

2014 Food Manufacturer and Retailer Food Donation & Food Waste Survey

Every year Americans dispose of approximately 80 billion pounds of food waste and very little of that waste is recovered. This means that for the 312.7 million people in the U.S., over 250 pounds of food per person is thrown out every year. Food sent to a landfill represents lost opportunities to improve management efficiencies, to reduce operating costs, to feed the hungry, to recover valuable resources, and to realize other benefits.

The Grocery Manufacturer's Association (GMA) and Food Marketing Institute (FMI) are partnering with the National Restaurant Association (NRA) and other stakeholders in order to address this important issue. The GMA/FMI/NRA Food Waste Reduction Alliance (FWRA) has two goals, which are to reduce the amount of food waste sent to landfills and increase the amount of unsaleable food donated to food banks. The purpose of this survey is to better understand how much food is being donated, how much food waste is being recycled or recovered, and how much is sent to landfills and other waste disposal facilities in the United States.

Your participation in this simple survey is critical to the success of this important initiative. To ensure confidentiality, we have engaged BSR (Business for Social Responsibility), a highly regarded sustainability organization, to handle all of the data. Results will only be presented to GMA, FMI, and NRA in the aggregate without attribution to any company. **Please send the completed survey to Corinna Kester at Email: ckester@bsr.org or Fax: (415) 984-3201. The survey response deadline is March 14, 2014.**

BSR will remove all identifying information before providing the aggregated data to FWRA members. If follow up is required, it will be conducted by BSR so as to maintain confidentiality.

If you have any questions or require additional information regarding this survey, please contact Meghan Stasz at GMA (202-639-5935), Jeanne von Zastrow at FMI (435-259-3342) or Corinna Kester at BSR (415-984-3244).

1. **General Information:** General information regarding the size of your company is needed in order to analyze the data, and to make industry-wide assumptions after the data is aggregated. Please provide a point of contact so that we may follow up with you, if needed. All information will be kept confidential using our third party consultant.
 - a) Company name _____.
 - b) Annual U.S. sales (US\$) _____ Fiscal Year _____.
 - c) Number of U.S. employees (rounded to the nearest thousand) _____.
 - d) Primary business: is your company (please only check one):
 - Primarily a food manufacturer
 - Primarily a food retailer
 - Primarily a food wholesaler

- e) In addition to the primary business indicated in 1.d), what other business operations does your company own and operate (please check all that apply):
- Food manufacturing
 - Food Retailing
 - Food Warehouse and/or Distribution
- f) How many food retail locations does your company operate?
- g) How many food manufacturing locations does your company operate?
- h) How many food Warehouse/Distribution locations does your company operate?
- i) Point of contact information (name) _____
 Point of contact (phone number and email): _____

2. **Unsaleable Food Donations for Human Consumption:** Unsaleable food may be generated throughout the manufacturing and retail value chain. For instance, mistakes during production may result in food that is perfectly safe and delicious, but not saleable due to quality, over production or labeling issues. Product ingredients and semi-finished products that are not suitable for retail but are safe for human consumption may also be donated. The outer packaging of grocery items may become damaged during distribution and retail operations, thus making them unsuitable for sale but still perfectly safe to eat. Fresh food items such as day old bread, produce with blemishes, prepared foods and other perishable items that are near sell-by dates such as milk, juices and fresh meats may also be unsuitable for sale, but safe for consumption. Please only include unsaleable food in your answer below. Do not include food that is produced expressly for donation, purchased food provided by customers or employees expressly for donation, or any food that is donated to organizations if it is still suitable for retail sale.

- a) What is the total weight in pounds of unsaleable food donated for human consumption by all of your company's U.S. operations during calendar year 2013? If you do not know the exact amount, please provide as accurate an estimate as possible.
 Donations in pounds: _____ lbs
- b) Please use the following scale to indicate the accuracy of your answer to Question 2(a). Number one on the scale indicates that your answer is a best guess based on experience, not measured data. Number five indicates that your answer is based on some measured data used to extrapolate a somewhat accurate answer. Number ten means that your answer is based on actual measures that are believed to be very accurate.
 Please circle one number: 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5 – 6 – 7 – 8 – 9 – 10
- c) Are there barriers, either internal or external, that prevent your company from donating more unsaleable food? For example: liability concerns, regulatory constraints, food bank limitations (i.e. insufficient refrigeration, transportation, etc.). Yes _____ No _____

If yes, please check all that apply and explain in the space below or by attaching a separate page.

