

# Los Angeles Food Recovery

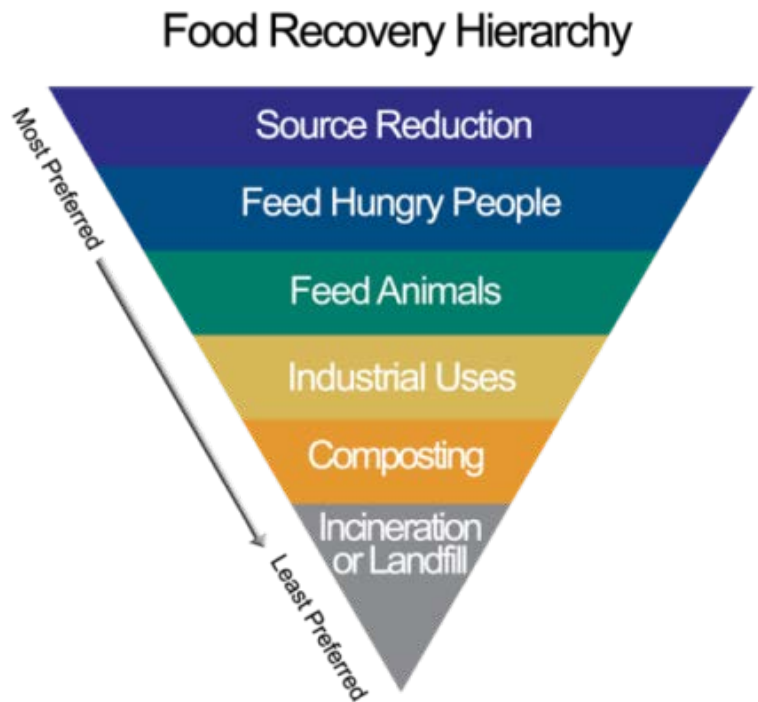
## Links and Resources 2015

Learn about some food recovery alternatives in the Los Angeles 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](http://www.leanpath.com): Company assists foodservice operations in reducing food waste, website provides many free tools, videos and case studies.



### 2. Feed Hungry People (Donations)

The resources below include national, regional and local organizations which take food donations in the Los Angeles 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. The LA County of Public health provides a fact sheet on Guidelines for Safe Food Donation: <http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh/docs/WhatsNew/FoodDonations.pdf>

- **Food Finders:** [www.foodfinders.org/](http://www.foodfinders.org/);
  - » 3744 North Industry Ave., Suite 401, Lakewood, CA 90712; (562) 283-1400

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- » Multiregional food bank and food rescue program headquartered in Signal Hill, CA.
- » Picks up donated food from grocery stores, bakeries, restaurants and produce markets and distribute it directly to missions, shelters and social service agencies.
- » Volunteers and staff drivers pick up and deliver on a same-day basis.
- **Chefs to End Hunger:** <http://www.chefsendhunger.org/>. Formed by LA and SF Specialty Bakeries that provides businesses with kits containing delivery boxes, pads and aluminum pans to fill with donation food. Once the kit is filled and packed, they can be given to a Specialty Bakery Driver where the boxes will be consolidated and donated to a food bank.
- **Burbank Green Alliance:** [www.burbankgreenalliance.org/green.html](http://www.burbankgreenalliance.org/green.html); Resources in the Burbank area for Zero Waste Food Service for food service organizations especially within the entertainment industry.
- **City of LA Sanitation:** [www.lacitysan.org/solid\\_resources/recycling/services/food.htm](http://www.lacitysan.org/solid_resources/recycling/services/food.htm). Permitted waste haulers collect food waste from food service establishments. This website includes information on food waste rebates, certified haulers and contact information, as well as a list of organizations that accept surplus food for human consumption and animal feed.
- **Culver City Food Waste Recycling:** [www.culvercity.org/en/Government/PublicWorks/EnvironmentalPrograms/Recycle/FoodWasteRecycling.aspx](http://www.culvercity.org/en/Government/PublicWorks/EnvironmentalPrograms/Recycle/FoodWasteRecycling.aspx); Culver City offers food waste bins and pickup as part of trash hauling service within city limits. Service includes a free assessment and guidance on implementing a comprehensive recycling program, including food waste diversion.
- **LA Kitchen:** [www.lakitchen.org/](http://www.lakitchen.org/); works directly with local farmers and wholesale produce companies to collect fruits and vegetables that are unsalable due to cosmetic issues or lack of commercial demand. All donations and purchases are processed at central hub for distribution or storage for use at a later date.

