

# Food Waste Recovery Toolkit

**Even though one in every nine RI households is experiencing food insecurity, 32% of RI's trash is compostable food waste. The Johnston landfill is expected to reach capacity by 2034. Composting and Food Recovery are easy and important strategies for curbing harmful climate pollution and repurposing food for the greater good.**

## COMPOST

### WHY SHOULD YOU COMPOST?

- Reduced waste disposal costs.
- Positive impact on the environment.
- Research shows that young people are willing to travel further, wait longer, and pay more to dine in a green restaurant than any conventional restaurant.

### WHAT'S THE HARD PART?

- Separating what can be compostable vs. what can't be as certain chemicals can affect the process.
- Training employees.
- Sorting FOH compost for customers that don't pay attention to disposal.
- Increased cost of compostable take-out containers.
- Increased cost to pick up compost.
- Keeping compost area clean of rodents.

### WHAT ARE MY COMPOSTING OPTIONS IN RHODE ISLAND?

Check out these companies for composting options. Fees & prices vary depending on the quantity of food waste.

1. [The Compost Plant](#)

844.741.GOLD (4653)

[info@compostplant.com](mailto:info@compostplant.com)

2. [Bootstrap Compost](#)

617.642.1979

[info@bootstrapcompost.com](mailto:info@bootstrapcompost.com)

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3. Groundwork Rhode Island: [Harvest Cycle Compost](#)

401.305.7174

[compost@groundworkri.org](mailto:compost@groundworkri.org)

4. [Black Earth Compost](#)

978.290.4610 ext. 3

[blackearthcompost@gmail.com](mailto:blackearthcompost@gmail.com)

5. [Earth Appliance Organics](#)

[earthappliance@gmail.com](mailto:earthappliance@gmail.com)

6. [PF Trading](#)

800-509-9374

[Contact Page](#)

7. Local Farms

Do you work with a farm as a vendor? They may be interested in your compost scraps!

## FOOD RECOVERY

### WHAT IS FOOD RECOVERY?

Food recovery is the practice of preventing surplus food from being dumped in the trash. The best form of food recovery involves collecting wholesome but unused or unsalable food for distribution to those in need. By implementing recovery programs, food-sector businesses can:

- reduce the amount of material that enters the waste stream.
- provide nutritious meals for hungry people in their communities.
- minimize the environmental burdens associated with agricultural production, food disposal, and waste.
- make your business greener and more sustainable in an uncontroversial way.

### WHAT ARE MY FOOD RECOVERY OPTIONS?

1. [Center for EcoTechnology: Wasted Food Solutions](#)

888.813.8552, [wastedfood@cetonline.org](mailto:wastedfood@cetonline.org)

- a. Helps RI businesses divert wasted food to non-profits.
- b. Works in partnership with RI DEM, RI DOH, RI Resource Recovery Corporation, and the Director of Food Strategy to support the goals of the Relish Rhody plan to reduce wasted food.
- c. Provides free direct assistance to businesses to help maximize the financial, environmental, and social benefits of wasted food diversion programs, and trains your staff.

2. [MEANS Database](#)

202.449.1507, [hello@meansdatabase.org](mailto:hello@meansdatabase.org)

- a. Donating food via MEANS is always 100% free.
- b. On average, donations are claimed within an hour, meaning you can find a home for your donation before your staff is finished closing for the night.
- c. Donations of "apparently wholesome food" donated in "good faith" to a "non-profit organization" are protected by the Bill Emerson Food Donation Act. They verify their partners' non-profit status, protecting you from liability.

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## 3. [Too Good to Go](#)

- a. List your daily surplus food on the Too Good To Go app.
- b. Clients discover your business and buy your surplus food through the app.

## 4. [Rescuing Leftover Cuisine](#)

[volunteer@rescuingleftovercuisine.org](mailto:volunteer@rescuingleftovercuisine.org)

- a. Rescuers pick up your excess food and deliver it to a local non-profit recipient.
- b. There is no minimum requirement to donate food.
- c. Rescuers come by on the days and times most convenient for you.

## WHAT CAN I DO WITH MY USED COOKING OIL?

[Newport Biodiesel: Cooking Oil Collection](#)

401.846.1117, [info@newportbiodiesel.com](mailto:info@newportbiodiesel.com)

- a. No contract, obligation, or fee for service.
- b. "White Glove" grease handling service.
- c. Clean collection containers.
- d. Free customized promotional products.
- e. They'll remove your old grease containers when you sign-up.

## OTHER SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS IN RHODE ISLAND

1. [Clean Ocean Access](#)
2. [Save The Bay](#)