

TAC Edible Food Recovery Subcommittee Meeting

Date: Monday June 14, 2021 10:00- 11:30 a.m.

Location: Virtual Meeting [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Contact: Stephanie.Ewalt@sdcounty.ca.gov

Agenda

1. Introductions in chat

Monica White (Edgar & Associates), Julia Devor (Santa Barbara County Food Rescue Coordinator), Geertje Grootenhuis (San Diego Food System Alliance), Sarah Feteih (San Diego Food System Alliance), Haley Aumiller (CalRecycle), Jill Larner (CalRecycle), Malia Helms (CalRecycle), Roberta Goldenpenny (CalRecycle), Hilary Ego (City of La Mesa), Sara Marshall (City of El Cajon), Kayla Thomson (San Diego Food Bank), Nita Kurmins Gilson, (Produce Good), Alex White (Produce Good), Dominique Dashwood (City of Encinitas & Produce Good), Alyssa Wagner (City of Carlsbad), Christian Olivas (City of Lemon Grove), David DiDonato (City of Chula Vista), Sean Harris (City of San Marcos), Colleen Foster (City of Oceanside), Annika Andersen (City of Oceanside), Wbaldo Arellano (City of Imperial Beach), Dawn Lagmay (Zero Waste San Diego), Heather Heckman (City of Santee), Jackie Bookstein (Solana Center), Jeanne Patton (City of San Diego), Patty O'Connor (Feeding San Diego), Kate Garrett (Feeding San Diego), Kerri Kolarik (Feeding San Diego), Michelle Kearney (I Love a Clean San Diego), Tyla Soylu (Hidden Resources), Rebeca Appel (County of San Diego), Vanessa Mello (County of San Diego - Environmental Health and Quality), Claire Moss (County of San Diego), Stephanie Ewalt (County of San Diego), Natalia King (County of San Diego), Caitlin Lelles (County of San Diego)

2. SB 1383 Capacity Planning Mandates for Food Recovery (1 hr total)

a. Presentation on survey rollout experience from Santa Barbara County (or Yolo) *Monica White/Julia Devor* (15 min)

i. Santa Barbara County (Julia Devor)

1. Surveyed agencies previous to the law being finalized. Be very intentional and recognize that these organizations are non-profits with a very different mission.
2. 5-10% of organizations required lots of follow up and call backs to get responses.
3. Be mindful of Tier 1 and 2 time to respond to outreach.

ii. Yolo County (Monica White)

1. Goal to outreach to Tier 1 that they suspected were not already in compliance. Very simple questions – are you donating? If not, why not? What barriers exist?
 - a. Surveys took longer to get back than expected, 5-7 touches.
2. ~96% response rate from pantry survey, which was much more detailed.
 - a. Intentional language – information will remain confidential, food banks are aware this survey is going out, this is just for data gathering to get an idea of the landscape.

- b. Most responses identified consistent pick-ups/logistics as main barrier (lack of transportation, volunteers, etc)
 3. Having an entity with a good relationship with the food banks survey the pantries and generators was key to getting a good response rate. Monica came on as a consultant and they subcontracted to Abound to do the outreach.
 - b. Presentation/Discussion of regionwide survey & rollout for food recovery organizations – *SDFSA* (45 min) + group feedback
 - i. **SDFSA would like to finalize survey questions by June 30 to roll out pilot in unincorporated County in July**
 - ii. Objectives:
 1. Quantify existing food rescue capacity
 2. Gather info on food recovery organization needs
 3. Gather info required by SB 1383 (types of food accepted, service areas, etc)
 - iii. Proposed food recovery capacity survey rollout plan:
 1. Host SB 1383 workshop for food recovery orgs
 2. 1st communication via email on County letterhead to food recovery orgs
 3. 2nd communication/reminder via email from food banks, SD Hunger Coalition, and other network organizations
 4. 3rd/additional communication via phone from cities, CalRecycle, LAMD staff
 - iv. Discussion:
 1. Hilary Ego (City of Santee) - Suggestion to switch steps 1 and 2, or to send a letter advertising the workshop on County letterhead first.
 2. Food recovery organizations will be identified via the food banks, SD Hunger Coalition, County DEHQ, SDFSA
 3. Questions will include current capacity and future potential capacity with investment, and potential increase by city
 4. Colleen Foster (City of Oceanside) – concerns over sharing information, especially with smaller food banks who may not want to share information or be afraid of noncompete clauses.
 - a. Kerri Kolarik (Feeding San Diego) – would only want information from their own current partners.
 - b. Feeding SD does not have noncompete clauses in their contracts with donors, however some corporate donors ask their stores to first try to contract with a Feeding America organization for donation before reaching out to others.
 - v. Survey Overview:
 1. Informed consent clause – to identify upfront who will see the information provided
 2. Organization Information
 3. Food Recovery Operations
 4. Capacity

