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Third life: Paddock to plate and beyond

A review of Foodbank WA’s recycling and reuse programs
Foodbank is known for rescuing unwanted and surplus food and giving it a “second life” for people in need.

Foodbank WA has taken one further step to ensure food and packaging no longer suitable for human consumption is provided a “third life”.
Foodbank WA – Pillars of strength in your community

Hunger
- Supplied more than 50 million meals since 1994
- Feeding more than 40,000 people in need each month
- Providing food for families, children, seniors, the homeless, Indigenous Australians and migrants
- Delivering hunger relief to WA in Perth and five regional centres

Education & Health
- Delivering three leading education programs to support healthy lifestyles
  - School Breakfast Program
  - Choose to Move
  - Food Sensations
- Improving children’s health in more than 90% of schools participating in the breakfast program*
- Preventing serious health issues linked to prolonged hunger including organ damage, loss of bone density and poor immunity

Environment
- Rescuing surplus food to supply five million meals for disadvantaged people each year
- A leading recycler that has reduced landfill in WA by more than 250,000 cubic metres since 1994
- A recognised innovator in waste reduction and "third life" recycling initiatives
- Valued partnerships with the recycling industry
- National Finalist in the 2011 Banksia Environmental Awards

Society
- Delivering Australia’s largest School Breakfast Program to more than 360 schools and 12,500 students each week
- Improving truancy and social problems in more than 70% of schools participating in the breakfast program*
- A partner to more than 600 welfare agencies
- Employment and training opportunities for more than 100 disabled and disadvantaged people annually
- A place where 150 volunteers serve the community

* 2010 Healthy Food for All school teacher survey
Six Foodbanks

1200 community organisations, schools and welfare agencies

2.7 million kilograms

5.4 million meals

55,000 Western Australians
Second Life: Origins

• Foodbank WA was established in 1994 following a news report suggesting more than 500,000kg of safe edible food was being dumped in Perth each year.

• 2011-2012 supplied more than 2.7 million kilograms of food to people in need.

• Foodbank WA operates in Perth and five regional locations.

• Provides support for more than 55,000 people in WA.

• Provides breakfasts to 15,000 students in 383 schools throughout the state.

• Operates leading nutrition training programs state wide.
Second Life: Food donors

Foodbank WA has developed a network of donors to fight prolonged hunger and reduce waste.

Food donors include
- Local growers
- National and local retailers
- Local, national and multi-national food manufacturers
- Mum, Dads, schools, churches, offices etc

National Signatories
- Australia’s leading food companies
- Zero waste targets

Reasons for surplus
- Poor forecasting
- Manufacturing efficiency/inefficiency
- Promotional clashes
- Seasonal changes
- Low code/date
Foodbank WA
Waste Reduction Initiatives
Waste Reduction Results

Award submission based on a two year period from 2009-2010.

Following is a brief snap shot of the impact Foodbank WA has on the environment;

✓ RESCUED FOOD 4,590,000kg
✓ FOOD VOLUME 45,900 cubic metres

Since 1994, Foodbank WA has supplied

• 26 million kilograms of rescued food
• This is equivalent to 52 million meals!
Second Life: Legislation

In addressing food insecurity Foodbank WA also assists the state’s food retailers and manufacturers to reduce their dumping costs by receiving edible foods that would otherwise be dumped into landfill.

Reasons organisations donate food
- Corporate social responsibility
- Reduce waste costs
- Help the environment - zero waste initiatives
- Reduce waste – producers hate waste
- Tax effective

Perceived barriers to donating food
- Brand damage
- Corporate partnerships
- Logistics
- Risk of litigation

“Organisations such as Foodbank WA do a wonderful job in ensuring that food that would otherwise go to waste instead ends up with the people who need it most.”
- Mr. David Templeman MLA, Member for Mandurah (June 2006)
Second Life: Legislation

Food donors concerns include
- Brand association should be people become ill from donated food
- Cold chain and HACCP compliance
- Financial and reputation risk due to litigation

Volunteers and Food and Other Donors (Protection from liability) Act 2002
- Changes to the Act were instigated by Foodbank WA in 2006
- Introduced by David Templeman MLA and passed with bi-partisan support

“We know what happens when donating food becomes difficult – it goes into the bin, where it should never end up. This bill pick up the intent and integrity of those issues. I know that many stores just use the rubbish bin, and it is a great shame. It has become too hard, and the simplest way is to dump the excess food.”
- Mr Mick Murray MLA member for Collie-Preston, extract from Hansard, Wednesday June 28, 2006
Volunteers

