Case Study: Dollar Tree

Executive Summary



California Senate Bill 1383 (SB 1383) mandates that all qualified edible food generators (EFGs) have a comprehensive edible food recovery program that ensures and identifies that EFGs have a partnership with a food recovery organization (FRO) that can receive and redistribute their excess edible food. After facing potential fines for not complying with this mandate, Dollar Tree engaged Abound Food Care (Abound) to coordinate compliance across all of their California-based stores, spanning over 900 locations. Additionally, Dollar Tree wanted their edible food recovery program to empower their stores to donate excess edible food to FROs whenever possible. To achieve these goals, Abound implemented a comprehensive, statewide edible food recovery program for all of Dollar Tree's California stores, bringing every store into compliance and establishing consistent donation practices.

California Senate Bill 1383 Compliance

California SB 1383 mandates that 20% of excess edible food produced by qualified EFGs be donated to food recovery organizations, for environmental and social benefit. Whether a food business or food-serving organization is an EFG qualified to comply with SB 1383 is determined by the mandate's designation of Tier 1 and Tier 2 generator types. Many Dollar Tree stores are not considered qualified EFGs per the mandate. However, instituting a statewide edible food recovery program can help streamline compliance for qualified EFGs with locations in multiple jurisdictions. By integrating compliance requirements and donation procedures into store functions, EFGs can institutionalize edible food recovery for long-term success.

Chain-wide Compliance Simplifies Statewide Compliance

SB 1383 compliance is monitored and enforced at the jurisdictional level, but for businesses and organizations with qualified EFGs located in multiple jurisdictions across the state, a chain-wide approach can reduce complications and confusion at the local level. For Dollar Tree, implementing a food recovery program in every store has ensured compliance for all qualified EFGs, without substantive disruption to participating stores not qualified under the mandate. Abound also provides specialized technical assistance so that individual stores can adapt to suit their operations.

Abound's Approach to Edible Food Recovery

Since January 2024, Abound has worked with Dollar Tree to bring all 900-plus California-based Dollar Tree stores into compliance and establish consistent donation practices with FROs in their communities. To achieve this, Abound:

- Developed a food recovery agreement across all Californian locations.
- Onboarded over 900 store locations onto a donation-management platform to track excess edible food donations and connect stores with local FROs.
- Provided ongoing technical assistance and direct coordination with SB 1383 compliance inspectors for individual stores.
- Reported an updated store list and monthly donation totals to Dollar Tree corporate and all relevant jurisdictions.

Implementing a chain-wide edible food recovery program has benefited Dollar Tree stores by reducing the risk of fines and penalties, while also benefiting local communities. Increased food donations to local FROs help address food insecurity, while diverting edible food from landfills helps to reduce food waste and associated methane emissions. By establishing an edible food recovery program in every one of their stores, Dollar Tree brings these benefits to every community it serves.



About Abound Food Care: As an insider with multi-sector experience, we have the unique skills and knowledge to solve complex food system problems to empower nonprofits to feed more people. We optimize the food system with our scalable solutions that align public, private, and nonprofit resources and stakeholders. Our solutions include edible food recovery, food donation coordination, solar powered refrigeration units, and regional programs and alliances. Regional programs can be tailored with additional services, including grant management and administration, enhanced procurement, coordinated logistics, and repurposing kitchens. Since our inception, Abound Food Care has empowered thousands of stakeholders to create healthier communities with better food access and less food waste.