### In Los Angeles and Elsewhere:

- **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](http://eventmobi.com/rwu1)
- **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.
  - » The Los Angeles Regional Food Bank has more than 350 organizations listed on its "Pantry Locator" (self-reported and updated annually): <http://www.lafoodbank.org/pantry-locator.aspx?zip=>.
  - » Ample Harvest: [www.ampleharvest.org/find-pantry.php](http://www.ampleharvest.org/find-pantry.php)
  - » Food Pantries.org: [www.foodpantries.org/st/california](http://www.foodpantries.org/st/california): 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
Eastmont Community Center	701 Hoefner Avenue Los Angeles, 90022 (323) 726.7998	Monday – Friday 9:00 – 11 am
New Challenge Ministries Inc.	21804 Halldale Ave Torrance, 90501 (310) 320.4171	Monday - Saturday 11:30 am - 12:30 pm

- 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 options nearby they don't accept. Listed below, are the main food banks in the Los Angeles area.

Donation Center	Location	Website/Contact	Type of Food Accepted
Los Angeles Regional Food Bank	1734 E 41st St, Los Angeles, CA 90058 (323) 234-3030	<a href="http://www.lafoodbank.org">www.lafoodbank.org</a>	Prepared and perishable foods; packaged and canned foods; fresh produce from growers and distributors
Food Bank of Southern California	1444 San Francisco St. Long Beach, CA 90813 (562) 435-3577	<a href="http://www.foodbankofsocal.org/">www.foodbankofsocal.org/</a>	Prepared and perishable foods; packaged and canned foods; fresh produce from growers and distributors
Westside Food Bank	1710 22nd St. Santa Monica, CA (310) 828-6016	<a href="http://www.westsidefoodbankca.org/">www.westsidefoodbankca.org/</a>	Non-perishables, contact for perishables and prepared foods
Food Share Inc.	4156 Southbank Road Oxnard, CA 93036 (805) 983.7100	<a href="http://www.foodshare.com">www.foodshare.com</a>	Non-perishables, contact for perishables and prepared foods
World Harvest Food Bank	1014 Venice Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90015 (213) 746-2227	<a href="http://www.worldharvestfoodbank.org/">www.worldharvestfoodbank.org/</a>	Non-perishable food; interested in prepared food

(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
Rainbow Ranch Farms	10353 Oasis Rd Pinon Hills, CA (760) 868-6206	Interested in food scraps, brewery spent grains; can receive food scrap/food waste in 10-ton increments and 2-ton totes. Delivery company will need to have a lift gate and pallet jack.
Da-Le Ranch	24895 Baxter Ranch Rd Lake Elsinore, CA 92532 (951) 657-3056	No institutional leftovers, have to be cooked before being fed to pigs; compost non-toxic green waste and non-citrus fruits and veggies not fed to the pigs.
Old Reminisce Farms	The USA Herd, P.O. Box 16, Jurupa Valley, CA 91752 (951) 505-5230 <a href="http://oldereminiscefarms.com/farming-practices">http://oldereminiscefarms.com/farming-practices</a>	Takes spent brewery grains, seasonal fruits and vegetables as feed.

- 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. Los Angeles 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 Los Angeles wastewater treatment plants do not currently accept FOG or food waste for co-digestion.
- Biogas Food Waste Systems:** [www.americanbiogascouncil.org/biogas\\_foodWaste.asp](http://www.americanbiogascouncil.org/biogas_foodWaste.asp)
- CalRecycle List of Anaerobic Digestion Projects in California:** [www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Organics/Conversion/ADProjects.pdf](http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Organics/Conversion/ADProjects.pdf); list of anaerobic digester projects in California includes facilities that are currently operational, under construction, and in the permitting phase; includes feedstock used/accepted.



The table below includes all facilities in the Los Angeles area including those listed on the CalRecycle list:

Organizations	Feedstock	Address
Inland Empire Utility Agency (IEUA) (leased to private company)	Dairy and food waste	Chino, CA
Kroger/Ralphs Compton Distribution Center	Unsellable food from Kroger supermarkets (Ralphs, Kroger and Food4Less)	1100 W. Artesia Blvd. Compton, CA 90220
Gills Onions	Onion processing waste	1051 S Pacific Ave Oxnard CA 93030
Encina Wastewater Authority	FOG and liquefied food waste	6200 Avenida Encinas, Carlsbad, CA 92011
Las Virgenes Municipal Water District Rancho Las Virgenes Composting Facility (under construction)	FOG and food waste from trash collection	3700 Las Virgenes Road Calabasas, CA
CR&R Material Recovery Facility (under construction)	Organics (food and green waste) from municipal trash	(Riverside County) Perris, CA
L.A. Sanitation District - at the Joint Water Pollution Control Plant (pilot project)	Food waste collected by Waste Management of Orange	24501 S. Figueroa St Carson, CA
Agromin Zero Waste Energy (Permitting)	Food waste from trash collection from Oxnard and surrounding areas	Oxnard, CA
Anaergia – Republic Material Recovery Facility (Permitting)	Organics (food and green waste) from trash collection from Anaheim and surrounding areas	Anaheim, CA

