

Alameda County Food Recovery Network

For the past decade, StopWaste has been strengthening our partnerships with food recovery organizations to better understand their needs. As part of this effort, we convene the Alameda County Food Recovery Network, which includes a wide range of food recovery organizations, grantees, and other community groups such as faith-based organizations and housing agencies.

The network provides a space for collaboration, connection, relationship building, and learning to strengthen food recovery capabilities in Alameda County. Participants are united by a common goal of ensuring that surplus edible food is put to its highest and best use of feeding people.

The network addresses topics such as:

- Edible food recovery capacity planning
- Food donor contracts and education
- Weighing and tracking surplus food donations
- Establishing an online platform to increase real time communication between food recovery organizations
- Culturally relevant foods and making food last

In 2019, we expanded our work with the network to provide a platform for planning and implementation of the state's first food donation law (a component of SB 1383). The network will help to coordinate countywide activities required under the law such as edible food recovery capacity planning, identifying gaps and opportunities for food donation through mapping activities, and building trust and transparency between organizations and new relationships with donor businesses and jurisdictions.

Through our Edible Food Recovery Capacity survey, we are currently working with the network to better understand their existing organizational capacities and to assess what infrastructure, funding, or other support these organizations will need to enable them to collect, transport, store, and/or distribute more food as we increase donations from large commercial edible food generators in the county.

In addition, the network provides an opportunity to recognize and uplift the vital work that our food recovery partners are doing in the county to address growing rates of food insecurity and how collectively, organizations can work together to build a resilient, sustainable, and inclusive regional food system.

The Food Recovery Network includes over 35 organizations, working together to ensure surplus food nourishes people & communities in Alameda County.

