



Rescuing Food From Going to Waste: Benefiting People, the Environment and the Economy

An enormous amount of food is wasted in the United States each year. Information from ReFED—a collaboration of business, nonprofit, foundation and government leaders committed to reducing food waste in the United States—indicates that 72 billion pounds of safe, wholesome food does not make it to the kitchen table every year in our country.

Food loss occurs at every stage of the food production and distribution system. Excluding consumer waste at home, 52 billion pounds of food from manufacturers, grocery stores and restaurants end up in landfills. An additional 20 billion pounds of fruits and vegetables are not harvested on farms or left in fields to be ploughed under.¹

The significant resources, energy and funds required to produce food are all lost when the food does not make it to our plates. And all this loss takes place in a country where 40 million people do not have enough to eat. We simply cannot allow billions of pounds of good food to be thrown away while our neighbors struggle to get the food they need to lead strong, healthy lives. We must curb food waste now to be able to feed our growing global population, which is expected to reach nine billion people by 2050.

FEEDING AMERICA IS LEADING THE WAY IN FOOD RESCUE

Feeding America is leveraging our position as the largest food-rescue and domestic hunger-relief organization to bring together public, private and nonprofit organizations to rescue more food, drive awareness and mobilize the larger community to take action for food rescue. Because of our unparalleled national and local partnerships with grocery retailers, food manufacturers, foodservice operators, farmers and others across the food supply chain, we have unique access to food that might otherwise go to waste. Our stringent food-safety standards distinguish Feeding America from other hunger-relief organizations and encourage our partners to donate significant quantities of food to help nourish people facing hunger. Additionally, our nationwide food bank network can quickly distribute food to communities across the country. Feeding America is the leading food-rescue partner across the food industry, currently diverting 3.5 billion pounds of food from going to waste each year and providing it to people in need.

**Feeding America rescues
3.5 billion pounds of food
annually and provides it to
people in need.**

¹ ReFED (Rethink Food Waste through Economics and Data), "A Roadmap to Reduce U.S. Food Waste by 20 Percent," (2016). All stats in paragraph are from ReFED. Note: ReFED numbers are in tons, this is converted to pounds.



THE COST OF FOOD LOSS²

Feeding America is committed to creating sustainable solutions to prevent good food from going to waste so it can fill the kitchen cupboards of people in need and help close the meal gap in our country.

72 billion pounds of food is lost each year, not including waste at home



\$218 billion worth of food is thrown away each year



21% of landfill volume is food waste



21% of fresh water is used to produce food that is then discarded.



FeedingAmerica.org

Feeding America's Food-Rescue Priorities

Divert more food from going to waste: Consumer-facing foodservice businesses, including restaurants and hotels, offer one of the most significant opportunities to rescue more food. Feeding America is expanding our ability to capture food from foodservice locations. We are also investing in existing programs and partnerships to capture product from grocery retailers and food manufacturers that would otherwise go to waste.

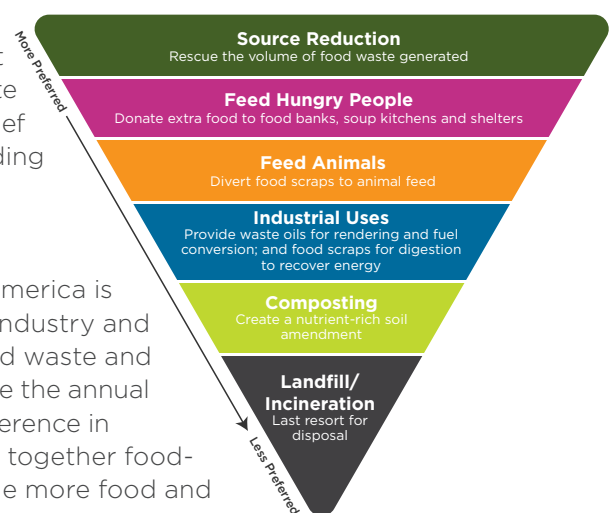
Rescue fresh, nutritious foods: Helping the people we serve access healthy foods is critical to the Feeding America network. However, billions of pounds of fresh produce do not make it to families' tables every year. Feeding America works to source millions of pounds of fruits and vegetables from farmers to help feed those in need, and with your help, we can do even more.

Advocate for food-rescue legislation and policy changes:

Feeding America educates Congress and the Administration about food waste and food rescue. Recently, we successfully advocated for Congress to pass legislation providing tax deductions for small businesses, farmers and ranchers. This will make it more cost-effective to donate excess product to hunger-relief organizations including Feeding America and our nationwide network of food banks.

Build awareness: Feeding America is collaborating with the food industry and policymakers to address food waste and hunger together. We convene the annual Food Rescue Summit, a conference in Washington, D.C. that brings together food-rescue stakeholders to rescue more food and maximize our impact through working together. Additionally, we have partnered with the USDA on the U.S. Food Waste Challenge and are working with the food industry through the Food Waste Reduction Alliance.

EPA FOOD RECOVERY HIERARCHY



The Time is Now

The White House, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have issued statements of support for Target 12.3 of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, which involves reducing food waste by 50 percent by 2030. EPA's food recovery hierarchy (see graphic at above right) indicates that feeding people who struggle with hunger is the highest-value use of excess food, emphasizing that all good, unsold food should be donated before being considered for any other use. Join Feeding America as we work to help realize this goal. By working together, we can rescue more food and provide more people with the nourishment they need to reach for a better future.

² ReFED, "A Roadmap to Reduce U.S. Food Waste by 20 Percent," (2016).