

Connecticut Waste Assistance for Businesses

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**We help people and businesses save
energy and reduce waste**



Free Waste Assistance for Connecticut Businesses

CET is under contract with the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to provide business recycling assistance

888-410-3827

centerforecotechnology.org/ctwasteassistance

What Can You Expect?

- Evaluate existing waste streams
- Identify opportunities to prevent, recover, and divert waste
- Empower employees through education and training
- Create customized waste bin signage
- Conduct cost analysis



DID YOU KNOW? These materials are mandated for recycling:

Commercial food waste (26 tons/year threshold)*

*Mandatory when your business is within 20 miles of a permitted facility

Cardboard & paper

Metal, glass, and plastic food and beverage containers

Scrap metal

Grass Clippings & Leaves

For a complete list of covered materials visit:

portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Reduce-Reuse-Recycle/Recycling-Its-the-Law

Offering and Separating Trash and Recycling is Required in CT



Having the Tools to Comply

Know your waste

Communicate

Signage

Training



Working with Your Hauler

Know Your Waste
Create and Adjust Contracts
Comply with Waste
Disposal Regulations
Communicate Effectively





CAN I RECYCLE IT?

Please type in the name of a material:

Search

RECYCLE RIGHT. RECYCLE SMART.

Download the app today!



Download on the
App Store



GET IT ON
Google Play



Plastic Bags

Pizza Boxes

Shredded Paper

Loose Bottle Caps



Customizable Waste Bin Signage

Mixed Recycling



EMPTY BOTTLES & CONTAINERS

Plastic, metal, glass

Clean aluminum foil

PAPER & FLAT CARDBOARD



NO

Liquids, food soiled materials

Plastic bags, utensils, straws

Chip bags, hot coffee cups

Tissues, napkins



Do not bag recyclables!

Food Scraps



ALL FOOD SCRAPS

Fruit & vegetable peels

Dairy, eggs, grains, bread

Meat, fish, poultry

Bones, shells



NO

Tissues, napkins, paper towels

Compostableware

Coffee cups, wrappers

Plastic, metal, glass



Customizable Waste Bin Signage



FOOD SCRAPS RESTOS DE ALIMENTOS



ALL FOOD SCRAPS

Fruit & vegetable peels
Dairy, eggs, grains, bread
Meat, fish, poultry
Bones, shells



NO

Tissues, napkins, paper towels
Compostableware
Coffee cups, wrappers
Plastic, metal, glass



TODOS LOS RESTOS DE ALIMENTOS





Pieles de frutas y vegetales
Lácteos, huevos, granos, pan
Carne, pescado, aves
Huesos, cáscaras

NO

Pañuelos de papel, servilletas,
papel toalla
Utensilios compostables
Taza de café, envoltorios
Plástico, metal, cristal



FACILITY MATERIALS MANAGEMENT PLAN

MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION/ HOW TO PREPARE	INTERIOR BINS	HAULER PICKUP LOCATION	PHOTOS
Food Scraps	Food scraps can be collected in kitchens	Carts/barrels	Loading dock by dumpsters	
				
				
				



Food Waste in Connecticut

22.3% of solid waste is food

520,000 tons per year of food is discarded*

Wet waste prevents an efficient burn in waste to energy facilities

*2015 statewide solid waste characterization study



Food Recovery Hierarchy

Most Preferred

Source Reduction

Reduce the volume of surplus food generated

Feed Hungry People

Donate extra food to food banks, soup kitchens and shelters

Feed Animals

Divert food scraps to animal food

Industrial Uses

Provide waste oils for rendering and fuel conversion and food scraps for digestion to recover energy

Composting

Create a nutrient-rich soil amendment

Landfill/ Incineration

Last resort to disposal

Least Preferred



Food Waste Estimation Guide

	Average Measurement		Material
Meals Served [Full-Service]	1	lbs/meal	Food Waste
Meals Served [Limited-Service]	0.5	lbs/meal	Food Waste
Employees [Full-Service]	3,000	lbs/employee/year	Food Waste
Employees [Limited-Service]	2,200	lbs/employee/year	Food Waste
Disposed Waste ¹ [Full-Service]	66	% of disposed waste by weight	Food Waste
Disposed Waste ¹ [Limited-Service]	51	% of disposed waste by weight	Food Waste



Source Reduction Guidance

- Cost savings
- Meal planning
- Food purchasing and Procurement
- Storage
- Waste tracking

FEEDING YOUR COMMUNITY

- Why should my business donate?
- What foods can be donated?
- Building a donation program
- Finding partner food rescue organizations
- Food transportation

Food Donation



Is there leftover food that can be donated today?

