Starbucks Food Donation Guide

Strategies to manage costs and effectively create a food donation program

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This presentation is based on our experience in setting up a food donation program. Nothing in it should be taken as legal advice.
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Food Donation Guide Objectives

- Create an open-source learning platform to share Starbucks food donation best practices
- Increase the efficiency of food donation for the food service industry through a cost-neutral model
- Reduce the burden of rescuing food for food banks and food agencies
- Rescue more food to support people facing hunger
- Divert food from landfills to reduce the environmental strain caused by food waste
HUNGER, FOOD RESCUE AND HOW YOU CAN HELP
Hunger Is a Logistics Issue that You Can Help Solve

These images portray two troubling crises that are closely linked:

Food Waste and Food Insecurity
Why Food Donation Is Right for Your Company

FINANCIALLY SELF-SUSTAINING

• This program has the potential to fund itself through a U.S. federal tax deduction enhancement(1)

• Liability for donations donated in good faith are protected under the Good Samaritan Act(2)

GOOD FOR THE PLANET

• Food donation can reduce garbage fees and provide a solution to the growing number of municipal composting laws

• Food waste accounts for 21% of landfill volume(3)

MAKES EMPLOYEES PROUD

• Allows employees to be part of making positive change every day

• Food Donation ranked 1 of top 3 positive changes Starbucks employees wanted to see in their workday

EXCITES CUSTOMERS & STRENGTHENS YOUR BRAND

• 7 in 10 people say it’s important to buy from socially and environmentally conscious brands(3)

(1) https://www.feedingamerica.org/about-us/partners/become-a-product-partner/tax-benefits-for-your-company
(2) https://www.feedingamerica.org/about-us/partners/become-a-product-partner/food-partners
There are three main food donation models: Food Bank Pickup Model, Discounted Food Program, & a Backhaul Logistics model.

We have found the **backhaul logistics model** to be the most efficient and effective overall for stores receiving deliveries 7 days per week; however, it does require more internal buy-in. We will be focusing on this model type in this Food Donation Guide.

In certain situations, where backhaul logistics cannot take place daily and food shelf-life is a concern, the food bank daytime pick-up model or discounted food program model may be the most effective option.
Backhaul Logistics + Tax Benefit = Cost-effective Food Rescue

**Backhaul Logistics**
Utilizing existing delivery trucks and routes to pickup food donations and return to a central site for consolidation unlocks consistent and efficient food rescue.

**Donate Food**
Instead of being thrown away, unsold food is rescued and donated to the Feeding America network of food banks and agencies to get into the hands of people who need it most.

**Tax Benefit from Donations**
Per the U.S. Enhanced Tax Deduction, companies receive a financial benefit for pounds of food donated, which can be used to fund backhaul logistics for food rescue. More details and example calculation on slide 17.
Starbucks Uses the Tax Benefit to Fund Hunger Relief Efforts

Starbucks receives the U.S. federal tax benefit for every pound of food donated and those funds help keep the program self-funded by covering food rescue logistics costs and investments into food banks and other hunger relief initiatives.

Let’s look at an example:

- **$100**
  - Tax benefit received from donations

  - **$50**
    - Food Rescue Logistics

  - **$50**
    - Hunger Relief Initiatives

  (food bank capacity grants, mobile pantries, cause marketing campaigns, etc.)

Tax benefit calculation subject to IRS regulations and may differ across various types of organizations. Consult your tax advisor to understand how to calculate your tax benefit.

**NOTE:** Numbers are for illustration purposes only; neither dollar amounts, nor allocation splits are factual.
Feeding America: Your Food Donation Partner

With a network of over 200 food banks across the U.S, Feeding America is the strategic partner to ensure that food is rescued from going to the landfill and instead feeding those impacted by food insecurity.

Feeding America’s Impact

In 2021

- Helped TENS OF MILLIONS OF PEOPLE in America
- Reached EVERY COUNTY in the U.S.
- Provided 5.2B meals
- Rescued 3.6B pounds of groceries from going to waste
- Enabled 247M meals through SNAP application assistance

Watch this video to see how Feeding America works
ROAD TO PROGRAM CREATION
The Starbucks Food Donation Story

Vision: Rescue 100% of food available to donate from all U.S. company-operated stores.

HOW WE GOT HERE

Starbucks Partners (employees) who live the Starbucks Mission and Values daily in our stores expressed concern about the food that was being thrown away each night.

