



sanitation

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www.nyc.gov/sanitation

donateNYC: Website Now Helps Match Businesses that Have Food, with Non-Profits Who Need Food

The New York City Department of Sanitation has announced the launch of the “food” donation section of the donateNYC website. The new website tool matches businesses with extra food, to groups who feed hungry New Yorkers, with an eye towards hyper-local donations.

The new donateNYC food tool will help reduce the large amounts of edible food sent to landfills every year, redirect excess edible food to New Yorkers in need, and help fill the meal gap not yet met by existing food donations. The site also supports recurring hyper-local donations, which increase the positive neighborhood impacts of food donation and works to enhance and support New York City’s robust food rescue infrastructure.

“Thanks to legislation championed by Council Member Rafael Espinal, we worked to develop what has become the donateNYC food portal,” said **Acting Sanitation Commissioner Steven Costas**. “Our shared goal, reducing the amount of edible food sent to landfills by businesses, is good for businesses, our communities, and our environment. It’s a win-win-win. We hope this tool will enable not only single donations, but facilitate long-term relationships between businesses and non-profits who have the ability to feed many, many people.”

All safe, pre-consumer food is eligible for donation, including packaged, prepared, or bulk foods, such as:

- Whole, cut, canned, or frozen fruits and vegetables
- Cooked or dry grains, rice, and pasta
- Meat or dairy
- Meat and dairy alternatives
- Prepared meals or side dishes
- Baby food
- Pet food (to be distributed to people in need with pets)

Food that is clearly unsuitable for consumption, is from residential sources, or includes any controlled or illegal substances, along with food held or transported outside of food safe temperatures is **not** eligible for donation and will **not** be able to be listed in the portal.

“Food waste has always been a problem, but it is particularly galling when over 1.2 million New Yorkers go hungry each year,” said **Council Member Rafael Espinal**. “The new donateNYC

food portal is going to help significantly reduce this disparaging gap by connecting excess inventory of food establishments and groceries to nonprofits serving those who struggle to put food on the table. I am proud to have been a part of this process, and am grateful for the Department of Sanitation's partnership in this process.”

To participate, both potential donors and receivers must first register for an account at nyc.gov/donate. Groups with available food post a donation listing, specifying the type and amount of food, its packaging and delivery requirements, as well as a pickup/delivery time. A proprietary algorithm matches donations to possible recipients, first by their required criteria (food type, quantity, storage requirements) and then by distance, starting with the closest organization first. Recipients are notified when a donation matches their criteria and they have a limited amount of time to accept, before the algorithm matches a second possible recipient.

Once matched, donors and recipients can message one another to confirm a delivery/pickup time. Upon confirmation of a successful donation, donors will receive automatically-generated tax receipts. Additionally, after the donation is complete, donors and recipients must rate the transaction in order to assure quality and compliance with User Agreement.

To ensure the integrity of the portal, users and donation listings are monitored and approved by NYC Sanitation staff.

Donors are asked to maintain the safety standards of their donations in storage, packaging, and transit. Recipients should monitor deliveries for food safety and match to donation description. donateNYC staff will provide resource guides for best practices and more information on the City's food safety guidelines. Food donors are protected by Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Act of 1996.

According to **Robert Lee, Co-Founder & CEO of Rescuing Leftover Cuisine**, and early registrant on the food portal, “The site is great and will really add to the food rescue movement to get more businesses donating their excess food instead of throwing it away. It will be useful for identifying potential new food donors and partners to donate food to, and it will raise the visibility of our own organization for food donors.”

While the website portal is now active, a mobile app for iOS and Android will follow.

The food portal is only available to businesses. Residents wishing to donate their excess food may visit the donateNYC directory at nyc.gov/donate.

About the New York City Department of Sanitation

The Department of Sanitation (DSNY) promotes a healthy environment through the efficient management of solid waste and the development of environmentally sound long-range planning for handling refuse, including recyclables. The Department operates 59 district garages and manages a fleet of more than 2,000 rear-loading collection trucks, 450 mechanical brooms and 695 salt/sand spreaders. The Department clears litter, snow and ice from approximately 6,500 miles of City streets and removes debris from vacant lots as well as abandoned vehicles from City streets.