Liability concerns	Yes___No___
Regulatory constraints	Yes___No___
Insufficient refrigeration and/or storage onsite	Yes___No___
Insufficient refrigeration and/or storage at Food Bank	Yes___No___
Transportation constraints (distance, cost, fleet, etc.)	Yes___No___
Other barriers (please list)	Yes___No___

Please Explain here or attach a separate page:

3. Food Waste Reuse and Recycling: For purposes of completing this survey, food waste has been defined as: *any solid or liquid food substance, raw or cooked, which is discarded, or intended or required to be discarded. Food wastes are the organic residues generated by the processing, handling, storage, sale, preparation, cooking, and serving of foods.*

a) What is the total weight in pounds of food waste reused or recycled by all of your company's U.S. operations during calendar year 2013? If you do not know exact amounts, please provide as accurate an estimate as possible. Please provide a total weight and breakdown by category, if possible:

Animal Feed	_____ lbs.
Aerobic/Anaerobic Digestion	_____ lbs.
Composting	_____ lbs.
Land Application	_____ lbs.
Onsite Energy Recovery (such as fuel for a boiler that produces process steam)	_____ lbs.
Rendering or Biofuel	_____ lbs.
All Other (describe: _____)	_____ lbs.
Total	_____ lbs.

b) Please use the following scale to indicate the accuracy of your answers to Question 3(a). Number one on the scale indicates that overall your answers are best guesses based on experience, not measured data. Number five indicates that your answers are based on some measured data used to extrapolate somewhat accurate answers. Number ten means that your answers are based on actual measures that are believed to be very accurate
Please circle one number: 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5 – 6 – 7 – 8 – 9 – 10

- c) Are there barriers, either internal or external, that prevent your company from reusing and recycling more food waste? For example; liability concerns, limited access to organics recyclers, food safety concerns, etc. Yes___ No___

If yes, please check all that apply and explain in the space below or by attaching a separate page.

Liability concerns	Yes___No___
Food safety concerns regarding collection and storage	Yes___No___
Insufficient recycling options	Yes___No___
Transportation constraints (distance, cost, fleet, etc.)	Yes___No___

Please Explain here or attach a separate page:

4. **Food and Solid Waste Disposal:** This includes all food wastes, as defined above, that are transported to traditional disposal facilities such as landfills, municipal waste incinerators and wastewater treatment plants. Include finished products that are disposed due to recall. Do not include food waste listed in the question above as reused or recycled. Also, do not include organic waste disposed through on-site sanitary sewers due to routine processes such as cleaning and sanitation; however, do include finished food products that are disposed by pouring down the sanitary sewer drain or disposing at a wastewater treatment plant. If you do not know the exact amount of food waste disposed, please provide as accurate an estimate as possible.

- a) What is the total weight in pounds of food waste transported to disposal facilities such as landfills, municipal waste incinerators and wastewater treatment plants by all of your company's U.S. operations during calendar year 2013?

Food waste disposal in pounds: _____ lbs

- b) Please use the following scale to indicate the accuracy of your answer to Question 4(a). Number one on the scale indicates that your answer is a best guess based on experience, not measured data. Number five indicates that your answer is based on some measured data used to extrapolate a somewhat accurate answer. Number ten means that your answer is based on actual measures that are believed to be very accurate.

Please circle one number: 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5 – 6 – 7 – 8 – 9 – 10

- c) What is the total weight in pounds of all municipal waste (i.e. all garbage, including food waste) transported to disposal facilities such as landfills, municipal waste incinerators and wastewater treatment plants by all of your company's U.S. operations during calendar year 2013?

Total waste disposal in pounds: _____ lbs

d) Please use the following scale to indicate the accuracy of your answer to Question 4(c). Number one on the scale indicates that your answer is a best guess based on experience, not measured data. Number five indicates that your answer is based on some measured data used to extrapolate a somewhat accurate answer. Number ten means that your answer is based on actual measures that are believed to be very accurate.

Please circle one number: 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5 – 6 – 7 – 8 – 9 – 10

Please return the completed survey by **March 14, 2014** and send to Corinna Kester at Email: ckester@bsr.org, Tel: (415) 984-3244 and Fax: (415) 984-3201