Driven by this concern, Starbucks teamed up with Feeding America in 2016 to develop the FoodShare program to donate all unsold food available to donate from stores to local Feeding America food banks and agencies. Seven years later, the FoodShare program is now available in 100% of our U.S. company-owned Starbucks stores.

As a company deeply concerned with the issue of hunger, we have created this Guide to humbly share what we’ve learned in hopes to grow food donation in the food service industry so that together we can end hunger. Click here to view our video on the Starbucks FoodShare Program and how it supports hunger relief in communities.
Road to Program Creation

LEADERSHIP BUY-IN
Find your program champion(s)!

ALIGN INTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS
Logistics, Tax/Finance, Operations, etc.

ENGAGE EXTERNAL PARTNERS
3PLs, NGOs, Food Banks

TRAIN EMPLOYEES
Get them excited!

LAUNCH & CELEBRATE
Find more ways to impact hunger relief!
To successfully launch a food donation program, you need a champion who will help drive leadership alignment across the stakeholders who will support the program.

Work with your tax and finance teams to create a business case to help your leadership understand the brand and financial benefits to donating unsold food from your organization.
Program Creation | Align Key Internal Stakeholders

**TAX & FINANCE**
Ensure finance has the correct information to capture the food donation tax benefit available in the United States

**OPERATIONS**
Create launch and training guides for employees executing the program

**LEGAL**
Develop contract agreements with non-profit organizations and 3PL providers

**QUALITY ASSURANCE**
Quality and safety testing to determine goods that are capable of being donated and shelf-life after donation

**TRANSPORTATION/LOGISTICS**
Partner with transportation to create the donation logistics model right for your org

**SOURCING**
Source & distribute the materials needed in stores to execute the program
Align Key Internal Stakeholders | Tax & Finance

**USE THE TAX BENEFIT TO FUND YOUR PROGRAM BUDGET**

- Build a business case to understand the potential donation volume
- Consult your tax advisor to understand the correct tax benefit calculation for your organizational structure
- The CARES act may allow you to receive a higher tax benefit
- Use that tax savings to help cover the costs of this program, which include logistics and some materials

**KEY STARBUCKS LEARNING:**

Food banks also have to pay for logistics. Consider offsetting the food bank’s costs of distributing your donations by sharing any excess tax benefit after paying for programmatic costs.

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**Tax benefit example calculation from ReFED.org**

**Example:**

A grocery store donates potatoes with a fair market value of $100. The basis value of these potatoes was $30. The expected profit margin is the fair market value minus the basis value ($100−$30), which is $70. Under the enhanced deduction, the grocery store is eligible to deduct the smaller of:

1) Basis Value x 2 = $30 x 2 = $60

or

2) Basis Value + (expected profit margin/2) = $30 + ($70/2) = $65

The enhanced deduction would be $60, which is substantially higher than the general deduction (the $30 basis value).

Align Key Internal Stakeholders | Quality Assurance

**CHOOSE TO DONATE FOOD THAT IS SAFE AND PROVIDES A DIGNIFIED EXPERIENCE**

Your Quality Assurance team should assess all products potentially available for donation:

- All food donated in good faith is protected by the U.S. Federal Good Samaritan Act
- Test product shelf-life to understand how long it is good after it leaves the store
- Food should be tested for safety and dignity of recipient; work with your QA team to determine the appropriate shelf-life for donation and distribution
- The Starbucks QA team selected a food safe bag for food donation storage

**KEY STARBUCKS LEARNING:**

From food bank interviews, we have found the highest value items are protein-based. We have also found that they have an overabundance of breads and sweets and do not need more.

Learn more about food donation regulation in U.S.

Visit [Feeding America’s “Become a partner” webpage](https://www.feedingamerica.org/) to learn more about the U.S. Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act.
MAKE FOOD DONATION PART OF THE CLOSING PROCESS

Your Operations team is key to helping you:

• Create the right program structure
• Build training materials
• Identify resources your employees may need
• Pilot / Test out your program with employees who will be responsible for executing your program on a daily basis
• Simplicity is key: try not to create barriers to existing business processes

KEY STARBUCKS LEARNING:
Consistent execution by both employees preparing donations and those picking up donations is key to success.
Align Key Internal Stakeholders | Transportation/Logistics

**USE EXISTING STORE DELIVERY TRUCKS TO BACKHAUL DONATIONS FOR CONSOLIDATION AT WAREHOUSE**

- Backhauling donations on existing food delivery trucks may require third-party logistics engagement (see External Stakeholder section)
- Food can be segregated on truck to ensure donated product does not mix with product being delivered into stores
- Leadership alignment is especially important for this group if you have a national program

