

#### 4. What is mutual aid?

Mutual aid is the voluntary, reciprocal exchange of resources and services for mutual benefit. It was popularised by early evolutionary biologist and anarchist philosopher Peter Kropotkin, who argued that cooperation was as much a driving force behind evolution and human society as competition was. Humanity's greatest evolutionary advantage is our ability to freely cooperate with each other.

#### 5. Are we a charity?

*No.* Charities reinforce a hierarchy between the 'charitable' and the 'needy'. It often relies on the government or wealthy philanthropists looking to buy a good reputation. Instead, we understand that all people have needs that deserve to be met, and abilities they can provide. Therefore, we aim to build our organisation based on people freely providing what they can and taking what they need.



#### 6. What if I don't need a free meal?

Are you a robot that doesn't need to eat human food? We believe that food should be a human right, and not a privilege. We suspect that you share this belief with us. And unless you are fabulously wealthy, you are likely among the billions of us who must work for the privilege of survival. We spend a significant fraction of our lives obeying the orders of those who benefit most from a system that allows food to rot, people to starve, and the earth to become slowly uninhabitable. When we give free meals we are relieving some of the unrelenting pressure this system places on us. While it may seem like only a small difference, by participating in mutual aid we are building a free and just world within the cracks of the old.

#### 7. Do you accept donations?

While we prefer to operate on freely sourced food and volunteer work, we find that spending money is sometimes unavoidable. Therefore, we happily accept donated cash. However, we much prefer volunteers! We invite you to participate in our movement by sharing a meal with us and, if possible, becoming a member.

*We are looking for people who can help with either*

1. Sourcing free ingredients, containers and utensils
2. Cooking vegan meals
3. Serving meals to the public
4. Promoting our group and its ideas through word of mouth, social media and producing literature such as this pamphlet

**Visit [fnbsydney.org/contact](https://fnbsydney.org/contact) to get in touch with us!**

# FOOD NOT BOMBS SYDNEY



## Info & FAQ

# FOOD FOR THOUGHT

When a billion people go hungry each day, how can we spend another dollar on war? Food Not Bombs is an all-volunteer movement that recovers food that would otherwise be discarded, and shares free plant-based meals with people in over 1,000 cities across the world, in protest against war, poverty, and destruction of the environment. *We are not a charity but a mutual aid organisation* dedicated to taking nonviolent direct action. Our movement has no headquarters or positions of leadership and we use the process of consensus to make decisions. We also provide food and supplies to the survivors of natural disasters, and people participating in occupations, strikes, marches and other protests.



# FAQ

## 1. Where do we get our food?

We source food from businesses that would otherwise chuck out the produce for being unsellable, even when it is safe to eat. The United Nations reported in 2010 that all one billion people that go hungry could be fed by the food that is wasted every day. We produce enough food and other essentials to meet everyone's needs, but the profit motive that drives our economic system dictates that food rots while people starve.



## 2. Why vegan food?

Not only is it unsafe to recover meat, we also want to stop the exploitation of all animals. As part of our work for peace, we do not want to support violence against any animals. A plant-based diet is important to protecting the environment and a crucial way to provide as much food with as little impact on the Earth as possible. Food Not Bombs acts as a channel to further introduce plant-based meals to the public.



## 3. What's with the 'Not Bombs' part?

Food Not Bombs was founded in 1980 in Cambridge, Massachusetts by anti-nuclear activists, in part, in protest of the US's involvement in the war in El Salvador. We aim to highlight that the tax dollars wasted on the military and the arms industry would be better used to help feed people. This message has brought the scorn of the US government, as well as others. While none of our activities are illegal, members have been arrested for giving away free food. This is because our actions and ideas influence the public's perception of the military industrial complex and provide an alternate means of helping the hungry. Food Not Bombs Sydney aims to highlight similar contradictions between rising food prices and the \$57,000,000,000 annual Australian Defence Force budget.