

Las Vegas Food Recovery

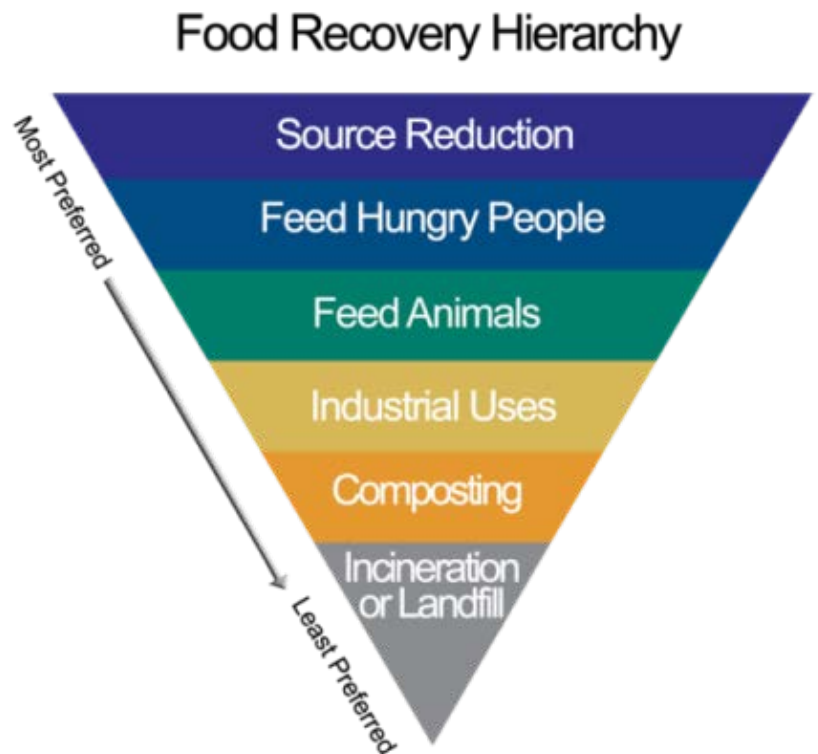
Links and Resources 2015

Learn about some food recovery alternatives in the Las Vegas 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:** www.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.



Disclaimer: The information contained on these pages is intended to inform the public and does not establish or affect legal rights or obligations. Links to non-EPA sites do not imply any official EPA endorsement of, or responsibility for, the opinions, ideas, data or products presented at those locations, or guarantee the validity of the information provided.

Reference to any specific commercial products, process or service by trade name, trademark, manufacturer, or otherwise, does not necessarily constitute or imply its endorsement, recommendation, or favoring by the United States Government and shall not be used for advertising or product endorsement purposes.

2. Feed Hungry People (Donations)

The resources below include national, regional and local organizations which take food donations in the Las Vegas 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
- **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 is the main food bank in the Las Vegas area.

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.

Donation Center	Location	Contact	Type of Food Accepted
Three Square Food Bank	4190 N. Pecos Rd. Las Vegas, NV 89115	(702) 644-3663	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.

Pig Farm	Location	Information
RC Organics: (Picks up from Casinos)	555 E El Campo Grande Ave North Las Vegas, NV 89081	(702) 642-0350

- **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. Las Vegas 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.
- **Baker Commodities Inc.:**
 - » <http://www.bakercommodities.com/>; (702) 651-0997
 - » FOG collection, grease trap maintenance
- **Darling International: Grease collection**
 - » <http://www.darpro.com/locations>; (702) 644-0067
 - » 4730 Vandenberg, No. Las Vegas, NV, 89081
- **RenuOil:**
 - » (702) 263-0078
 - » Collects and recycles FOG and food waste
 - » Serve hotels, casinos, restaurants, bars, stores and non-profit organizations

Clark County FOG Regulations:

http://www.clarkcountynv.gov/Depts/development_services/HowToGuides/FoodChecklist.pdf

- 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.

Composting Facility	Location	Services
<p>A1 Organics (Food waste program suspended until late 2015)</p>	<p>5355 Beesley Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89115 (702) 643-2214 www.a1organics-nevada.com</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accept all compostable food waste including meats, bones, oils, and compostable packaging, utensils and dinnerware. • Tote Program: Restaurant puts waste in the tote provided by A1 Organics. Pick up days and pricing dependent on volume. • Pump Program: Casinos bring totes from kitchens to a large roll-off bin provided by A1 Organics, who then uses a vacuum pump truck to empty daily. Pricing dependent on volume.

Las Vegas Food Recovery Successes:

MGM Grand used food waste tracking system at Las Vegas casinos to reduce pre-consumer food waste by 80% and saving between \$5,000 and \$9,000 a month in food costs. MGM employs a 24-hr recycling staff to further sort food scraps recovering 14,000 tons of food in 2011. MGM uses RC pig farms to collect food scraps to feed 3,000 pigs daily, and A1-Organics for local composting. <http://www.epa.gov/region9/mediacenter/zerowaste-vegas/>

Three Las Vegas breweries, Boulder Dam Brewing, Triple 7 Brewery, and Tenaya Creek Brewing donates spent grain to local customers for feed for horses, goats, and ostriches.



For More Information:

EPA Food Waste website:
www.epa.gov/foodrecovery