



NOTICE: SENATE BILL 1383 - EDIBLE FOOD RECOVERY

Dear Commercial Edible Food Generator:

California State Law Senate Bill (SB) 1383 aims to keep food and other compostable materials, known as organic waste, out of landfills to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change. SB 1383 targets include a 75% reduction in statewide organic waste disposal by 2025 (from the 2014 baseline) and the recovery of at least 20% percent of edible food that would otherwise be sent to landfills to feed people in need.

Commercial edible food generators such as food processors, wholesale food distributors, restaurants, grocery stores, educational institutions, hotels, hospitals, and government organizations are in the unique position to recover excess edible food that is safe to consume and have the opportunity to donate it to local food recovery organizations that serve families in need. SB 1383 requires commercial edible food generators to recover the maximum amount of edible food that would otherwise be disposed. Edible food is categorized as food intended for human consumption, including food that is discarded because of appearance, age, freshness, grade, size, or surplus.

To ensure that edible food is recovered in a safe, professional, and reliable manner, SB 1383 requires commercial edible food generators to establish a contract or written agreement with a food recovery service(s) and/or organization(s) to manage food donations. The regulation also requires generators to keep records indicating the types of food being donated, pounds donated per month, frequency of donations, and the contact information of the contracted food recovery service(s) and/or organization(s).

To assist commercial edible food generators that currently do not have an agreement with a food recovery service(s) and/or organization(s), Vernon's Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) has identified Helping Hands Society of Los Angeles (HHSLA) to serve as your local food recovery partner. As a food bank in Vernon, HHSLA provides groceries to at least 250 families from local communities and partners with various agencies to provide food for other weekly food distribution programs. HHSLA offers a free food recovery service, maintains the required tracking systems, and provides documentation, including tax-deductible receipts, for donations.

To comply with SB 1383 requirements, commercial edible food generators must submit proof of agreements with food recovery service(s) and/or organization(s) to the DHEC at health@cityofvernon.org by **November 30, 2023**. If you choose to partner with HHSLA, please submit a signed copy of the attached agreement, and we will email you a fully executed agreement once HHSLA signs.

We look forward to partnering with you on this mission to employ sustainable practices that will not only serve to better our environment but will also provide food to the hungry.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Vernon DHEC at (323) 826-1448.