



The Good Food Exchange

Food Rescue Laws Elsewhere, and More Awareness of U.S. Good Samaritan Law, May Inspire Change

LAST SEPTEMBER, the Obama administration announced the first ever national goal for reducing food waste, targeting a 50 percent reduction by 2030. But other places are still ahead of the U.S. in terms of enacting specific food rescue laws.

This March, Italy made it much easier to donate food to those in need by reforming relevant tax laws. In addition, Italian markets are allowed to sell unspoiled food past its “sell-by date.”

Italy follows the example set by France, which this February became the first European country to ban its supermarkets from discarding unsold food, instead requiring that it be donated to charities or food-rescue groups similar to our own FDN.

As a cherry atop this pile of usable food, the law unanimously passed the French senate following a grassroots campaign and is now in action.

Jacques Baillet, head of the French food bank network Banques Alimentaires, was quoted in *The Guardian* and other publications as saying: “Because supermarkets will be obliged to sign a donation deal with charities, we’ll be able to increase the quality and diversity of food we get and distribute.”

Although noteworthy events, good and bad, are said to come in sets of three, the European food rescue renaissance seems to come in sets of dozens. The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP), a British charity, has worked with two dozen companies and organizations to reduce the waste of the food and drink industry by 20 percent within the U.K. over the next decade. Britain’s main supermarkets, as well

as large food manufacturers doing business in the U.K. and beyond, such as Coca-Cola and Nestle, have agreed to WRAP’s plan.

That news broke this March, as did the pledge by Tesco, the world’s fifth biggest retailer, to donate all unsold food to charity. If half the food Tesco threw out last year was edible, a Reddit user calculated it could have provided over 60 million meals.

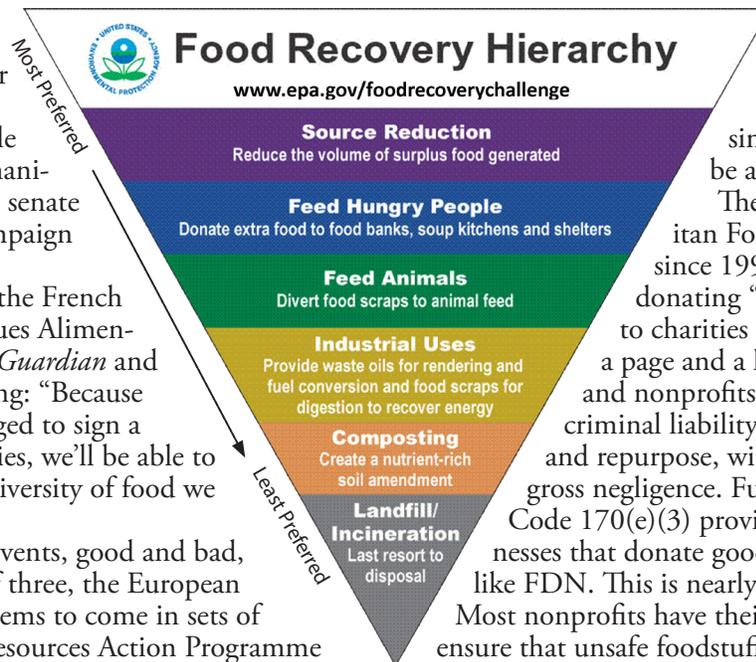
Soon after that, Starbucks rolled out its plan to bring five million meals to needy individuals and slowly scale up its food rescuing program to reach 50 million people in five years. By the time you read this article, it’s likely

that other businesses across the world will have made similar pledges.

Other U.S. business have similar opportunities but may not be aware of them.

The Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act, a federal law since 1996, removes most liability for donating “apparently wholesome food” to charities or food banks. The act, only a page and a half, specifies that businesses and nonprofits cannot be subject to civil or criminal liability from the food they donate and repurpose, with the exception of instances of gross negligence. Furthermore, Internal Revenue Code 170(e)(3) provides strong tax cuts for businesses that donate good food to qualified nonprofits, like FDN. This is nearly identical to Italy’s recent plan. Most nonprofits have their own safety guidelines to ensure that unsafe foodstuffs never reach someone’s plate.

Since many U.S.-based corporations do not know how easy or safe it is for them to donate unused food, they opt out, mistakenly believing that any food safety problem will lead to a lawsuit.



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DON'T LET YOUR VEGGIES GROW UP TO BE COMPOST!

The 4th season of FDN's Neighborhood Food Hubs is coming soon, **JULY 1–OCTOBER 1**.

Learn more at: friendshipdonations.org/hubs/.

GREAT NEWS! The Park Foundation recently awarded FDN \$12,000 for general operating support in 2016. We are immensely grateful and send our sincere thanks to the Park Foundation for its generous support of our mission to rescue food and reduce hunger in our communities.

PARK FOUNDATION	2016
Pay to the order of <u>Friendship Donations Network</u>	\$ <u>12,000⁰⁰</u>
<u>Twelve Thousand</u>	Dollars
For <u>General Operating Support</u>	<u>The Park Foundation</u>

Food Rescue Laws Elsewhere... *continued*

FDN and other U.S. food rescue and redistribution groups believe it is incredibly important to convince such businesses that they are protected by civil and government standards, and that any food they do donate will be put to great use. Only by dispelling these myths and looking to food rescue role

models at home and abroad can we bring healthy, more-frequent meals to those in need in our communities.

FDN is grateful to the many food donors in our community who partner with us to rescue food and reduce hunger locally. For a complete list, see our website. ■

—By Pearse Anderson

Special Thanks to our Donors! The following people and organizations made monetary gifts to FDN in 2015.

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