



Commercial Food Donation

The City of Tacoma encourages businesses and organizations to donate edible, wholesome food that may no longer be suitable for retail purposes. Your donation helps local agencies serve more people experiencing hunger, and it also helps the environment. Donating food in Tacoma is a safe, legal, and cost-effective process. Commercial food donors are protected in a variety of ways and are often eligible for tax deductions.

Donate Food Safely

Not sure which foods you can donate? Want to learn more about making sure donated food is safe to eat? The Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department is here to help. Check out their safe donation guide, or contact them at food@tpchd.org or (253) 798-6460 with any questions.

Find an Organization to Take Your Food

Tacoma is home to a number of hunger relief organizations. If you would like to set up a donation partnership, contact one of the following to get started:

- Food Lifeline Food Service Rescue - DonateFood@foodlifeline.org
- Elizabeth Purington - epurington@cityoftacoma.org, (253) 594-7869

Protected by Law

When you donate food, you are protected by the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Act, which was passed into federal law in 1996. The federal law encourages the donation of food and grocery products to nonprofit organizations for distribution to those in need. It also states that entities that donate apparently wholesome food to a nonprofit organization for distribution to the needy are not subject to civil or criminal liability that arises from the condition of the food.

Tax Savings

According to the federal tax code, eligible businesses can earn an enhanced tax deduction for donated food. Contact your tax professional to learn more about tax deductions for your business, as well as how to properly document your donations for tax purposes.

TacomaFoodSaver.org

City of Tacoma - Solid Waste Management Division
sustainability@cityoftacoma.org - (253) 594-7869

