



SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Green Paper: Diverting Food Waste From Fruit Trees, Unsold Groceries to Benefit the Food-Insecure and Our Environment

Prepared by the Sustainability Advisory Committee

The third leading contributor to the greenhouse gas methane, which traps heat in our atmosphere, is decomposing organic waste in landfills. Greenhouse gases contribute to a myriad of problems, including changes to our climate and disruptions in the food supply chain. It is important to keep organics and food waste out of landfills. And there is another reason to avoid wasting food: Our region has an ever-increasing hunger issue. One in seven San Diegans were food-insecure before the pandemic; now the number is one in three.

Organizations such as [Senior Gleaners San Diego](#) feed the hungry and benefit the environment by gathering and diverting surplus crops and unsold groceries for food distributors across San Diego County. Crews glean from as few as one or two backyard trees, orchards and farms. If you have crops to donate, you can receive a receipt for tax deductions.

Residents and businesses benefit since the organization saves them the labor of picking or disposing of extra food in exchange for a tax deduction. Additionally, it keeps tons of organics out of landfills thereby reducing methane gas.

You can help by volunteering, donating or both! Contact [Senior Gleaners San Diego](#) for more information about volunteering and donating.

[Learn more about how to reduce food waste.](#)

SOURCES AND IMAGES

https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/dam/sdc/dpw/SOLID_WASTE_PLANNING_and_RECYCLING/Files/SDFOOD.pdf

<https://seniorgleanerssdco.org/resources/#WaysToReduceWaste>

Source for Images below: <https://seniorgleanerssdco.org/photo-gallery/>



