Whereas, Food rescue is described as the “practice of diverting edible food that would have been thrown out and redistributing this to those in need”;1,2and

Whereas, Large corporations including Google© participate in programs that donate leftover food;3 and

Whereas, Achieving a 20% reduction in annual edible food waste translates into an additional 30 billion pounds of edible food per year available for human consumption;4 and

Whereas, AMA policies H-135.938 and H-135.939 demonstrate the AMA’s support for community programs aimed at furthering sustainable means of waste reduction and for healthcare professionals to partner with community members in realizing similar initiatives; and

Whereas, Achieving a 20% reduction in annual edible food waste translates into an additional 30 billion pounds of edible food per year available for human consumption;4 and

Whereas, A recent study estimated food waste annually accounts for more than 25% of total freshwater and 300 million barrels of oil consumed;5 and

Whereas, Food rescue is described as the “practice of diverting edible food that would have been thrown out and redistributing this to those in need or those who are food insecure”;6 and

Whereas, Charitable organizations often rely on partnerships with farmers, food enterprises, and other entities to rescue food, combat hunger, and alleviate food insecurity;7 and

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3 (trying to find better source but not having too much luck) https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/google-airbnb-other-tech-giants-waste-tonsof-food-this-group-rescues-it_us_5773ebd8e4b0eb90355d6627
Whereas, While the EPA’s Food Recovery Hierarchy prioritizes utilizing food rescue to feed the hungry, the total amount of edible food currently rescued is still less than 2%⁴,⁷ and

Whereas, AMA policies H-135.938 and H-135.939 showcase the AMA’s support for community programs aimed at furthering sustainable means of waste reduction and for healthcare professionals to partner with community members in realizing similar initiatives; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association prioritize sustainability and mitigation of food waste in vendor and venue selection (New HOD Policy); and be it further

RESOLVED, That our AMA encourage vendors and relevant third parties to practice sustainability and mitigate food waste through donation. (New HOD Policy)

Fiscal Note: not yet determined

Date Received: 04/26/18

RELEVANT AMA POLICY

AMA Advocacy for Environmental Sustainability and Climate H-135.923
Our AMA (1) supports initiatives to promote environmental sustainability and other efforts to halt global climate change; (2) will incorporate principles of environmental sustainability within its business operations; and (3) supports physicians in adopting programs for environmental sustainability in their practices and help physicians to share these concepts with their patients and with their communities. (Res. 924, I-16)

Global Climate Change and Human Health H-135.938
Our AMA:
1. Supports the findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's fourth assessment report and concurs with the scientific consensus that the Earth is undergoing adverse global climate change and that anthropogenic contributions are significant. These climate changes will create conditions that affect public health, with disproportionate impacts on vulnerable populations, including children, the elderly, and the poor.
2. Supports educating the medical community on the potential adverse public health effects of global climate change and incorporating the health implications of climate change into the spectrum of medical education, including topics such as population displacement, heat waves and drought, flooding, infectious and vector-borne diseases, and potable water supplies.
3. (a) Recognizes the importance of physician involvement in policy making at the state, national, and global level and supports efforts to search for novel, comprehensive, and economically sensitive approaches to mitigating climate change to protect the health of the public; and (b) recognizes that whatever the etiology of global climate change, policymakers should work to reduce human contributions to such changes.
4. Encourages physicians to assist in educating patients and the public on environmentally sustainable practices, and to serve as role models for promoting environmental sustainability.
5. Encourages physicians to work with local and state health departments to strengthen the public health infrastructure to ensure that the global health effects of climate change can be anticipated and responded to more efficiently, and that the AMA's Center for Public Health Preparedness and Disaster Response assist in this effort.
(CSAPH Rep. 3, I-08), (Reaffirmation A-14)

See also:
Green Initiatives and the Health Care Community H-135.939
Update on the Food and Drug Administration's Efforts to Improve Food Safety H-150.940
Sustainable Food D-150.978