

Ensuring Safety and Quality

Managing food rescue from a
government perspective



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Powered by HARRIS COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH



Harris County
Public Health
ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH



**Where does
LOCAL
GOVERNMENT
fit in?**



Food Recovery Hierarchy

www.epa.gov/foodscraps

Source Reduction

Reduce the volume of surplus food generated

Feed Hungry People

Donate extra food to food banks, soup kitchens and shelters

Feed Animals

Divert food scraps to animal feed

Industrial Uses

Provide waste oils for rendering and fuel conversion and food scraps for digestion to recover energy

Composting

Create a nutrient-rich soil amendment

Landfill/ Incineration

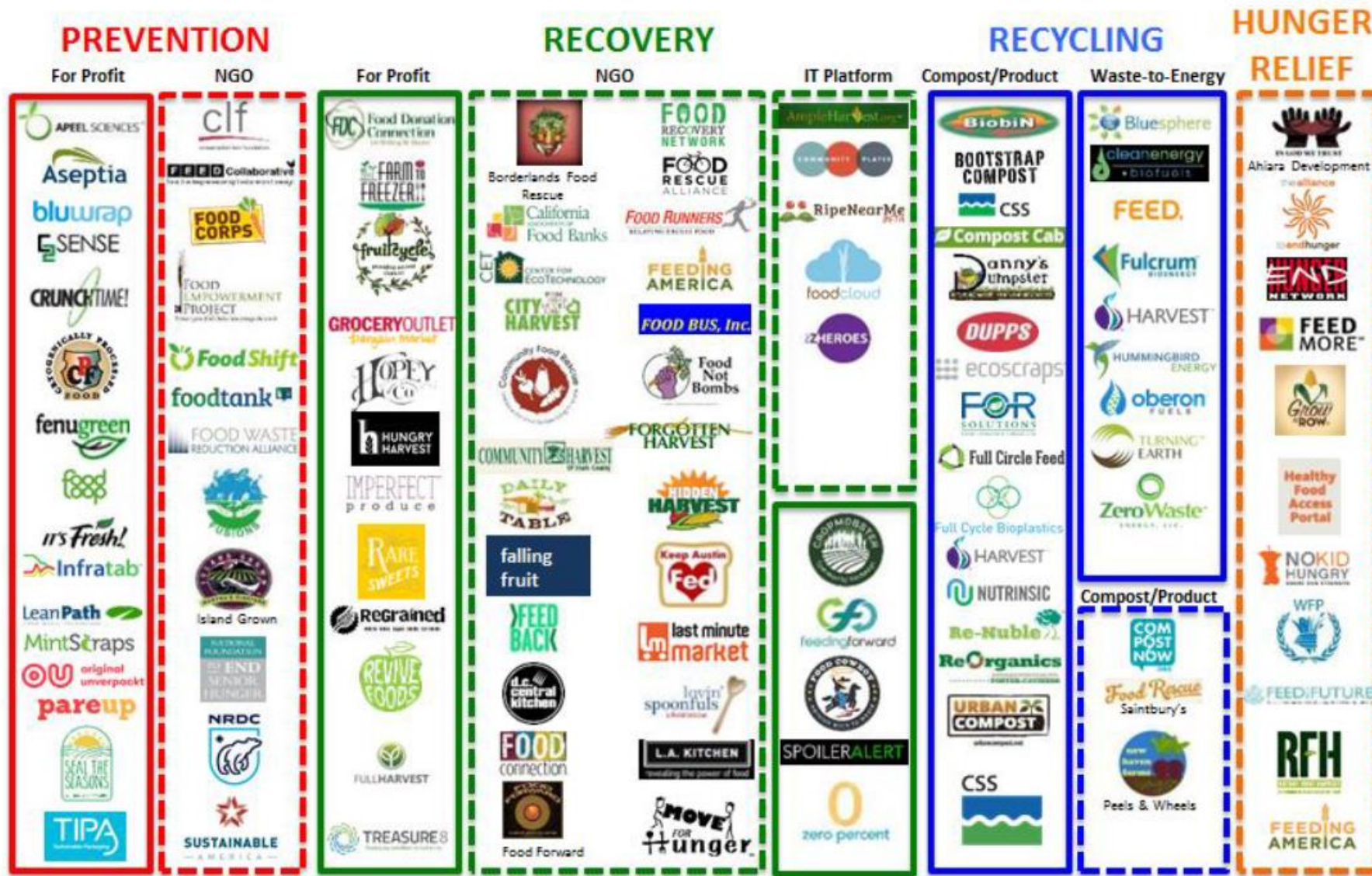
Last resort to disposal

**Food
Donations is
a preferred
strategy!**

Source:

EPA. Sustainable Materials
Management

Innovation



Do you see government in the food recovery movement?

