



## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. Does participation in SFO Unites Against Hunger cost anything?

SFO Unites Against Hunger (UAH) is a free service for concessionaires to use. SFO covers the cost of food delivery from SFO's Food Donation Hubs to non-profit organizations serving food-insecure communities. Concessionaires will also have free access to an environmental metrics dashboard to see and track the positive environmental impacts of their food donations.

### 2. What types of food are accepted for donation?

UAH accepts a wide variety of food, including but not limited to, surplus edible prepared and unprepared foods that are not sold because of appearance, age, freshness, grade, overstock, or low sales. Shelf stable beverages, snacks and cooking ingredients may also be donated.

### 3. Can foods near or past their expiration date be donated to SFO Unites Against Hunger?

Food near or slightly past its expiration date may be donated if the food is still fit for human consumption at the time of donation. Non-perishables, such as dry pasta, canned beans or coffee beans tend to maintain their integrity for some time after their expiration date.

Perishables such as meat and dairy should only be donated if they do not pose a health risk to food recipients. Use your best judgment and do not donate food that is moldy, rancid, or shows other signs of spoilage (e.g., foul odors, color or texture change).

For food deemed unsafe for human consumption, please compost it via SFO's composting (green) bins. Don't have composting in your restaurant? Contact [sustainability@flysfo.com](mailto:sustainability@flysfo.com) to get started. We offer 1:1 in-person 30-minute trainings, and blue (recycling), green (composting) and black (landfill) labels.

### 4. Is my business protected from liability?

[California Civil Code section 1714.25](#) and the [Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act](#) state that parties that donate food fit for human consumption at the time of donation are not liable for any damage or injury resulting from the consumption of the donated food, unless the injury resulted from gross negligence or intentional misconduct in the preparation or handling of the donated food.

## 5. What is the time commitment to donate?

Program onboarding, which includes a tour of the Food Donation Hubs and a [Replate](#) website demonstration, will require a time investment of 1 hour or less.

Once concessionaires are enrolled, they are granted access to their closest Food Donation Hub to begin making donations.

For every food donation, please log a pickup request on your Replate portal ([Replate.org](#)), which will require a time investment of 2 minutes or less. The time required to drop off your surplus food at your closest Food Donation Hub will depend on how far your establishment is.

## 6. Will food rescuers come directly to my business to collect donations?

Food rescuers will **not** come directly to your business' storefront to collect donations. Food concessionaires must drop off surplus food at one of the Airport's Food Donation Hubs, physical rooms with commercial refrigerators located at SFO:

- **International-A Pre-Security** - I1.1.103Q (Basement Level)
- **Terminal 3 Pre-Security** - T3.B.026 E-Tunnel (Access is from Courtyard 3 or Central Garage)
- **Courtyard 4 Loading Dock Pre-Security** - Metal Shed Food Bank Storage
- **Terminal 1 Post-Security** - B.1.222.16 (RDM Concessions cage)
- **Terminal 2 Post-Security** - D.1.354 (Same level as D3 Material Recovery Area)

## 7. Do all food and beverage concessionaires have to participate?

Yes, all SFO food and beverage concessionaires must participate and comply with [Senate Bill 1383](#). Concessionaires that sell or provide food at SFO, such as newsstands, grab-n-go retailers with prepackaged shelf-stable food (e.g., Duty-Free Stores or Socola Chocolatier, etc.), airline lounges, coffee shops, quick service restaurants, and sit-down restaurants are required to participate in UAH. Non-food retailers (e.g., Jo Malone or Compass Books, etc.) do not have to participate in SFO Unites Against Hunger.

## 8. Does enrolling in UAH mean I must donate every single week?

Enrolling in UAH does not mean you are obligated to donate on any set cadence. If your business implements robust waste prevention practices and your establishment does not regularly generate food surplus, you may donate on an as-needed basis.

If you do have edible surplus food, you are required to donate all edible surplus food for human consumption under [California state law Senate Bill 1383](#). UAH is a resource for concessionaires to reduce food sent to landfills, implement ethical business practices, showcase environmental leadership to customers, and support those who need it most.

Businesses with robust waste prevention strategies are good candidates for SFO's Green Business Program certifications, which offers no cost support to Airport tenants in areas of energy and water conservation, waste reduction, pollution prevention and cost reduction.

Contact [sustainability@flysfo.com](mailto:sustainability@flysfo.com) for additional information.

## **9. Can businesses compost or landfill the surplus food instead of donating it via SFO Unites Against Hunger (UAH)?**

While composting edible food is preferable to sending food to landfill, it is not the highest and best use. Food should never be discarded in the landfill bin. When food is disposed of in a landfill, it generates methane, a greenhouse gas 25 times more effective at trapping heat in the atmosphere than carbon dioxide and, so, accelerates the greenhouse effect and warming of our planet.<sup>1</sup>

Food production is also resource intensive, requiring land, water, labor and transportation (greenhouse gas emissions). By donating food, your business is taking a proactive part in combating our climate change crisis, supporting local communities, and saving the embodied resources in food from going to waste.

## **10. Can businesses drop off other items and supplies, such as disposable or reusable foodware or cooking equipment in the Food Donation Hub?**

The Food Donation Hubs are used exclusively for surplus edible food only.

For non-food items in functioning, reusable condition, please consider alternative donation outlets before disposal at SFO's Materials Recovery Areas (MRAs).

[SFRecycles.org](https://www.sfrecycles.org) (San Francisco County) and [Recyclestuff.org](https://www.recyclestuff.org) (San Mateo County) are public resources to identify donation outlets for your items.

Should you require additional assistance, please send SFO staff photos and a description of the items and a member of the team will respond shortly with recommendations - [sustainability@flysfo.com](mailto:sustainability@flysfo.com).

<sup>1</sup> Environmental Protection Agency. (2021, June 30). Importance of Methane. EPA. Retrieved from <https://www.epa.gov/gmi/importance-methane#:~:text=Methane%20is%20more%20than%2025,dueto%20human%2Drelated%20activities>