5. Needs
- vi. Discussion
 1. Vanessa Mello (County DEHQ) – a 30 questions survey is a big ask, how can we incentivize food recovery orgs to actually participate? What do they get out of it? Suggestion to provide 1-2 sentences on how it will benefit them.
 - a. SDFSA – hesitation over calling it as a “survey” because that sounds optional and this is required per SB 1383. Feedback welcome on what to call it.
 - b. Jill Lerner (CalRecycle) – suggestion to include 1-2 sentences “did you know that food recovery will be doubling/tripling soon?”, suggest not mentioning SB 1383, laws, regulations, etc.
3. Presentation: Produce Good/City of Oceanside (15 min)

Produce Good will present their community-driven model to help jurisdictions meet their SB1383 climate goals with 3 added benefits: compliance with CA regulations, ease of engagement, and low cost with high ROI.

 - a. Work with growers, both residential and farmers, to recover excess food and divert it from landfill. All food is fresh produce.
 - b. In 2020, they had 500 events (picks gleaned from residents, farms, farmers markets, etc)
 - c. Gleaners = transporters. They move produce from the source to the food banks, warehouses, pantries.
 - d. Case Studies:
 - i. City of Oceanside 2018 - 1 year contract. All City Harvest Day = 12,000 lbs of fresh fruits and veggies recovered. “Crop Circle” – decentralized, community-based recovery model.
 - ii. City of Escondido 2019-2021 – 2 year contract. Backyard diversion programs.
 - iii. Fresh produce recovered in these cities goes to feeding organizations located in the cities, program is hyper-local.
 - e. Stephanie Ewalt (County of San Diego) – is there any data on how much of the fresh produce is going to landfill?
 - i. Anecdotally, most residential growers either let excess fruits and veggies rot or put excess in their green bin if they have access to services. Up to 90% produced residentially is wasted.

Quick update & resources

4. Tools for Jurisdictions
 - a. CalRecycle Tools
 - i. [Guidance Document for identifying Tier 1 & 2 generators](#)
 - ii. [Capacity planning tool – survey for food recovery orgs](#)
 - iii. Food recovery organization survey (County lead)
 - iv. [Model tools](#) (franchise agreement, edible food recovery agreement)
 - b. Nuances in Criteria for identifying Tier 1 & Tier 2 generators

- i. Share what County has learned (share as attachment)
- 5. Regional Public Outreach
 - a. CalRecycle's campaign -*pending*
 - i. *What is the bigger picture of campaign? So local entities can plan.*
 - b. SB 1383 - Regional messaging for **commercial** food waste generators
 - i. Regional messages for food waste generators (businesses) Share spreadsheet with links of public ed resources inventory (*pending updates and new resources*)
 - ii. RSWA Resources – will share as developed
 - 1. Resources will include:
 - a. Food Recovery Packet (in English & Spanish) for generators
 - i. Recovery logistics, liability protections, enhanced tax deductions, food recovery requirements under SB 1383, source reduction and prevention solutions, sample contract language between a food recovery organization and food donor, and sample Food Recovery Standard Operating Procedures.
 - iii. Training Video – Regional – County Lead
 - 1. County developing - *each jurisdiction or contractor will be responsible for distribution to their generators*
 - 2. Timeline – *Sept 2021 release date (development & review Summer 2021)*
 - c. Regional **residential** outreach – reduction & recovery
 - i. [Regional Save The Food](#), San Diego! Campaign
 - ii. New Save the Food! Toolkit – Sign up at [this secure newsletter sign up form](#)
- 6. Grant & Funding Opps
 - a. USDA Cooperative agreements for community compost and food waste reduction - 2 years - due July 16 start in Sept - \$45-90K
 - b. Food assistance related projects that are included in the American Rescue Plan funding plan for COVID-19 relief efforts ([on County Board Meeting agenda June 8](#))
- 7. News & Events
 - a. June 29th @ 2pm - [Wasted Food Prevention & Recovery working group meeting](#)
- 8. July Meeting topics
 - a. Food banks & Pantry presentations on their processes + discussion
 - b. Show model training videos
 - c. Review survey progress & rollout update
 - d. Capacity planning timeline review & present cities with timeline for reference
 - e. Review generator education items

9. Adjournment

NOTE TIME EXTENTION: Next meeting July 12, 2021 (second Monday 10:00-12:00 p.m.)