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Food Recovery Program at University of California, Berkeley

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The Food Recovery Program at University of California, Berkeley is a multi-stakeholder initiative that brings together cross-campus partners in order to address issues of food waste and food insecurity. Initiated by the Basic Needs Community in Fall of 2017, the program aims to divert excess wholesome and edible foods from the waste stream to food insecure individuals, which will significantly reduce food waste while also playing a role in immediate hunger relief efforts.

What is Food Recovery?

Food recovery is the process of gleaning wholesome, edible foods that would otherwise go to waste and donating them to emergency food programs.

How can Caterers Participate?

UC Berkeley provides food and refreshments for hundreds of meetings and events weekly. Often, the lifecycle of these excess foods from catered events ends at the trash bin or landfill. Instead, participate in the UC Berkeley Food Recovery Program to divert edible foods to the campus Food Pantry, and compost non-edible food waste. Ensure that the excess food catered at meetings, events, or gatherings are recovered by submitting an Intent to Recover Food form below.

Intent to Recover Food Form:

goo.gl/4s29Re

Internal Department Recovery

The Food Recovery Program will partner with Departments across campus in order to establish approved lounges where wholesome, edible foods can be dropped-off and accessed by hungry individuals. Caterers and/or event organizers are expected to handle, serve, and transport the food according to all food, health, and safety regulations. Once transported to the approved lounge, an electronic form must be submitted in order to identify basic information such as the donor and type of food donated.

Campus Collection to Food Pantry

For meetings, events, and gatherings that have the potential for significant excess foods, please contact the Food Recovery Coordinator at ucberkeleyfoodrecovery@gmail.com in addition to submitting an intent to recover food form above to ensure that there is ample storage for the recovered foods and coordinate logistics and transportation to the UC Berkeley Food Pantry in a timely manner according to all food, health, and safety regulations.

For more information about Food Recovery, visit the Berkeley Food Institute's webpage: food.berkeley.edu/programs/community-engagement-edu/food-recovery/

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