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**KEY STARBUCKS LEARNING:**

The reverse logistics food donation backhaul model is the most consistent and cost-effective donation model of the 3 models we have executed. (See Appendix slide 27 for model comparison.)
Alignment Key Internal Stakeholders | Sourcing

**Engage Sourcing to Purchase Any Program Materials**

- Sticker used to identify fridge where donations are stored
- Food safe bags to store donations
- Test whatever food storage solution you identify to ensure it does not crush the product

**Key Starbucks Learning:**

💡 If you use donation bags, it helps if they have handles for tying the bag closed. It also helps to print fill lines and allergen statements on the bag.
CREATE LEGAL DOCUMENTS WITH ANY EXTERNAL PARTNERS

Considerations:

• Outline parameters/requirements of relationship (financial, logistical, reporting, food safety, etc.)
• Include language that prohibits re-sale of food donations
• Align on marketing strategies
• Review contracts regularly and negotiate revisions as necessary
• Reach out to NGO or transportation partner to see if they have an existing contract template that can be utilized

KEY STARBUCKS LEARNING:

Legal contracts are a great way to formalize food safety requirements as well as document agreed-upon logistical details.
Program Creation | Engage External Stakeholders

Third-Party Logistics

Community & social impact opportunity for 3PLS
Unburdens food banks from the logistics of rescuing food

OPPORTUNITY FOR BUSINESS EXPANSION

National Donation NGO

Program guidance & relationship building
Single program contract
Umbrella reporting for tax

SINGLE PROGRAM CONTRACT

Local Food Banks

Food banks need protein
Food banks require financial support
Organize employee volunteer events

GIVE TO A FOOD BANK – GIVE TO A COMMUNITY

Feeding America Relationship
Train Employees | Employees are Key to Program Success

Food donation makes employees proud! Get them excited!

- Employee engagement is key to success. Consider a celebration event at stores when you launch to increase awareness and excitement.
- Starbucks provides FoodShare T-shirts for all partners at stores activating the FoodShare program.
- Restaurant/store employees will be responsible for executing the program on a consistent basis.
- Ideally, food donation does not require extensive labor or time, but is a simple part of the employee’s closing routine.
- Employees are primarily responsible for making sure donations are prepared in a safe and timely manner for the nightly delivery driver.
Launch | Kick Off Program, Celebrate and Measure

• Celebrate an amazing program launch!
• Volunteer as a team at a local food bank
• Collaborate with local food bank to amplify your program and create awareness for the issue of hunger
• Track key metrics to find opportunities for efficiency
• Utilize your Public Affairs team to amplify program in local communities and inform local stakeholders
• Explore how your company can do more to impact hunger relief
Food Bank & Donation Considerations

FOOD BANK/FOOD PANTRIES & MEAL PROGRAM CONSIDERATIONS

• Space capacity to accept/store donation volume
• Temp-controlled storage (if applicable)
• Unloading ability (dock doors, ability to unload tractor-trailer vs box truck, etc.)
• Receiving hours/days (including holidays)
• Reporting ability (BOLs, weighing of donations, etc.)

FOOD DONATION CONSIDERATIONS

• Packaged, Ready-to-Eat food
  *Examples:*
  • Packaged salads, sandwiches, etc.
  • Packaged dairy (jugs of milk, etc.)
  • Produce
• Nutritious food is preferred
• Labeling (containing ingredients/allergens)
• Multi-day shelf-life that will allow for distribution from food bank → agencies → clients
Definitions

**Starbucks Partner:** Starbucks term for employee.

**Food Bank:** A non-profit organization that collects and distributes food to hunger-relief charities. Food banks act as food storage and distribution depots for food pantries and meal programs; and usually do not themselves give out food directly to people facing hunger.

**Meal Program:** Typically provides some form of a hot meal service. This could be a homeless shelter or a variety of other programs.

**Food Pantry:** A site where neighbors facing hunger can receive food. Supplied with food from a food bank, pantries feed hundreds of people per week. Because every community is different, there are many different types of pantries, like Mobile Food Pantry Programs and School Pantry Programs.

**Third-Party Logistics (3PL):** Contracted trucking companies that manage delivery and transportation on a company’s behalf (e.g., Penske, QCD, etc.).
Thank you.