

# City of Lakewood

# SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS

2016

COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY AWARD

## Food Rescue Program

The Action Center



The Action Center's Food Rescue program supports their mission to provide an immediate response to basic human needs and to promote pathways to self-sufficiency for Jefferson County residents by collecting leftover, high quality food items from community grocers and restaurants and providing them to individuals and families in need.

The program has helped the Action Center provide fresh food to families while helping address our nation's food waste issue (more than \$15 billion worth of unsold fruits and vegetables end up in landfills in the United States each year).

In 2015, more than 1.15 million pounds of food was rescued by the Action Center and provided to the local community through the organization's self-select grocery. Action Center volunteers sort through the donated food to ensure that only healthy, fresh food is provided. When the amount of rescued food exceeds the available storage space, the Action Center partners with other agencies to ensure the food reaches plates instead of trash cans.

The Food Rescue Program supports equity, upward mobility and demonstrates how partnerships benefit our community and contribute to a more sustainable future.



### Achievement Area

- Waste Reduction & Recycling

