



Benefits of the Perishable Food Recovery Program

We are immensely proud of our Perishable Food Recovery Program (PFRP) and what we have achieved so far.

We believe it is a key component in our community's efforts of addressing climate change and promoting environmental sustainability, it is a practical and impactful solution to reducing food waste, conserving natural resources, lowering greenhouse gas emissions, and promoting sustainable food systems.

By supporting our program our community is taking meaningful steps toward a more sustainable future, where environmental health, food security, and community resilience are mutually reinforced.

<p>Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions When food waste ends up in landfills, it decomposes and produces methane, a potent greenhouse gas that is 25 times more effective than carbon dioxide at trapping heat in the atmosphere. Landfills are a primary source of methane due to the anaerobic decomposition of organic matter like food waste. By diverting food waste from landfills we directly reduce the production of methane, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation efforts.</p>	<p>Reduction in Landfill Waste Landfills are not only a source of methane but also pose significant risks of leachate contamination to nearby soil and water bodies. Diverting food waste from landfills helps mitigate these environmental hazards and reduces the pressure on landfill space, a growing concern. With less waste in landfills, the need for new sites diminishes, leading to cleaner, safer environments and the preservation of natural ecosystems.</p>
<p>Support for Circular Economy The PFRP embodies the principles of a circular economy by keeping food in the supply chain rather than discarding it. This approach not only reduces waste but also maximizes the value extracted from the resources used in food production. It supports the development of sustainable food systems where waste is minimized, and resources are continuously reused or repurposed.</p>	<p>Community Resilience In our community food insecurity is a pressing issue. The PFRP addresses this by redirecting surplus food to those in need, ensuring that nutritious food reaches our vulnerable populations. This not only enhances community resilience but also reduces the pressure on social services and emergency food providers. Our PFRP involves local businesses and volunteers, fostering strong community ties and a more resilient local food network.</p>
<p>Lowering Carbon Footprint Food production, transportation, and processing contribute to a significant portion of global carbon emissions. When food is wasted, all the energy and resources used in its production are also wasted. Recovering and redistributing food reduces the demand for new food production, thereby lowering the overall carbon footprint of the food system.</p>	<p>Resource Conservation Food production requires substantial resources, including water, energy, and land. Agriculture accounts for approximately 70% of global freshwater use. When food is wasted, the water used to grow it is also wasted. By recovering food, we maximize the use of these resources, contributing to more sustainable agricultural practices.</p>

The future of our program

We envision a future where our Perishable Food Recovery Program continues to grow and evolve, playing an even more significant role in our community's fight against food insecurity and environmental degradation. Our hope is to expand our reach, recovering more food and ensuring that every individual in need has access to fresh, nutritious options. We aim to strengthen partnerships with local businesses and organizations, creating a robust network dedicated to sustainability and social impact.

As we look ahead, we aspire to lead by example, showcasing how effective food recovery can contribute to a healthier planet and a stronger, more resilient community. We believe our program can serve as a model for policy development at local, regional, and national levels, inspiring legislation that promotes waste reduction, supports food donation, and encourages sustainable practices throughout the food supply chain. Such policies could have widespread impacts, amplifying the environmental benefits of food recovery efforts. We envision our program becoming a beacon of innovation and efficiency, inspiring similar initiatives across our region and continuing to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve.

In conclusion, our Perishable Food Recovery Program is not only a vital resource for addressing food insecurity but also a significant contributor to global sustainability efforts. By aligning with several of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production, and Goal 13: Climate Action, our program plays a key role in reducing food waste and achieving targets related to sustainable resource use, waste reduction, and climate change mitigation.

We are committed to engaging the public through volunteer opportunities, educational campaigns, and community events that raise awareness about the environmental impact of food waste. These activities inspire behavioral changes that support waste reduction, fostering a culture of sustainability with lasting impacts on both individual and collective actions. Together, we can create a more sustainable future for our community and the planet.

UN Sustainable Development Goals

Our perishable food recovery program aligns with several United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly those focused on eradicating hunger, promoting responsible consumption, and tackling climate change. Here are the key SDGs it complies with:

1. **SDG 2: Zero Hunger**
 - **Target 2.1:** End hunger and ensure access by all people, particularly vulnerable populations, to safe, nutritious, and sufficient food.
 - **Impact:** Food recovery programs help redirect surplus food to people in need, reducing hunger and improving food security.
2. **SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production**
 - **Target 12.3:** By 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains.
 - **Impact:** Food recovery programs reduce food waste by diverting perishable items from landfills and distributing them to those who need them, supporting more sustainable consumption.
3. **SDG 13: Climate Action**
 - **Target 13.2:** Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies, and planning.
 - **Impact:** Food waste generates greenhouse gas emissions, primarily methane. Recovering and redistributing food reduces the environmental impact associated with food waste, contributing to efforts to mitigate climate change.
4. **SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being**
 - **Target 3.9:** Substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water, and soil pollution.
 - **Impact:** Ensuring that surplus nutritious perishable food is redirected to people instead of being wasted helps improve public health by providing better nutrition and reducing pollution from food waste.
5. **SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities**
 - **Target 11.6:** Reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal waste management.
 - **Impact:** Perishable food recovery programs help cities manage food waste sustainably, decreasing the strain on urban waste management systems and lowering the city's environmental footprint.