

A Regional Approach to Edible Food Recovery

New Mexico Recycling and Solid Waste Conference

September 19, 2023



Importance of Food Donation

- 38 million food insecure in the US (12 million children). USDA
- 30%-40% of all food produced is wasted
- 31% of it occurs at the retail and consumer levels. USDA
 - 133 billion pounds / Value of \$161B
- During COVID-19 - food insecurity levels doubled. NPR



California's Organics Diversion Law

State Target

- 50% reduction of organics in landfills by 2020
- 75% reduction by 2025
- **20 % reduction of edible food in landfills by 2025**

Organics:

- Food
- Green waste
- Landscape & Pruning waste
- Organic Textiles & Carpets
- Paper products
- Printing & Writing paper
- Lumber
- Wood
- Manure
- Digestate
- Biosolids
- Sludges

TIER 1

January 1, 2022

Tier one businesses typically have more produce, fresh grocery, and shelf-stable foods to donate.



FOOD
SERVICE
PROVIDERS



FOOD
DISTRIBUTORS



WHOLESALE
FOOD
VENDORS



GROCERY STORES
≥ 10,00 SQ FT
AND SUPERMARKETS

TIER 2

January 1, 2024

Tier two businesses typically have more prepared foods to donate, which often require more careful handling to meet food safety requirements (e.g., time and temperature controls).



HEALTH
FACILITIES



STATE
AGENCY
CAFETERIAS



RESTAURANTS



LARGE VENUES
AND EVENTS



LOCAL
EDUCATION
AGENCIES



HOTELS

San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments

The SGVCOG serves as a subregional government agency that maximizes resources and promotes regional and member interests to improve the quality of life in the San Gabriel Valley.

Program Areas:

- Homelessness & Housing
- Sustainability & Environment
- Transportation
- Water
- Capital Projects

SGVCOG Regional Food Recovery Program

- Phase 1 Launched in September 2021
- 14 participating cities
- Identified Food Recovery Organizations and assessed their capacity to accept edible food.
- Estimated edible food generated by food generators
- Developed and implemented an outreach and education plan
- Inspecting Tier 1 and Tier 2 EFGs and assessing 1383 compliance
- Implementing enforcement programs



What You Need To Know About
**EDIBLE FOOD
RECOVERY/
DONATION
REQUIREMENTS**

To address food insecurity and to reduce unnecessary food waste, California Senate Bill (SB) 1383 requires that by 2025, California will recover at least 20% of edible food that would have otherwise been sent to landfills. Penalties will be imposed for violations of the requirements.

Who Must Comply and By When?

The law will be phased in, depending on the type of business, over the next two years. The first tier of large edible food generators is required to recover edible food for donation starting in January 2022. The second tier of large edible food generators is required to recover and donate starting in January 2024.

Mandated food donors can help their communities now by starting to work with local food banks, food pantries and other food recovery services. Through the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments, businesses in each tier have access to technical assistance services for help in setting up a program.

Data Collected

Food Recovery Organizations

- Area served
- Where food comes from
- Type of food accepted
- Storage/facilities used
- Existing pounds of food collected
- Capacity / ability to accept more
- Needs