Volunteers are integral to Foodbank WA’s operations.
- 150 regular volunteers each week
- 500 corporate volunteers each year

Volunteers are “hands on” with recycling and reuse activities to ensure all food is safe for human consumption.
“...this partnership [with Foodbank WA] has been invaluable to me continuing to raise orphaned and injured native wildlife and also domestic farm animals. The notion of recycling food rather than the food filling landfill sites gives me a sense of satisfaction that I am also helping our environment in a small way.”
- Karen Ducat, Mallibulai Wildlife Care, Monabri Farm
Waste Reduction Results

Award submission based on a two year period from 2009-2010.

Following is a brief snap shot of the impact Foodbank WA has on the environment;

- RESCUED FOOD 4,590,000kg
- FOOD VOLUME 45,900 cubic metres
- THIRD LIFE 930 cubic metres of packaging, liquid and vegetable waste

During the two review period, the food and packaging that Foodbank WA provided a “third life” (recycled or re-used) was the equivalent volume of;

- 6.6 million tennis balls;
- A 25 metre swimming pool or;
- 93 Toyota Prius hybrid vehicles.
Third Life: Partnerships in re-use and recycling

Foodbank WA has developed partnerships with non-food organisations to provide opportunities to give food and packaging that is no longer suitable for human consumption a “third life” beyond hunger relief for people in need.

Focus areas:

• Animal Feed
• Composting
• Packaging
• Hard waste
Third Life: Partnerships in re-use and recycling

Animal Feed

• 600 cubic metres of landfill saved (2009-2010)
  • Fruit and vegetables
  • Grain based crackers
  • Packaging waste

• Recipients include;
  • Cattle breeders
  • Wildlife rescue
  • Animal shelters

• Partners
  • Monabri Farm
  • J&D Faulkner

• Packaging is sent to recycling partners.

“I collect more than 30 tonne of vegetable waste each year which is no longer suitable for human consumption. This ensures my cattle receive adequate nutrition and is particularly beneficial during the summer months when pasture is scarce.”
- John Faulkner, J&D Faulkner
Third Life: Partnerships in re-use and recycling

Composting

• 50,000 litres / 50 cubic metres landfill saved (2009-2010)
  • Juice and soft drinks
  • Packaging

• Partner
  • Custom Compost

• Packaging is sent to recycling partners

“Each year Custom Compost receives from Foodbank in excess of 25,000 litres of expired soft drinks and fruit juices which are recycled in compost production. The sugars provide food for the micro-organisms that are vital in the production of compost.”

- Andy Gulliver, Director, Custom Compost
Third Life: Partnerships in re-use and recycling

Packaging

• 280 cubic metres of landfill saved (2009-2010)
  • Cardboard
  • Plastic bottles
  • Plastic trays
  • Shrink wrap
  • Glass
  • Unused boxes

• Partners
  • Cardboard Express (donated crusher)
  • Darlings Environmental
  • Hunts Frozen Foods

“Since forming an alliance with Foodbank WA in 2006, Cardboard Express has collected and recycled approximately 150 tonnes of cardboard that would have previously been sent to landfill.”
- Darren Trapski, Cardboard Express
Third Life: Partnerships in re-use and recycling

Hard Waste

• Includes
  • Damaged pallets
  • Timber crates
  • Steel storage bins and cages

• Items are repaired or stripped for reconstruction and re-use in agriculture

• Partner
  • Triangle Engineering

“Triangle Engineering assists Foodbank in the disposal of damaged and unsafe wooden pallets and wooden boxes. We also assist by removing steel cages which are no longer safe for Foodbank to use. These items are then repaired and reused.”

- Robert Ian Macdonald. Triangle Engineering Consultants
Future plans and partnerships

Foodbank WA is focused on achieving food security for all Western Australians.

The development of a new larger warehouse will lead to additional financial and environmental challenges.

Implementing renewable energy programs and recycling initiatives will assist by;
• Further reducing the environmental impact of Foodbank WA.
• Financial savings for the organisation.
• Creating financial sustainability through passive income.

Initiatives being considered / “wish list” include;
• Co-generation
• Solar power
• Water catchment
• Separation and storage for recyclable materials

Foodbank WA is seeking expertise and partners to develop these initiatives.
Third Life success can be attributed to the following:

- Partnerships
- Legislation
- Will
- Discipline
- Care
Thank you
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