DONATE

Whole fruits & vegetables

Fresh dairy, grains

Prepared foods

Food stored below 41°F
or above 135°F



Call _____ at
_____ today
with questions or to schedule pickup!

Store food in fridge located

Label and keep temperature log
every _____ minutes.

NO

Moldy, rotten, spoiled food

Items past expiration date

Food not held at proper temperatures

If you can't donate it - compost it!
Compost bins are located

Donation is safe, legal, and easier than you may think!

Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act

Harvard Law School Food Law and Policy Clinic

Legal Fact Sheets



Legal Fact Sheet

Connecticut Food Donation: Liability Protections

Created by the Harvard Food Law and Policy Clinic, June 2016

Businesses (including farms) and nonprofits that provide or receive donated food are generally well-protected by laws designed to provide immunity from liability related to such donations. The federal Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act provides liability protection for food donors, and Connecticut's Good Samaritan law provides additional liability protection to businesses and nonprofits in the state.

The Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Act

The Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act (the Emerson Act) provides a federal baseline of protection for food donors.¹ The Emerson Act covers individuals, businesses, non-profit organizations, and the officers of businesses and non-profit organizations. It also covers gleaners—individuals that harvest donated agricultural crops to a nonprofit organization that distributes to the needy.² These individuals and businesses are protected so long as they donate qualifying types of food in good faith.

- **Qualifying Food:** The donated food must be "apparently wholesome" or an "apparently fit grocery product" and meet "all quality and labeling standards imposed by Federal, State, and local laws and regulations," even if it is not "readily marketable due to appearance, age, freshness, grade, size, surplus, or other conditions."³
- **Exception for Reconditioned Food:** Even if a food does not meet all applicable standards, the donor can still be protected by the Emerson Act as long as (s)he follows all of the Act's reconditioning procedures,⁴ which include:
 - 1) The donor informs the nonprofit of the nonconforming nature of the product;
 - 2) The nonprofit agrees to recondition the item so that it is compliant; and
 - 3) The nonprofit knows the standards for reconditioning the item.⁵

The Emerson Act protects most but not all donations of qualifying food. In order to get protection, the transaction must be structured such that:

- 1) The donor donates to a non-profit organization,⁶
- 2) This nonprofit organization that receives the donated food distributes it to needy populations.⁷ Direct donations from the donor to needy individuals do not seem to be protected by the Act.⁸
- 3) The ultimate recipients do not pay for this donated food.⁹ However, if one nonprofit donates food to another nonprofit for distribution, the Act allows the first nonprofit to charge the distributing nonprofit a nominal fee to cover handling and processing costs.¹⁰

So long as these criteria are met, the Emerson Act is quite protective of donors, and does not hold a donor liable unless the donor acts with gross negligence or intentional misconduct.¹¹

- **Gross Negligence** involves "voluntary and conscious conduct (including a failure to act)" by a person or organization that knew when the donation was made that the donated food was likely to have harmful health impacts.¹²
- **Intentional Misconduct** is when a person or organization donates "with knowledge . . . that the conduct is harmful to the health or well-being of another person."¹³

In other words, one should not donate or facilitate the distribution of donated food that one knows is likely to be harmful or dangerous. Unfortunately, the Act gives little guidance on what activities qualify as gross negligence or intentional misconduct. However, the House of Representatives Report associated with the Emerson Act has indicated that each case must be analyzed individually, and that, for example, donating food past the sell-by date generally will not impact liability protections because such labeling is not federally required and generally does not correspond to food safety.¹⁴ The lack of court cases interpreting the Emerson Act suggests how protective the Act is of donors; research does not turn up a single case related to food donation liability.¹⁵

A cardboard box filled with various food items. On the left, a bunch of green onions is visible. Next to them is a clear plastic bottle with a blue cap. In the center, there are some orange-colored items, possibly carrots or packaged snacks. On the right, there's a clear plastic container with orange-colored items inside. The box is made of brown cardboard and is open at the top.

Donation Basics

- Label all allergens and ingredients
- Acceptable items
- Types of agencies
- Discard spoiled items

Diverting Food Waste Starts at the Source

- Collect for composting, animal feed, or anaerobic digestion
- Container placement and color coding
- Clear signage
- Easily accessible and available bins
- Good housekeeping practices



CT Resource Documents



At Work



At Home



On Site



Hire CET



EcoBuilding Bargains



Helpful Connecticut Resources



*Food Waste Reduction
Made Easy in CT*



*Food Waste Separation
Made Easy in CT*



*Food Donation
Made Easy in CT*



*CT Guidance for Contracting
Waste Services*



*Reducing Waste from
Restaurant Takeout in CT*

CenterForEcoTechnology.org/CTWasteAssistance

Questions?

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