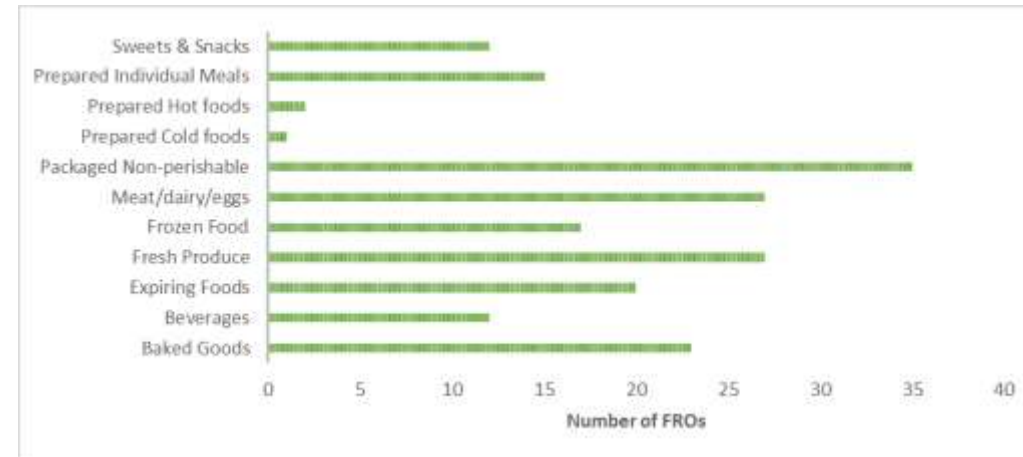


Food Generators

- Business type (tier determination)
- Type of food
- Amount of food disposed
- Donation practices
- Barriers to donating

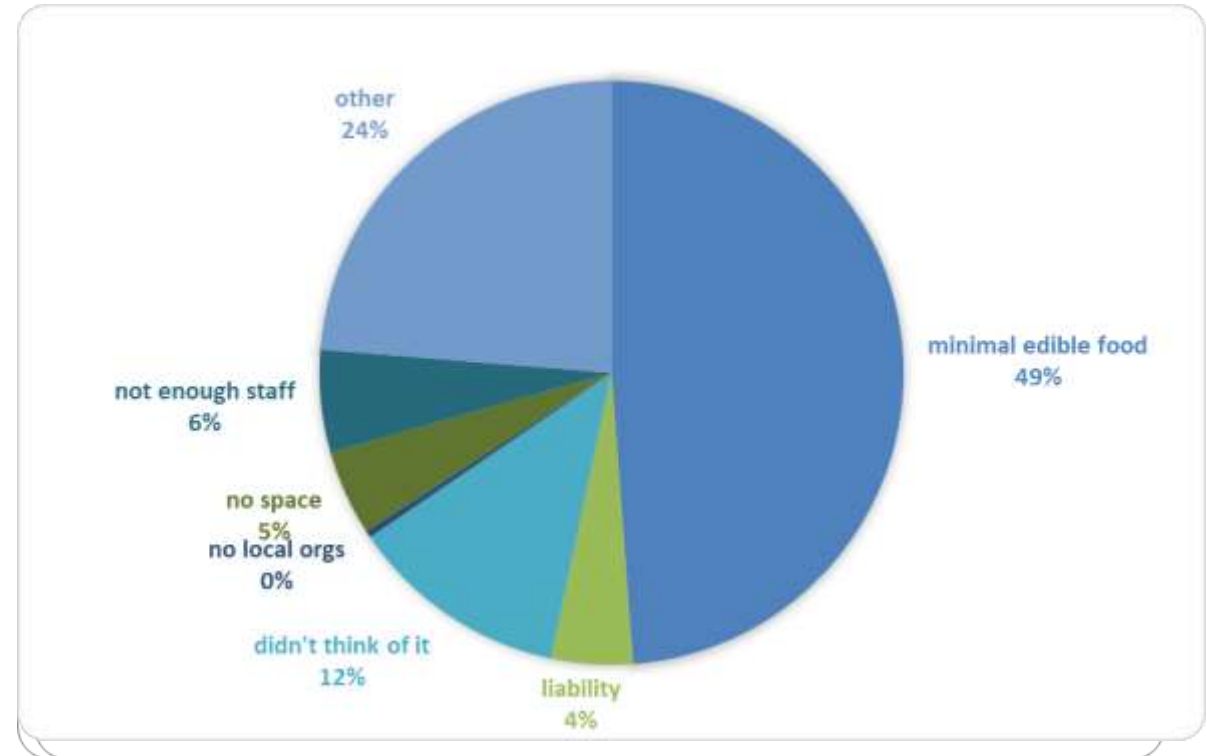
Findings of Food Recovery Org Survey

- Insufficient staffing/volunteers
- Inadequate space/storage
- Need refrigeration
- Need vehicles or transportation services
- Insufficient funding or access to grants for smaller organizations
- High levels of spoiled food which smaller orgs at the end of line need to pay for disposal
- Limited recordkeeping/data on how much food is being redistributed
- Lack of capacity for prepared food

