

Edible Food Recovery

<https://calrecycle.ca.gov/>

Detailed information and valuable resources for commercial businesses to initiate the development of an Edible Food Recovery Program will be available on the CalRecycle website.

Resources

<https://calrecycle.ca.gov/organics/slep/foodrecovery/>

All food donations must meet the food safety requirements of the California Retail Food Code.

Toolkits and Resources are provided on on safe surplus food donation and food safety, please visit:

- *California Conference of Directors of Environmental Health*



- *Safe Surplus Food Toolkit (guidance for food facilities)*



- *Safe Surplus Food Donation Toolkit (guidance for environmental health departments)*



- *Food Donation Resources from the Public Health Alliance of Southern California*

Healthy Food Systems Resources
Campaign Resources for Consumer Educators



FAQ's

<https://calrecycle.ca.gov/organics/slep/faq/foodrecovery/#orgs-services>

1. Can I be held liable for donating food?

- The California Good Samaritan Food Donation Act (state) and the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act (National) offers protection as long as the foods being donated are handled in a safe and sanitary manner.

2. What foods can be donated?

- Almost anything you serve or sell can be donated, including meats and dairy even if they are close to their expiration date. There are a few exceptions such as, "homemade foods" (without a valid health permit), baby food and infant formula that has exceeded its expiration date or specially processed foods (e.g. Reduced Oxygen Packaged), but you can learn more about these items from Environmental Health.

3. Would an arrangement for food recovery that is not a contract or written agreement be acceptable for compliance?

- SB 1383's regulations require commercial edible food generators to establish a contract or written agreement with a food recovery organization or a food recovery service for food recovery. Requiring a contract or written agreement with supporting documentation of the contract or written agreement is critical to ensure that edible food is recovered in a safe, professional, and reliable manner.