Perishable Food

- **Maynard Food Pantry**

12 Vose Hill Rd., Maynard, MA 01754

Phone: (978) 897-8340

Website: <http://web.maynard.ma.us/civic/pantry>

Donations: Non-Perishable Food, Baby Food & Formula, Personal Care Items, Detergents, Paper Products

- **Medfield Food Cupboard**

496 Main St., Medfield, MA 02052

Phone: (508) 359-4958

Website: <http://medfieldfoodcupboard.com>

Donations: Non-Perishable Food, Personal Care Items, Cleaning Products & Detergents, Paper Products

- **Daily Bread Food Pantry**

21 Exchange St., Milford, MA 01757

Phone: (508) 478-4225

Website: <http://trinitychurchmilford.org/outreach.html#foodpantry>

Donations: Food

- **Nantucket Emergency Food Pantry**

20 Fair St., Nantucket, MA 02554

Phone: (508) 228-7438

Website: <http://nantucketinterfaithcouncil.org/nantucket-food-pantry/>

Donations: Perishable and Non-Perishable Food

- **Northborough Food Pantry**

63 Main St., Northborough, MA 01532

Phone: (508) 393-6897

Website: <http://nfpantry.org/nfp/>

Donations: Perishable and Non-Perishable Food

- **Haven from Hunger**

71 Wallis St., Peabody, MA 01960

Phone: (978) 531-1530

Website: www.havenfromhunger.org

Donations: Food

- **Roslindale Congregational Church RCC Food Pantry**

25 Cummins Highway, Roslindale, MA 02131

Phone: (617) 325-9755

Website: <http://roscon.org/food-pantry>

Donations: Non-Perishable Food

- **Sandwich Food Pantry**
 331 Cotuit Road, Sandwich, MA 02563
 Phone: (508) 888-3816
 Website: www.sandwichfoodpantry.org
 Donations: Non-Perishable Food, Toiletries, Detergents
- **Worcester County Food Bank, Inc.**
 474 Boston Turnpike, Shrewsbury, MA 01545
 Phone: (508) 842-3663; Fax: 508-842-7405
 Website: www.foodbank.org
 Donations: Perishable and Non-Perishable Food, Prepared Food, Fresh Produce, Salvage
- **Project Soup**
 15 Franklin St., Somerville, MA 02145
 Phone: (617) 776-7687
 Website: <http://somervillehomelesscoalition.org/programs/Project%20Soup.html>
 Donations: Non-Perishable Food, Baby Food, Personal Care Items, Household Items, Paper Products
- **Our Community Food Pantry**
 220 College Highway, Southwick, MA 01077
 Phone: (413) 569-9876
 Website: www.community-food-pantry.org
 Donations: Perishable and Non-Perishable Food, Paper Products
- **Wachusett Food Pantry**
 50 Worcester Road, Sterling, MA 01564
 Phone: (508) 829-2749
 Website: <http://www.wfp1995.org/index.shtml>
 Donations: Perishable and Non-Perishable Food
- **Tewksbury Food Pantry**
 999 Whipple Road, Tewksbury, MA 01876
 Phone: (978) 858-2273
 Website: www.tewksburypantry.org
 Donations: Non-Perishable Food, Personal Care Items, Detergent, Household Cleaning Items, Foils, Trash Bags, Storage Bags, Paper Plates, Plastic Ware
- **The Island Food Pantry**
 Church St & Williams, St Vineyard Haven, MA 02568
 Phone: (508) 693-4764
 Website: www.islandfoodpantry.org
 Donations: Non-Perishable Food
- **Wakefield Interfaith Food Pantry**
 8 Lafayette St., Wakefield, MA 01880
 Phone: (781) 245-2510
 Website: www.wifoodpantry.org/index.html
 Donations: Non-Perishable Food, Spices, Condiments, Beverages, Cleaning Products, Personal Care Items

- Weymouth Food Pantry**
 1189 Commercial St., Weymouth, MA 02189
 Phone : (781) 331-7682
 Website: weymouthfoodpantry.org
 Donations: Non-Perishable Food, Meat, Milk, Cheese, Eggs, Personal Care Items
- Woburn Council of Social Concern**
 2 Merrimac St., Woburn, MA 01801-1606
 Phone: (781) 935-6495
 Website: www.socialconcern.org
 Donations: Non-perishable food
- Rachel's Table**
 633 Salisbury St., Worcester, MA 01609
 Phone: (508)799-7600
 Website: <http://www.rachelstable.org>
 Donations: Perishable Food (Fresh or Prepared)

Animal Feed Options

Food discards can be recovered as animal feed. For this, farmers may provide storage containers and free or low-cost pick-up service. Appropriate excess food may also be provided to zoos for use as feed for select animals, based upon the determination of each zoo's animal feeding experts. There are also companies that convert food discards into commercial animal feed and pet food. Feeding waste food to livestock or having the food processed into animal feed is an excellent option for recycling food scraps that provides economic and environmental benefits.