**Biodiesel/biofuels:**

- **Geogreen Biofuels:** [www.geogreen.com/welcome.html](http://www.geogreen.com/welcome.html)
  - » 6011 Malburg Way, Vernon, CA 90058; (323) 826-9753
  - » Offers FOG pickup and currently uses a small amount of waste vegetable oil mixed with other sources in biodiesel production.
- **Biodico:** [www.biodico.com](http://www.biodico.com)
  - » National Environmental Test Site at Naval Base Ventura County in Port Hueneme, CA.; (805) 683-8103
  - » Offers FOG pickup from restaurants in northern Los Angeles County and Ventura County.

### FOG Collection/Biofuel:

- **CalFOG:** List of grease haulers by county in California: <http://www.calfog.org/Hauler.html>
- **Baker Commodities Inc.:** [www.bakercommodities.com/location-detail.php?d=5](http://www.bakercommodities.com/location-detail.php?d=5)
  - » 4020 Bandini Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90023; (323) 268-2801
  - » Collects FOG.
  - » Provides collection containers; one-time \$30 registration fee.
- **Co-West Commodities:**
  - » 1389 West Mill St., San Bernardino, CA 92410; (909) 383-8341
  - » Collects animal by-products, FOG.
  - » Provides collection containers; \$20 per pick-up for mixed materials.
- **Darling International Inc.:**
  - » 2626 E 25th St., Los Angeles, CA 90058; (323) 583-6311
  - » Collects animal by-products, FOG.
  - » Provides collection containers.
- **Frailich Commodities:**
  - » 4020 Bandini Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90023; (323) 265-3477 (same address and location as Baker Commodities, but separate company)
  - » Collects animal by-products, FOG.
  - » Provides collection containers.
- **GeoGreen Biofuels:**
  - » 6011 Malburg Way, Vernon, CA 90058, (323) 826-9753
  - » Collects used vegetable oil.
  - » Provides containers and refines into biodiesel and other products.
- **West Coast Rendering:**
  - » 4105 Bandini Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90023; (323) 261-4176
  - » Offers drop-off location for animal by-products, FOG.
  - » Collects food waste from hotels and large food waste generators.
- **Southwest Processors:**
  - » 4120 Bandini Blvd, Vernon, CA 90058; (323) 269-9876
  - » Collects animal by-products, FOG.

### Los Angeles FOG Regulations:

[http://san.lacity.org/wastewater/pdfs/2009/FOG\\_Control\\_Program\\_\(English\).pdf](http://san.lacity.org/wastewater/pdfs/2009/FOG_Control_Program_(English).pdf)

- Must use and maintain grease interceptor.
- Cannot use garbage grinder.
- Must implement best management practices in kitchen.

## 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.

- **City of Los Angeles Food Waste Division:** [http://www.lacitysan.org/solid\\_resources/recycling/services/food.htm](http://www.lacitysan.org/solid_resources/recycling/services/food.htm)
- **Los Angeles Department of Public Works Individual Composting Program Information:** <http://dpw.lacounty.gov/epd/drp/food.cfm>
- **Burbank Green Alliance:** [www.burbankgreenalliance.org/green.html](http://www.burbankgreenalliance.org/green.html); Resources in the Burbank area for Zero Waste Food Service for food service organizations especially within the entertainment industry.
- **City of LA Sanitation:** Permitted waste haulers collect food waste from food service establishments. This website includes information on food waste rebates, certified haulers and contact information, as well as a list of organizations that accept surplus food for human consumption and animal feed. [www.lacitysan.org/solid\\_resources/recycling/services/food.htm](http://www.lacitysan.org/solid_resources/recycling/services/food.htm)
- **Culver City Food Waste Recycling:** [www.culvercity.org/en/Government/PublicWorks/EnvironmentalPrograms/Recycle/FoodWasteRecycling.aspx](http://www.culvercity.org/en/Government/PublicWorks/EnvironmentalPrograms/Recycle/FoodWasteRecycling.aspx) ; Culver City offers food waste bins and pickup as part of trash hauling service within city limits. Service includes a free assessment and guidance on implementing a comprehensive recycling program, including food waste diversion.
- **LA County Waste Reduction Tips for Eating Establishments:** Includes a list of L.A.-area food banks, food scraps recyclers and rendering companies. <http://dpw.lacounty.gov/epd/brtap/recyclingsite/pdf/Eating2.pdf>

