

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Reno Food Recovery

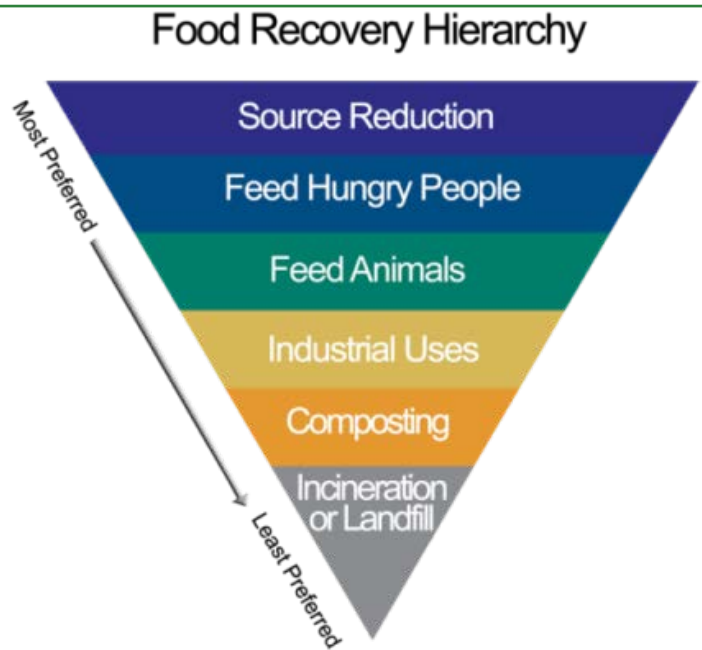
Links and Resources 2015

Learn about some food recovery alternatives in the Reno area. EPA's Food Recovery Hierarchy prioritizes these food waste strategies from most to least preferable.

1. Source Reduction

Source reduction is the strategy of preventing food from becoming waste in the first place. There are many resources available to tackle source reduction:

- **U.S. EPA Food Recovery Website:** <http://epa.gov/foodrecovery>
 - » [Food and Packaging Waste Prevention Tool \(spreadsheet\)](#): Tracks the amount and reasons specific foods are wasted.
 - » [Reducing Wasted Food & Packaging: A Guide for Food Services and Restaurants](#): Provides guidance on using the prevention tool assessment results to save money and reduce waste.
 - » [Food Waste Management Calculator \(spreadsheet or PDF\)](#): Estimates the cost competitiveness and savings of alternatives to food waste disposal, including source reduction, donation, composting, and recycling of yellow grease.
- **National Restaurant Association ConServe Program:** <http://conserve.restaurant.org/Learn/Reduce-Waste-Recycle>: Provides resources and tools to help restaurants through each step of a food waste reduction program; provides videos to accompany many of the EPA resources listed above.
- **Leanpath:** www.leanpath.com: Company assists foodservice operations in reducing food waste, website provides many free tools, videos and case studies.



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2. Feed Hungry People (Donations)

The resources below include national, regional and local organizations which take food donations in the Reno area. Most take non-perishables, and some accept surplus perishable foods. Be prepared to describe your donations in terms of packaging, preparation, frequency and type.

- **Food Pantries** - Many have varying or limited capabilities for storing food donations and therefore limit the types or timing of donations. It's often best to contact several to determine which can use your donations. Below are links to find local food pantries.

- » **Ample Harvest:** www.ampleharvest.org/find-pantry.php
- » **Food Pantries.org:** www.foodpantries.org/st/nevada: The following food pantry may accept perishable donations:

The Good Samaritan Act was created to prevent good surplus food from going to waste by protecting donor companies from liability when donating to charitable organizations.

Highlights:

- Encourages the donation of surplus food.
- Protects all food and grocery donors who donate in good faith to a non-profit organization.
- Exceptions are noted for gross negligence.
- Provides protection for food and grocery products that meet all quality labeling standards imposed by federal, state and local laws and regulations.

