Safe Food Donation in 8 Steps

In the United States 40% of food produced goes uneaten- that is 62.5 million tons of wasted food every year. Meanwhile, there were 42.2 million people, including 13.1 million children, who did nothave enough food to lead a healthy, active lifestyle in 2015. By donating surplus wholesome food instead of throwing it in the trash you can feed hungry people, save space in local landfills, and prevent the emission of harmful greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change.

See the **Safe Surplus Food Donation Toolkit** at www.slocounty.ca.gov/SafeFoodDonation.aspx for more information and tools.

QUESTIONS? Contact the County of San Luis Environmental Health Services at 805-781-5544 with questions.

1. **YOU CAN DONATE**
   - You are protected by the California Good Samaritan Food Donation Act and federal law
   - It is OK with the Health Department
2. **FIGURE OUT WHAT YOU'VE BEEN THROWING AWAY**
   - Weigh and track your surplus food:
     https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-management- food/food-recovery-challenge-frc
3. **PARTNER WITH A LOCAL NON-PROFIT**
   - Talk with them in advance
   - Determine the logistics
   - START DONATING!
4. **SAFELY PACKAGE FOOD**
   - Package food in appropriate food safe containers, free of contamination
5. **MAINTAIN FOOD AT PROPER TEMPERATURES**
   - Cool foods at 41°F or below
   - Frozen foods at 0°F or below
   - Hot foods at 135° or higher & Process Immediately
   - Whole produce, canned goods, and dry foods have no time and temperature controls
6. **TRACK DONATED ITEMS**
   - Fill out the Food Donation Delivery Form
   - Make sure your nonprofit partner fills out and signs their sections as well
7. **TRANSPORT DONATED FOOD SAFELY**
   - Use refrigerated transport when available
   - Use thermal blankets for hot food
   - CalCode only allows for 30 min of transportation without temperature control
8. **KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!**
   - Contact your local Environmental Health Department with any concerns at 805-781-5544
   - Review the Safe Surplus Food Donation Toolkit: https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/SafeFoodDonation.aspx