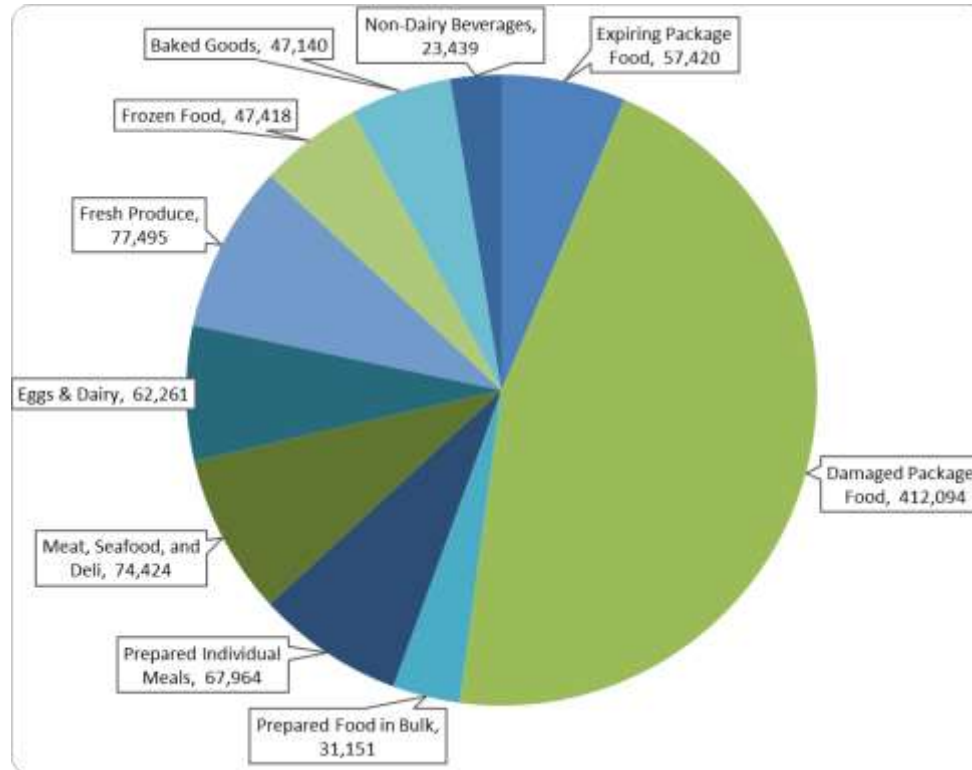


Findings of Food Generator Surveys

- Types of food produced/maintained.
- Current donation practices.
- Type and amount of foods being disposed.
- Reasons for not donating.



Qualitative and Quantitative Data



Capacity Findings

Edible Food Recovery Capacity (pounds)	Edible Food Generation (pounds)
Low Estimate: 15,059,924	Tier 1 Generators: 14,974,285
High Estimate: 17,365,852	Tier 2 Generators: 400,447
	TOTAL: 15,374,732

Participating cities have **some capacity** to address food recovery, but with increased food donation, will **quickly lack sufficient capacity** to respond. We need to move quickly to identify and expand food recovery hubs.

Phase 1 Status

- Includes 15 cities
- 2022: 226 inspections of EFGs and FROs completed
- 2023: 227 inspections of EFGs and FROs completed to date



Results

2022

226 EFG Inspections

Tier 1 - 20%

Tier 2 - 43%

FROs - 42% compliant

2023

227 EFG inspections

Tier 1 - 29% Compliant

Tier 2 - 46% Compliant

FRO's – 0% Compliant

Compliance increasing in EFGs
Compliance challenging for FROs

Phase 2: Development of Regional Food Recovery Hubs



Regional Food Recovery Program Expansion

Evaluate organizations to serve as hubs

Develop criteria and application

Evaluate applications

Select three regional recipients

Hub Models

- A physical location with refrigerated and unrefrigerated storage
- Shared technology and regional distribution system
- Coordination or transportation service to match pantries to available food
- Relationship development
- Contracts & Recordkeeping
- Collection & Distribution



Benefits of a Regional Approach

- Share & maximize network, resources & capacity
- Economy of scale
- Address an intersection of issues



What You Can Do

- Connect with local Food Recovery Organizations
- Connect with Food Recovery Services
- Connect with supporting organizations
- Identify capacity gaps



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