

**Cedar Grove Composting**

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**A New Food Rescue Hub and Marketplace:****Lettuce Help Center and Good Food Exchange**

**Cedar Grove Composting** is pleased to announce our partnership with **Cascadia Produce** and **Seattle Good Business Network** to launch a food rescue hub and marketplace, the Lettuce Help Center and **Good Food Exchange**.

Through this collaborative partnership, Cedar Grove expands upon its commitment to zero waste. By following the hierarchy of the **Environmental Protection Agency's "Wasted Food Scale"**, Cedar Grove is committed to prioritizing actions that divert wasted food from disposal by donating and upcycling. By partnering to form the Lettuce Help Network and Good Food Exchange, Cedar Grove will work to increase access for businesses and food security organizations recovering eligible food.

This network will serve to divert food waste at a pivotal link in the distribution chain: between producer or distributor and restaurant or grocer. Surplus or rejected orders would otherwise go to waste, but this recovery resource aims to rescue this food, putting it back into the supply chain and remitting payment back to the producer.

**What is the Lettuce Help Center?**

**The Lettuce Help Center** is a food recovery and distribution hub located in Auburn, WA operated by Cascadia Produce. Within this partnership, Cascadia will receive truckloads of fresh food rejected by area retail receiving hubs, inspect and store food properly in the Lettuce Help Center warehouse, and make discounted food available for purchase at below wholesale rates via the Good Food Exchange. Combining the wholesale infrastructure and expertise of Cascadia Produce with the delivery capacity and food waste recycling services of Cedar Grove will keep good food out of the landfill and enable surplus food and farm seconds to reach new markets at reduced cost. Cedar Grove will compost any organic matter that is unfit for consumption.

**What is Good Food Exchange?**

**Good Food Exchange** is a free online marketplace operated by Seattle Good Business Network dedicated to keeping good food on plates and out of the landfill. This platform creates an accessible space for farms, distributors, and other organizations with surplus or recovered food to find buyers and recipients who can use it to its highest value. Food businesses and food security organizations alike can use this resource to find and share offers for edible, free or low-cost food which may have otherwise gone to waste. This also opens a secondary market to farmers and food producers to get paid for food that would otherwise be a loss. The Lettuce Help Center will use Good Food Exchange as its primary sales platform.

Members of the Good Food Exchange will be notified by email about each opportunity to buy as they are listed by sellers. Each post will outline what product is available, where it is located, and how to reserve.

Visit [goodfoodexchange.org](http://goodfoodexchange.org) to learn more about Good Food Exchange and to sign up for their marketplace. Good Food Exchange is a subgroup of Good Food Forum, an online community connecting people working across the Puget Sound food system to resources, opportunities, and each other.

This project is made possible thanks to funding through the Industrial Symbiosis Grant from the Washington State Department of Commerce.

#### About Cedar Grove Composting

As an industry-leading environmental solutions company, Cedar Grove harnesses the vitality of organic waste by recycling it into innovative products. In doing so, we energize cities, businesses and citizens to be a force for good by offering a full circle approach to diversion. For more information, click [here](#). [Farm Here](#)

*For any questions or requests, please contact [lettucehelp@cgcompost.com](mailto:lettucehelp@cgcompost.com)*

#### About Cascadia Produce

[Cascadia Produce](#) is a family-owned wholesale food business working in collaboration with farms, non-profit community groups, government programs, and other small businesses in Washington to mitigate food insecurity through low-cost access to culturally relevant food.

#### About Seattle Good Business Network

Seattle Good Business Network connects and inspires people to buy, produce, and invest locally, so that everyone has a meaningful stake in the local economy. Their Good Food Economy program connects the Puget Sound food community to strengthen the local food chain and build a resilient, sustainable, and just local food economy. For more information, visit [seattlegood.org](http://seattlegood.org) and [seattlegoodfood.org](http://seattlegoodfood.org).

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