### Food Waste Recycling Collectors:

- **Athens Services:** <http://www.athensservices.com/recycling2/food-wasterestaurants.html>
  - » (877) 278-2220
  - » Serves cities of Los Angeles, West Hollywood, and Redondo Beach
  - » Provides collection of all food (including meat and dairy), paper products, plant trimmings, wood, compostable serving-ware, and waxed cardboard.
  - » Certified processor for the City of Los Angeles' Commercial Food Waste Recycling Program
- **Community Recycling & Resource Recovery:**
  - » 9147 De Garmo Ave., Sun Valley, CA 91352; (818) 767-6000
  - » Provides collection of grocery store waste including produce trim and cull, meats, waxed cardboard boxes, spoiled foods.
  - » Operates a transfer station and provides collection for large quantity generators throughout Los Angeles County; charges for collection and drop-off.
- **Crown Disposal:**
  - » Sun Valley, California 91353; (818) 767-0675
  - » Delivers to Community Recycling for composting.
  - » Provides collection in East Valley and West Valley areas.
- **Dext Co.**
  - » 9112 Graham Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90002; (323) 564-5871
  - » Provides collection of grain-based products, including bakery goods, pasta, noodles, etc. throughout Los Angeles County.
- **Feed Commodities:**
  - » 1163 Belmont St., Ontario, CA 91761; (909) 923-3314
  - » Provides collection of grain-based products, including bakery goods, pasta, noodles, etc. throughout Los Angeles County.
- **Hogg Brothers:**
  - » 13377 Grove St., Ontario, CA 91761; (909) 947-2821
  - » Provides collection of grain-based products, including bread, tortillas, pasta, noodles, and other foods such as potatoes, onions etc. Also has drop-off location.

- **Martin Feed & Cattle:**
  - » 7080 Summer Ave., Corona, CA 91761; (909) 737-6017
  - » Provides collection of grain-based products, including bread, tortillas, pasta, noodles, and other foods such as potatoes, onions etc. Call for current charges or prices paid.
- **Standard Feed:**
  - » 13751 South Haven Ave., Ontario, CA 91761; (909) 947-3738
  - » Provides collection of grain-based products, including bread, tortillas, pasta, noodles, and other foods such as potatoes, and onions. Offers some drop-off locations.
- **West Coast Recycling:**
  - » 4105 Bandini Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90023; (323) 261-4176
  - » Drop-off location for animal by-products, grease, fat, and bones.
  - » Provides collection of food waste to hotels and large food waste generators. Call for current charges.

### Food Waste Composters:

- **American Organics:** Composts food waste from Athens Services.
  - » Victor Valley Facility, 20055 Shay Road, Victorville, CA 92394; (760) 246-7946
- **Community Recycling & Resource Recovery:** Composts food scraps from Crown Disposal.
  - » 1261 North Wheeler Ridge Road, Lamont, CA 93241; (661) 845-4056
  - » 9189 De Garmo Avenue, Sun Valley, CA 91352; (818) 767-6000
- **Waste Management/Waste Transfer and Recycling**
  - » 840 S. Mission Rd., Los Angeles, CA 90023; (323) 262-9699

## Los Angeles Food Recovery Successes:

**Whittier College** founded their chapter of the Food Recovery Network and have recovered more than 4,600 pounds of food from a single dining hall using 7 volunteers. <http://www.foodrecoverynetwork.org/our-chapters/california/whittier/>

**Los Angeles Unified School District** donates up to 21,000 uneaten meals each day to nonprofit organizations that feed the hungry. L.A. Unified serves 650,000 meals a day at about 1,000 locations and leftovers include packaged foods such as granola bars or cereal, entrees, fruit, vegetables and milk. L.A. Unified expects about 200 agencies eventually will take part. <http://articles.latimes.com/2011/may/29/local/la-me-lausd-donations-20110529>

**U.C. Los Angeles Dining Services** recover left over produce, prepared food, eggs, and milk from large student events for donation to the Los Angeles Food Bank and Los Angeles Mission. In September 2014, Dining Services donated over 1,300 lbs and more than 2,200 turkey wraps, cookies, and sliders from the 2014 New Student Welcome BBQ. In September 2013, Dining Services donated 386 lbs. of food left over from the New Student Welcome BBQ. In December 2012, 8,200 pounds of left over produce were donated as part of the Winter Break shut down. <http://www.sustain.ucla.edu/housing/dining-green/food-donations/>

**Waste Management** collects food scraps from restaurants, grocery stores, hotels, and food processing plants, and takes them to its facility in Carson City for grinding into a slurry. The slurry is then taken to a [Los Angeles County wastewater treatment plant](#), where it is mixed in with sewage in anaerobic digesters to produce biogas for energy production.

**Several Los Angeles breweries**, Eagle Rock Brewery, San Pedro Brewing Golden Road Brewing, and Belmont Brewing donate spent grain to farmers and schools for feed for horses, cattle, and pigs.



## For More Information:

EPA Food Waste website:  
[www.epa.gov/foodrecovery](http://www.epa.gov/foodrecovery)