

FoodMesh and the Fraser Valley Regional District Food Recovery Network divert 2.9 million KG food away from landfill

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FoodMesh has teamed up with the Fraser Valley Regional District to build a network of organizations that can safely and quickly match those with surplus food with others that need it.

Since the network first began in 2018, the equivalent of 2.9 million meals have been shared with local hunger relief organizations to help feed those in the community who are facing hard times.

“We have found that over half of the food that is wasted along the food supply chain is preventable,” said Jessica Regan, CEO and Co-Founder of FoodMesh. “The Regional Food Recovery Network is a way of building a connected food system where we can quickly match that unsold food to a network of verified organizations that can put that food to good use according to best and highest end-use—to people first, then animals.”

Through its work, FoodMesh has discovered that food is unnecessarily disposed of because it has cosmetic imperfections, packaging errors, or due to misconceptions about best-before dates. None of these reasons mean the food isn't edible, just unsalable.

Yet, while perfectly good food is being thrown away, food insecurity is as high as ever and hunger relief organizations in the region remain in need of a reliable supply of fresh food donations.

“We are pleased to partner with FoodMesh to expand their food reuse program in the eastern Fraser Valley,” says Jason Lum, Chair of the Fraser Valley Regional District. “The Fraser Valley is home to hundreds of food growers, producers and processors. Partnering with FoodMesh and their network of organizations helps our district to reach these industries and diverts surplus food from being landfilled.”

On April 1, the Fraser Valley Regional District celebrates the second anniversary of its waste sorting bylaw, which asks all businesses to separate organic materials from their garbage. The Regional Food Recovery Network provides organizations with one way to find higher-end end uses for their unsold food and compostable materials. Fraser Valley Regional District's Solid



Waste Management Plan has a goal of diverting 90% of compostable and recyclable waste away from landfills by 2025.

Food business owners, hunger-relief organizations and farmers in the Fraser Valley are invited to join the FoodMesh network and become either a food provider or recipient. Learn more and sign up at:

<https://foodmesh.ca/what-we-do/regional-food-recovery-networks/fraser-valley/>

About us

Mesh Exchange (dba FoodMesh) is a Vancouver-based Certified B Corporation, dedicated to reducing unnecessary food waste and feeding more. It provides digital solutions that unite all elements of the food supply chain to help organizations quickly and easily divert their surplus food to the people in our communities who need it most.

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