Name	Contact	Hours
Hands of Hope Ministries	295 Gentry Way # 20 Reno, NV 89502 (775) 284-8878	Pick up 7 days/week 10:00 am - Noon

- **Rock and Wrap It Up!:** <http://rockandwrapitup.org>: Matches vetted charities with eligible donors of perishable food including entertainment venues, hotels, K-12 schools and colleges, sports teams, and hospitals. Offers the free "Whole Earth Calculator" to convert pounds of food to pounds of CO2 equivalent (CO2e); eventmobi.com/rwu1
- **Food Banks:** Regional food banks work with local food pantries, homeless shelters and other charities for food donation. While many food banks are unable to accept perishable and prepared food, they often work with donors to find perishable food options nearby. Listed below are the main food banks in the Reno area.

Donation Center	Location	Contact	Type of Food Accepted
Food Bank of Northern Nevada	550 Italy Drive McCarran, NV 89434 (775) 331-3663	http://fbnn.org/Donate/GiveFood.aspx	Non-perishables
Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada & St Vincent's Programs	500 E. Fourth Street Reno, NV 89512 (775) 322-7073	http://ccsnn.org/food.html	Non-perishables

(1) LIABILITY OF PERSON OR GLEANER – A person or gleaner 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 that the person or gleaner donates in good faith to a nonprofit organization for ultimate distribution to needy individuals.

— Courtesy of the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Act

3. Feed Animals

- **Pig/Hog Farms:** Large pig farms may accept food scraps. The Federal Swine Health Protection Act requires that food containing, or that comes in contact with meat or animal materials must be boiled before being fed to pigs. Consequently, many local pig farmers are primarily interested in single-stream fruits and vegetables or grain waste. Arrangements are often informal, and can be intermittent.
- **Spent Brewery Grain:** Spent brewery grain can be used as animal feed, primarily for cattle, but also for pigs, goats, fish and almost any livestock. Most breweries give the grain away to local farms. Manufacturers with single food waste streams can find local farms and ranches to donate their excess/by-product.

4. Industrial Uses

Fats, oils and grease, also known as FOG, can be converted to fuels and has various industrial uses. Reno area options and resources include:

- **Waste to Biogas Resources:** <http://epamap21.epa.gov/biogas/index.html>. Searchable database of local biogas facilities that may accept FOG or food waste. The City of Reno wastewater treatment plants do not currently accept FOG or food waste for co-digestion.
- **SRC Companies Reno Rendering Co:** Renderer and used oil collection
 - » http://srccompanies.com/rendering_services.html
 - » Grease Management Services— container collection and maintenance; service scheduled or on-demand
 - » Rendering Services—animal by-product recycling; scheduled pick-ups, on-demand, and drop-off



Municipal FOG Regulations:

City of Reno: www.reno.gov/government/departments/public-works/wastewater-infrastructure-plants-environmental-services/environmental-control

- Requires grease traps and proper disposal.

City of Sparks: www.cityofsparks.us/sites/default/files/assets/documents/env-control/construction/Glworksheet.pdf

- Prohibits pouring cooking oil and grease down drain.
- Requires grease traps and proper disposal.

5. Food Scraps Composting

Composting turns food scraps into a nutrient-rich soil amendments and can be done on site in smaller amounts or on a larger scale at a municipal or commercial level.

- **Find a Composter:** www.findacomposter.com: Searchable database of local composting facilities that may accept food waste; results from January 2015 search are included in the table below.

Composting Facility	Location	Hours	Contact
Full Circle Compost (Carson City and Douglas County only; cannot pick up in City of Reno or Sparks)	3190 Hwy 395, Minden, NV 89423	Wednesday-Saturday: 10 am – 4 pm	(775) 267-5305
RT Donovan: (Drop off only)	11600 Pyramid Way, Sparks, NV	Monday-Friday: 7 am – 4 pm Saturday: 1 am – 3 pm	(775) 425-3015

Reno Food Recovery Successes:

Atlantis Casino [diverted](#) 1,500 cubic yards of food waste from the landfill to a composting facility in 2013. Food scraps and other organic material were separated and diverted from the traditional waste stream, and processed into compost.



For More Information:

EPA Food Waste website:
www.epa.gov/food-recovery