

MINNESOTA WASTE WISE
FACT SHEET
FOOD WASTE

DISPOSAL OPTIONS

DONATING TO COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Emergency Foodshelf Network
New Hope, MN
(763) 450-3860
www.emergencyfoodshelf.org

Hope for the City
Minnetonka, MN
(952) 897-7799
www.hopeforthecity.net

Second Harvest Heartland
St. Paul, MN
(651) 484-5117
www.2harvest.org

FEEDING HOGS

Barthold Recycling
St. Francis, MN
(763) 444-7447

PROCESSING INTO FEED

Endres Services, Inc.
Rosemount, MN
(651) 438-3113

COMMERCIAL COMPOSTING

Various haulers & compost sites accept food waste/organics from businesses.

Contact Minnesota Waste Wise at (651) 292-4662 or kworley@mnchamber.com for more information on area compost sites and haulers who may be able to accept food waste for composting.

BACKGROUND

Food waste makes up a large portion of the solid waste stream, and many businesses generate some type of food waste. **Reducing** and **recycling** food waste can:

- Decrease solid waste disposal costs
- Decrease water use, sewer treatment, and electricity costs from food going down the drain.
- Help to close the recycling loop.
- Increase donation to charities while also obtaining charitable tax credit.
- Create nutrient rich soil for plant growth, along with jobs and revenue from its sale.
- Create a food source for animals.

REDUCE FOOD WASTE

Waste prevention is the crucial first step in managing any waste stream. Ways to reduce food waste include:

- Manage inventory carefully. Only order when needed, be attentive to expiration dates (and use items before they expire), and keep a close inventory of what is on-hand.
- Offer various portion sizes.
- Eliminate garnish items which will generally be uneaten or inedible.
- Provide ongoing training for staff on preparation procedures and waste reduction to eliminate errors or wasted food during preparation.

DISPOSAL OPTIONS

Once food waste is sufficiently reduced, a number of options exist for consumers to recycle the waste. Businesses are encouraged to consider factors such as type of waste produced, feasibility of sorting waste on site, storage space for bins, and amount of waste produced.

- 1) Donating to Community Programs** – Includes perishable and non-perishable food fit for human consumption. Local food shelves are always in need of food. Contact your local food shelf for more information. The organizations below provide these services in Minnesota.
- 2) Feeding Hogs** – Hogs can eat any food that humans can eat, including produce, meat & seafood, dairy, and bakery products. This service does not accept coffee grounds or packaging materials.
- 3) Processing into Livestock Feed** – Includes primarily non-meat foods, especially starches such as bakery goods. Some packaged food products, and some animal-based products are accepted on a limited basis.
- 4) Composting** – Includes food scraps and food preparation/service wastes including plate scrapings, fruit, vegetables, dairy items, tea bags, bakery items, coffee grounds, egg shells, or other scrapings or peelings from food preparation or service. Also accepts non-recyclable paper and cardboard including soiled, wet or otherwise non-recyclable fiber products including cardboard and napkins. Paper products including paper towels, food wrappers, cups, food liners, egg cartons, coffee filters, fast-food wrappings, tissues, waxed paper, waxed corrugated or other compostable but not readily recyclable materials.

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WASTE WISE

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