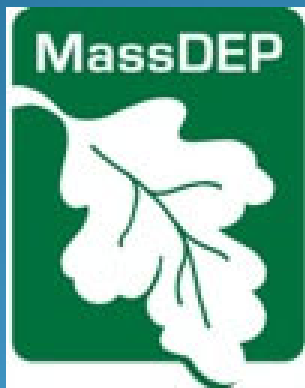


Food Rescue & Donation Strategies

Organics Subcommittee
March 26, 2026





Meeting Agenda

- Grant Updates
- 2025 Meetings Recap
- 2026 Meetings Preview
- Food Rescue & Donation Panel Discussion

Grants Updates

- Recycling & Reuse Business Development Grants (RBDG)
 - Open now until April 3
 - Food waste processing grants up to \$500K
 - Food rescue and food waste collection up to \$100K
- Reduce Reuse Repair Micro Grants
 - Grants up to \$10K
 - Webinar on April 1
 - Opens April 15
 - Due May 15

Grants Updates

- Sustainable Materials Recovery Program Municipal Grants
 - Opens April 1
 - Webinar on April 2
 - Applications due June 1
 - Food Waste Related Grants
 - Collection Carts
 - Drop-off equipment
 - Organics Capacity
 - Recycling Dividends Program

2025 Meetings

- April 2025 – Organics Action Plan Review
- May 2025 – Food Waste Prevention & Donation
- October 2025 – Shared Proposal for Discussion
- December 2025 – Continued Discussion

Plan for 2026 Meetings

- At 2025 meetings, identified topics, issues, concerns that required further discussion
- Plan for 2026 – hold focused discussions on specific topic areas
- Seeking specific input
 - Questions/Concerns
 - Barriers/Needs
 - Opportunities
 - Strategies

Initial Discussion Topics

- Food Waste Prevention & Reduction
- Food Donation and Rescue
- Management Capacity/Infrastructure
- Cost-Effective Strategies
- Residential Food Waste
- Food Waste in Schools
- Revised Organics Action Plan

Next Steps

- Hold meetings on defined topics and issues
- Specific Meeting Dates TBD
- Prepare revised Organics Action Plan
- Project 6-8 meetings
- 9-12 month process

Food Donation & Rescue

Panel Discussion

- Andrea Scarpellini, Cape Cod Cooperative Extension
 - Tim Cavaretta, Food for Free
 - Jodi Falk, Rachel's Table of Western Mass.
-
- Introductions
 - Initial Questions & Discussion
 - Open Questions & Discussion
 - Recommended Follow Up & Strategies

Cape Cod Food Connection-Gleaning with Cape Cod Organic Farm



Rescuing Food for Our Community



FOOD RESCUE AT A GLANCE:

Food Pickups:

Approx. 30 scheduled routes a week

Food Donors:

Approx. 36 food donors

Food Rescue Volunteers:

Approx. 90 volunteers

Receiving Organizations:

Approx. 50 pantries or community based organizations

Cape Cod Food Connect: Funded by the Sustainable Materials Recovery Program Grant:

Partnerships Include:

- Cape Cod Council of Churches
- Lower Cape Outreach Council
- Upper Cape Food Rescue
- Food Rescue Advisory Committee
- Cape Cod Hunger Network

The Cape Cod: Reducing Food Waste with Sustainable Solutions project involves 3 key initiatives:

- Develop a Regional Food Recovery Web Portal
- Establish a Part-time Food Rescue Program Manager Role
- Food rescue consulting with Banana Box Consulting

Find Food

Search

Filter by

Zipcode

Food Distributor Type

- Pantry
- Meal Kitchen
- Senior Center
- Mobile Pantry
- SNAP/HIP Provider
- SNAP/HIP Vendor
- Farmer's Market
- Summer Eat's

