Sustainability Efforts

Food banks play a crucial role in reducing food waste through food rescue.

148.6 million pounds of perishable food rescued since 2007 from retailers through our Retail Pick Up program. This food would otherwise be thrown out since it is less attractive to consumers because of its shorter shelf life but is still perfectly good to consume.

458,914 pounds of produce rescued in Fiscal Year 2019 that otherwise would have been thrown out due to blemishes, odd shape, or other physical abnormalities that would make them undesirable to consumers but have no affect on quality, taste, or freshness.

1.24 million pounds of non-perishable food rescued from retail stores in FY 19 through our Scan a Can volunteer program. The bar codes of items including dented cans are scanned to determine if the item should be sent back to the vendor, thrown away, or if still safe to consume, donated and inspected.

710,820 pounds of non-nutritious bakery items were converted in to chicken feed in FY 19 thanks to our partner, Bakery Feeds.

619,482 pounds of meat products were recycled and turned in to feed, industrial and consumer products, and renewable fuels thanks to our partner DAR PRO in FY 19.

1.7 million pounds of composted product that was no longer good to consume was processed and turned in to soil by our partner Farm Dirt in FY 19.

120 pantries using the client choice model in the Food Bank’s network of pantries. This model helps reduce food waste by allowing visitors to pick the items they would like within categories instead of giving them pre-selected packages of food. This results in people getting only what they are able to use.

440 solar panels on the Food Bank’s roof provide utility bill savings thanks to Green Mountain Energy’s Sun Club, SolarSPARC programs, and NRG.