

2.26.2020

Food for People, Not Landfills

Scope of Subcommittee

Scope and purpose of the Food for People, Not Landfills Subcommittee:

Divert consumable food away from landfills, livestock feed, or composting to feed Nevadans struggling with food insecurity.

Originating Sources – Terms Defined

Gleaning – The act of extracting (food product) from multiple sources. Grocery rescue can be referred to as a *gleaning activity or process*. Most often, gleaning refers to the process of exacting unwanted produce from trees, bushes, or gardens such as the fruit trees of residents, businesses or government property in order to reduce mess and divert consumable produce to food distribution sites.

Grocery/retail rescue – The partnership between traditional private grocery or retail businesses and non-profit agencies wherein edible foods, discontinued food items or food product that does not meet the business's standard for sale due to appearance or date are culled and set aside for donation rather than other means of discard such as landfill waste, livestock feed or composting.

Emerging retail - The partnership between private businesses and non-profit agencies wherein edible foods, discontinued items or food product that does not meet the business's standard for sale due to appearance or date are culled and set aside for donation rather than other means of discard such as landfill waste, livestock feed or composting. The distinction between grocery/retail rescue and emerging retail may appear subjective but a business is typically referred to as emerging retail when the first line of business is something other than the sale of groceries that consumers take home to prepare meals: convenience stores, discount stores, and restaurants like coffee shops that sell individually packaged food that is pre-labeled.

Perishable prepared food – The partnership between restaurants, caterers, concessions, and banquet facilities and non-profit agencies wherein the food product to be donated is within a perishable time frame because it is already prepared and must therefore be properly stored for distribution/consumption at a later time. Since perishable prepared food is often on a large scale, a great deal of advance planning is required so that each tray or pan is of a usable size for agencies to distribute to individual households in the same way that rescued groceries are distributed.

Food shows – The partnership between food manufacturers and non-profit agencies wherein consumable product is donated for distribution to those in need, rather than packaged and returned to the manufacturer, or discarded to landfills, to feed livestock or to compost. These shows are irregular in nature and require advance planning due to typical volumes of donated product.

Vendor/food production donations – The partnership between food wholesalers, vendors, or/and manufacturers and non-profit agencies wherein food product in large volumes that was procured for a purpose is longer needed, sellable or manageable within their inventory limitations, and is therefore donated rather than discarded to landfills, to feed livestock or to compost. These are typically irregular donations but may not require planning well in advance. Included in this category are private businesses such as US Foods, as well as co-op operations, and even institutions such as a school district.

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Community food drives – Small volume groceries given for the cause and purpose of hunger-relief or in exchange for something else such as entrance to an event, or in lieu of a library fine, etc. While some of this product may have been obtained from the pantries of the donor that would have otherwise been thrown away had it been an opportune time for donation, typically community drives are not sources of food that are being rescued or diverted from landfills or other means of discard.

Mechanisms for Improvement – Terms Defined

Farm 2 food bank – Broad scope of programs/efforts at any level (federal to local non-profit) to collect, rescue or retrieve agricultural products for the purpose of free distribution to those in need.

Agency empowered – Agency empowered models of rescuing/gleaning food are ones in which the primary relationship between the food donor and non-profit agency is not a food bank. Instead, these agencies are those that provide a direct distribution to those in need in the community. While the initial connection may have been brokered by the food bank, the relationship is managed by the direct service agency and the donated food pounds are reported to the food bank by the direct service agency. (Feeding America refers to this effort as the “Middle Mile.”)

Opportunity gap – A term that describes the translation of research to operational practices when research or data indicates the current status or volume of outputs but forecasts that with strategic intervention, market conditions, or relationship building, the output could yield more. A strategic plan sets the goals, or timed benchmarks, based on forecasted projections that will close the opportunity gap.

Food Rescue Categories

These three categories encompass the scope of the Food for People, Not Landfills Program of the Council on Food Security. The Subcommittee will identify the opportunity gap in each bucket in order to set cumulative annual goals for the FFPNL Program over the next five years. Food banks will submit annual (calendar year) reports to the Office of Food Security to benchmark the Program’s progress and the Subcommittee’s successes and challenges.

Bucket 1: Prepared Perishable Food

Characteristics of food in this category:

- Food that is temp sensitive and must be quickly consumed or flash frozen
- Bulk food that is temp sensitive and must also be packaged into usable portion amounts
- Planned rescue that requires food bank/agency labor within a short window

Included in this category:

- Banquets, events, concessions
- Restaurants

Bucket 2: Perishable Non-prepared Food

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Characteristics of food in this category:

- Food that is individually sold as grocery/retail product
- Bulk food that is already frozen or dry but is pre-packed and needs only a scheduled pick up
- Food that is in small, moderate or large amounts that are pre-scheduled on regular routes

Included in this category:

- Gleaning/agricultural
- Grocery retail
- Emerging retail
- Vendors/food production

Bucket 3: Non-perishable Food*

Characteristics of food in this category:

- Food resourcing based on circumstances that are unusual or irregular
- Canned, packaged, dry goods

Food included in this category:

- Grocery retail
- Emerging retail
- Food shows
- Vendors/food production

**The Subcommittee elected not to include donated food procured from community food drives as some of those foods are purchased for donation and not to divert food from landfills.*