Availability

- Delivery
- Pick-up

Application

Hours of Operation

Demographic

Region

Search the food access portal

Touro, MA USA Search

Popular Categories

- Donations
- For Sale
- Produce
- Fresh Fruit
- Shelf-Stable

My Open Listings

- Fresh kale available for pick-up only
Lower Cape **Oakdale Farms** 39 minutes ago **For Sale**
- Fresh carrots available for pick-up only
Lower Cape **Oakdale Farms** 39 minutes ago **For Donation**
- Canned fruit available for delivery - Local only
Lower Cape **Oakdale Farms** 39 minutes ago **For Donation**
- Farm Fresh eggs available
Lower Cape **Oakdale Farms** 39 minutes ago **For Sale**
- Local grown mushrooms - large variety - available
Lower Cape **Oakdale Farms** 39 minutes ago **For Sale**

[View All](#)

My Favorite Distributors

- Truro Community Kitchen [View Profile](#)
- Faith Family Kitchen [View Profile](#)
- Cape Kid Meals [View Profile](#)
- Tribal Pantry [View Profile](#)
- Helping our Women [View Profile](#)

[View all Distributors](#)

Donate

Your donation can help to make possible for a family. Make a gift today.

[Donate now](#)

Volunteer

Serve your community by volunteering, hosting a food drive and more.

[Learn more](#)



FOOD FOR FREE

**45 YEARS OF FOOD
RECOVERY**

MassDEP Organics Subcommittee Meeting | March 26, 2026

OUR MISSION

Food For Free improves access to healthy food through establishing innovative programming and partnerships to overcome barriers and strengthen the community food system.

We believe that access to healthy food is a fundamental right. We envision a future where everyone in our community – regardless of age, income, or ability – has consistent access to fresh, healthy, delicious food.



FOOD RECOVERY

- The bulk of Food For Free's work 1981-2020
- 1,865,193 lbs of food recovered in FY25
- Food picked up from 45 donor locations
- Serving 68 partner distribution sites
- GBFB Enabling Program
- 3 routes daily



FOOD RECOVERY

- Groceries
 - Fresh produce
 - Proteins
 - Shelf stable foods
- Prepared Foods
 - Individually packaged
 - Some bulk trays
- Trade Shows
- Higher Education
 - End-of-semester





From Ancient Roots We Grow Fertile

Jewish roots. Intercultural commitment. Intergenerational engagement.

Solutions

Crisis Response

Long Term Solutions

Rachel's Table of Western MA takes a holistic approach to food insecurity through four programs that address immediate needs and long-term solutions

Rescue

Across Western MA, over 50% of households are hungry and 30% of food goes to landfills. We rescue & deliver this food to 70+ partner agencies.

Purchase

Several times per year, we purchase requested and culturally relevant foods in large quantities for our partner agencies.

Glean

We work with volunteers to gather surplus produce from local farms and distribute it to partner agencies and community networks.

Grow

We support the clients of partner agencies to plan, plant, and harvest culturally meaningful food for themselves and their communities.

Volunteers of ALL AGES are our superpower!

JOIN US! - feedwma.org -
info@feedwma.org



**Rachel's
TABLE**
Feeding Western Massachusetts
Reduce Waste. Relieve Hunger.

Crisis Response

Rescue

Purchase

Glean

Grow

Long Term Solutions

Challenges

- Capacity of all partners
- Matching food and timing
- Transportation – including cross-state
- Storage
- Legality concerns

Opportunities

- Partnering for efficiency across stakeholders
- Communication, education and awareness-raising
- Growth of internal infrastructure to meet demands

Our Impact At A Glance



988,730
lbs. of food
distributed



188
food & farm
donors



500+
active
volunteers



178+
partner
recipients



3+ Counties
in Western
Mass.

2025

Join Us! www.feedwma.org

Discussion Question #1

- What are the biggest barriers to growing food rescue and donation in Massachusetts?

Discussion Question #2

- MassDEP is increasingly focused on reducing disposal of food from smaller sources, including restaurants, smaller food stores, or even individuals.
- What are the opportunities and challenges of gathering food donations from these smaller entities?

Discussion Question #3

- What are the most significant infrastructure gaps to further grow food donation?

Open Discussion

Next Steps

- Hold meetings on defined topics and issues
- Specific Meeting Dates TBD
- Prepare revised Organics Action Plan
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Contact Information

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