Source: ReFED. Innovation in Food Waste Reduction



ALLIES & PARTNERS



ALLIANCE

A merging of efforts or interests by persons, families, states, or organizations.

LIABILITY PROTECTIONS

Federal Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act
Texas Civil Practice & Remedies Code, Ann. § 76.001—004

- Created to **encourage** the donation of food and grocery products by limiting liability
 - *“A person, gleaner, or nonprofit organization shall **not** be subject to **civil or criminal liability** arising from the nature, age, packaging, or condition of **apparently wholesome food** or an **apparently fit grocery product...**”*
- Requires that donated food meet all quality and labeling standards imposed by Federal, State, and **local laws and regulations**.
 - Embedded within the **definitions** of apparently wholesome food and apparently fit grocery product

LIABILITY PROTECTIONS, Cont.

Federal Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act
Texas Civil Practice & Remedies Code, Ann. § 76.001—004

- Does not clarify procedures that a donor must follow to ensure that food is donated safely and legally
 - “*the person/gleaner donates or the nonprofit accepts food **in good faith** for ultimate distribution to needy individuals*”
 - Cases excluding **Gross Negligence** or **Intentional Misconduct**
 - Guidance is **nonexistent or unclear**

And all of this leads to... **CONFUSION**

Liability Concern is REAL

39% of 28 restaurant companies (representing 73,000+ restaurant locations) claim LIABILITY as a barrier to donations

- **Food Waste Reduction Alliance.** 2016. Analysis of U.S. Food Waste Among Food Manufacturers, Retailer, and Restaurants

47% of Harris County food establishments surveyed that do not donate, stated LIABILITY as a reason for not donating food

- 78% of these establishment stated they were interested in donating food



Government can help
clear the confusion!

Guidance

- Verified Legislation/Regulation for Food Safety for Food Donations
 - Only in 12 states
 - Only 1 state has comprehensive section addressing all types of donated food (including prepared foods)*
 - Can you guess which one?
- Guidance makes regulation more digestible!

*Food Law and Policy Clinic @ Harvard Law School. 2018. Food Safety Regulations & Guidance for Food Donations: A Fifty-State Survey of State Practices



Arrow photo created by rawpixel.com - www.freepik.com

Here's the story of a lovely Food Donations Program



And add in the Comprehensive Resource

Start with the TFER 228.83!

And don't forget the ServSafe Guide for Food Banking

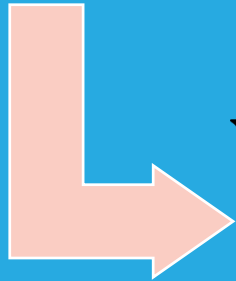


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FDA Food Code

- model code
- scientifically sound and legal basis
- regulates retail and food service industries



TFER

- comprehensive set of rules for the regulation of retail food establishments in Texas



Take Out Hunger

- Guidance based on TFER 228.83
- Comprehensive Resource

So we asked...

If provided with food safety training specific to donations, how likely would it be for your establishment to start donating?

42% Very Likely

33% Somewhat Likely





PARTNERSHIP

The state of being in joint interest or participation

Working together to accomplish more than what each can do separately!

Take Out Hunger: Joint Interest

To increase safe food donations & to raise awareness about food insecurity and food surplus in Harris County through education and outreach.

- EPH brings food safety to the table



Food Safety Makes a Difference



Quick Stats

In the U.S., every year foodborne illness causes

48,000,000

People to get sick

128,000

People to be hospitalized

3,000

People to die

Foodborne Illness is Preventable.

Avoiding the 5 major risk factors (food handling practices & behaviors) that contribute to foodborne illness.

1. Unapproved/Unsafe Sources
2. Poor Personal Hygiene
3. Improper Holding
4. Improper Cooking
5. Contaminated Equipment

Take Out Hunger: Joint Participation

Food Safety for Donations

- In Person Trainings
- Online resources
- Starter Supplies
- Food Investigator Trainings

Logistics Coordination

- Finding Vehicles & Volunteers





Take Out Hunger in 4 Easy Steps!

1. Sign up as a donor or recipient partner.
2. Schedule a Take Out Hunger consultation
3. Get plugged into a network of food donors & recipients
4. You are ready to Take Out Hunger

Visit:

Takeouthungerhc.org

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HUNGER

This program is powered by **Harris County Public Health's Public Health Innovations Lab.**

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