



Massachusetts  
Department  
of  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION

# fact sheet

## Food Donation Resources

Non-perishable and unspoiled perishable food can be donated to local food banks, soup kitchens, and shelters. This fact sheet provides information and resources for donating food in Massachusetts. Food recovery programs can offer numerous benefits to businesses and communities. They can:

- Save businesses money otherwise spent on trash collection and disposal fees
- Provide wholesome food to needy families in the community
- Help communities and businesses meet state and local waste reduction goals
- Create an improved public image for businesses
- Provide tax benefits for donating businesses

Donating food can be easy - local and national programs frequently offer free pick-up and provide reusable containers to donors. Additionally, *The Federal Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act* makes it easier to donate by providing liability protection for those donating food. See the full law at: <http://www.usda.gov/news/pubs/gleaning/appc.htm>.

### Food Donation Resources in Massachusetts

*Please note that reference to specific organizations does not necessarily reflect the views and policies of MassDEP, nor does the mention of names of organizations constitute endorsement or recommendation for use.*

#### Food Banks

There are four regional food banks in Massachusetts providing hunger relief programs. Food banks accept perishable and nonperishable food donations. The food is distributed to a network of member feeding programs (including soup kitchens, food pantries and homeless shelters). To find your regional food bank, visit America's Second Harvest at [www.secondharvest.org](http://www.secondharvest.org).

#### Transport for Food Donations

*Food Drive for the Hungry:* The American Red Cross of Massachusetts Bay (ARCMB) has collaborated with Project Bread/Walk for Hunger to provide a program to transport food that has been donated. Every day, Food Drive for the Hungry vans pick up and deliver surplus food from bakeries, food suppliers, farm stands and grocery stores, and deliver them to a network of more than 200 food pantries across the state. Some food banks in Massachusetts do not provide programs to transport donated food – therefore this program fills the gap. For more information contact the ARCMB at 617-375-0700.

#### Other Food Banks, Kitchens, Shelters, and Food Pantries

Please note that many organizations may accept direct food donations as well. To find a local organization in need:

- Check your local Yellow Pages under “Food Banks,” “Food Pantries” or “Shelters.”
- Contact The FoodSource Hotline at 1-800-645-8333. Operated by Project Bread/The Walk for Hunger ([www.projectbread.org](http://www.projectbread.org)), the hotline can provide you with up-to-date information on organizations in Massachusetts that need assistance.

Massachusetts Department of  
Environmental Protection  
One Winter Street  
Boston, MA 02108-4746

Commonwealth of  
Massachusetts  
Mitt Romney, Governor

Executive Office of  
Environmental Affairs  
Stephen R. Pritchard, Secretary

Department of  
Environmental Protection  
Robert W. Gollidge, Jr.  
Commissioner

Produced by the  
Bureau of Waste Prevention  
February, 2006.  
Printed on recycled paper.

This information is available in  
alternate format by calling our  
ADA Coordinator at  
(617) 574-6872.