Haulers:

(Listed alphabetically by city/town name)

- C. B. Trucking, Medway, MA**
 Phone: (508) 533-7760
 Region: C, E
 Description: Provides residential pickup in Needham, but will pickup food waste from small to large generators of this waste. All food waste is brought to licensed pig farmers. Primarily serves Needham and Wellesley residents and businesses, and other nearby areas in Eastern Massachusetts.
- Troiano Trucking**
 Phone: (508) 839-1300
 Region: All New England
 Description: Picks up food bi-products to be made into animal feed including sugars, grains, cereals, cookies, crackers, and other organics in compactors and roll-offs from high volume generators. The organic waste is then brought to a DEP approved composting facility.

Processors:

(Listed alphabetically by city/town name)

Licensed food waste processors have obtained a permit from the Massachusetts Department of Food and Agriculture to collect food residuals, cook it, and feed it to their livestock. These farming institutions will pick-up or accept delivery of food waste, including meat products, to be cooked and fed to their livestock.

- **Starretts Farm**
18 Pleasant St., Mendon, MA
Contact: Paul Starrett
Phone: (508) 473-5622
Region: E, C
Description: Picks up food waste, including meat products. Generator must provide drums for food waste collection.
- **Shaw's Pig Farm**
Nashua, NH
Contact: Chris Shaw
Phone: (603) 878-3448
Region: NE, E
Description: Picks up food waste, including meat products. Generator must provide drums for food waste collection.
- **Plante Brothers**
110 Oak St., Norton, MA
Contact: Brian Plante
Phone: (508) 285-6821
Region: SE, C
Description: Picks up food waste, including meat products. Generator must provide drums for food waste collection.

Industrial Uses

Liquid fats and solid meat products can be used as raw materials in the rendering industry, which converts them into animal food, cosmetics, soap, and other products. Many companies will provide storage barrels and free pick-up service. Fats, oils, and grease (FOGS) are also now being collected in more and more areas around the country and being converted by a local manufacturer into environmentally friendly biodiesel fuel.

Processors:

(Listed alphabetically by city/town name)

- **Baker Commodities Inc.**
134 Rear Billerica Ave., Billerica, MA 01862
Phone: (978)454-8811
Fax: (978)654-7788
Website: <http://www.bakercommodities.com/location-detail.php?d=6>
Services in rendering, restaurant grease collection, jetting, and fat and bone collection. Recycled and used cooking oil into high-protein ingredients for poultry feed and pet food, tallow (a valuable ingredient in soaps, paints, cosmetics, and more), and also convert used

cooking oil into "yellow grease," a key ingredient in biodiesel fuels.

- **Martucci & Sons Inc.**
126 Newmarket Square, Boston, MA
Phone: (617) 442-8905
Collector of Fryolator Oil, Fat & Bones
- **American by Products Co. Inc.**
13 Andrew St., Lynn, MA
Phone: (781) 593-3580
Collectors of Fryolator Grease, Fats and Bones, Tallow Scheduled Pickups
- **Great East Refining Co.**
13 Andrew St., Lynn, MA
Phone: (781) 592-0251
- **A & K Waste Systems Inc.**
126 Newmarket Square, Roxbury, MA
Phone: (617) 442-6732
Removal and recycling used cooking oil into bio-diesel and removal and rendering of Fat, Bones, Fish waste, and all other types of Food Waste from Boston and surrounding areas.
- **Morse Tallow Co.**
66 Norfolk Avenue, Roxbury, MA
Phone: (617) 445-0700
Animals and Marine Fats and Oils rendering
- **Western Mass. Rendering Co. Inc.**
94 Foster Road, Southwick, MA 01077
Phone: (413) 569-6265
Fax: (413) 569-6512
Website: <http://www.westernmassrendering.com/>
Recycle fats, bones and spent frying grease to help create lubricants, animal feed, soap products and bio-fuels rendering