



Donation Resources

Food Donations

According to the EPA:

- More than **36 million tons** of food waste was generated in 2011, 96% of which was thrown away into landfills or incinerators;
- As of 2013, 16% of households in the U.S. are food insecure, meaning they do not know where their next meal will come from;
- Wasted food means wasted money for businesses and residences;
- When food decomposes in landfills it generates greenhouse gases; keeping food out of landfills prevents millions of pounds of CO₂ and methane from being released into the atmosphere.

Financial Benefits of Donating Food

- Instead of paying for waste hauling services for edible food, food banks can pick up food, typically for free. By keeping edible food out of the dumpster, you can also reduce trash disposal fees.

Donating food can generate potential tax deductions. Consult with the food donation site for more information about supplying donation receipts and determine if it's applicable for your production

How to Donate?

First, there are laws that exist to address food donations and to protect the donor from liability e.g. [Federal](#) (U.S.), [State](#) (Australia) and [Provincial](#) (Canada).

Second, the below are general guidelines but be sure to comply with any local regulations and check with the local health authority to ensure adherence to safe food handling requirements.

Where Can We Donate?

There are multitudes of great organizations working to feed communities: Food banks, schools and churches that have food recovery programs are always an excellent and knowledgeable resource. Other non-profit organizations also exist where their sole mission is to collect food donations for those in need. Refer to GreenProductionGuide.com to find recommended organizations in your area; submit recipient organizations you work with for future production referral.





Arranging for Food Donation Pick-up

1. During pre-production, connect with a local food bank or food recovery organization in each filming location. (1- 2 weeks' notice is preferred to make arrangements). The food bank or food recovery organization must be a nonprofit organization that is operating for religious, charitable, or educational purposes and does not provide net earnings to, or operate in any other manner that inures to the benefit of, any officer, employee, or shareholder of such organization.
2. If requested or required by your production company &/or the caterer, provide to each receiving organization a [Food Donation Agreement](#) that must be signed by an authorized representative prior to or at first pick up.
3. The receiving organization contact should be added to the Call Sheet e-distribution list and kept informed of catering schedule changes to ensure timely food pickup.
4. Recipients of food donations should provide a tracking report that lists (at minimum): the date, quantity and value that was donated.

Additional Steps

5. Use the [Green Production Guide Calculator](#) (created by [Rock & Wrap It Up](#)) to see how much waste was diverted.
6. Track disposal fees and hauling services cost savings due to amount of diverted waste. Enter data into PEAR and/or Sustainability Report.

Protocols When Donating

- Staff handling food should follow proper hand washing and hygiene practices.
- Avoid cross-contamination of foods by keeping raw food (particularly meats) away from cooked or ready to eat food.
- Store items to be donated in a designated area that follows safe food storage protocols to avoid contamination.
- Work with the recipient organization to ensure food is received and transported safely and maintained at a proper temperature.



The Following Foods Should Never Be Donated:

- Dented, swollen, leaking or rusty cans;
- Dry goods that show evidence of moisture;
- Any food with packaging that is not intact;
- Any food showing signs of spoilage or decay (such as mold or a bad odor)

Other Useful Tools

- [Food Recovery – a legal guide](#)
- [Food Safety Basics](#)
- [Tax Deduction for Food Donation, a Legal Guide](#)
- [U.S. Federal Food Donation Act of 2008](#)
- [EPA Guide to Conducting and Analyzing a Food Waste Assessment](#)
- [Reducing Wasted Food & Packaging: EPA Guide for Food Services and Restaurants](#)

Please refer to the vendor list at GreenProductionGuide.com to find vendors in your area.

