

THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE EDUCATION SQUAD (ITES) REPORT

January 20, 2026



January 20, 2026

By M.J. Williams for the ITES

The International Trade Education Squad (ITES) seeks Coop member involvement in two exciting opportunities.

WERE YOU AT THE 1999 WTO PROTESTS?

Did you participate in the World Trade Organization (WTO) demonstrations in Seattle in 1999? Would you be willing to share your personal experiences and reflections with us? Your stories and commentary could enrich educational resources the ITES is developing in conjunction with the release of the new, documentary film "WTO/99," produced, in part, by PSFC member Debra McClutchy.

If you would like to share your experiences from the WTO protests, please email us at coopites@gmail.com no later than January 30, 2026.

JOIN OUR SQUAD!

The ITES is also seeking new members. We work collaboratively to inform Coop members about trade deals, tariffs and related trade issues that shape our politics, impact our lives and affect the Coop. Squad members take on tasks that reflect their individual interests and abilities as to international trade and together contribute to ITES's educational resources and programs.

The ITES meets every six to eight weeks via Zoom when we discuss upcoming tasks, such as writing articles for the *Linewaiters' Gazette*, running social media, inviting guest speakers for community forums, organizing other educational programs and preparing discussions for presentation to the GM.

The ITES does not require its members have any previous experience in the subject area. We are looking for committed individuals who are interested in sticking up for working people, protecting the environment, calling out systemic corporate abuse, and working cooperatively and creatively to educate their fellow Coop members.

If you are interested in joining the ITES, please email us at coopites@gmail.com.

Please also follow us on Bluesky at: [@psfc-trade.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/psfc-trade.bsky.social).

EQUITY, ACCESS AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE REPORT

January 20, 2026



Park Slope Food Coop Demographic Survey: Report to the Membership, December 2025

By Jordan Dunn, Vikas Hiremath, Dory Thrasher and the Equity, Access and Community Committee

The Equity, Access and Community Committee of the Park Slope Food Coop (EACC) is pleased to present our first report on the results of the Coop's first-ever demographic survey. This data will guide policy and programmatic changes to make the Coop more equitable and accessible.

This article is a summary of the EACC's initial report on the results of the survey. The initial report is available [here](#). It presents descriptive statistics, offering a snapshot of the demographic breakdown of the Coop. In future reports, we will discuss the interac-

tion between demographic factors, compare our demographic makeup to that of Park Slope and Brooklyn, and propose questions for future research.

RESPONSE RATE AND REPRESENTATIVENESS

The web-based survey ran from April through June 2025 and was completed by 4,711 members. This is 27 percent of the Coop's 17,145 members.

To understand representativeness, we compared survey results to data that the Coop has on all members: zip code and retirement status. We found that the share of survey respondents per zip code is similar to the entire Coop membership: for instance, 35 percent of survey takers reported that they live in 11215 (the Coop's zip code), compared to 34 percent of all Coop members. Similarly, 14 percent of survey respondents reported that they were retired from their Coop workslot, compared to 15 percent of the total Coop population. These comparisons give us confidence that the survey is reasonably representative.

WHO WE ARE

The demographic survey asked questions about Coop members, including age, gender, length of membership, sexual orientation, race and ethnicity, religion, household composition, education, household income and other characteristics.

Years of membership: Most survey respondents have been Coop members for between 1 and 5 years (29 percent), followed by 11 to 20 years (22 percent). Twenty-two percent of survey respondents had been members for more than 20 years, while 10 percent had been members for less than a year.

Age: The largest share of Coop members are between 30 and 39 years old (29 percent), and about half (51 percent) are between 30 and 49. About 10 percent are 70 and older.

Gender: The Coop skews more female than male, with 63 percent of survey respon-

dents identifying as female (both cisgender and transgender) and 31 percent identifying as male (both cisgender and transgender). Five percent of respondents indicated that they were nonbinary, gender nonconforming, gender fluid or intersex, and one percent preferred not to answer. Of all respondents, 2 percent indicated that they were transgender.

Sexual orientation: Seventy-one percent of respondents indicated that they were straight or heterosexual, 17 percent indicated that they were gay, lesbian or bisexual, 10 percent identified as queer, and 3 percent provided another description of their sexual orientation.

Race and ethnicity: The survey offered multiple categories and allowed people to select all that applied to them; people could also write in an answer. Seventy-six percent selected White or Caucasian; 9 percent multiracial and/or multiethnic; 8 percent Asian or Pacific Islander; 3 percent Black, African American or African; 2 percent Latino/a, Latine, Latinx, or Hispanic or Indigenous, Native American or Alaska Native; and 1 percent Arab, SWANA, Middle Eastern or North African.

Religion: This question also allowed people to select multiple checkboxes or write in an answer. A little over half (51 percent) of respondents who answered this question selected “no religion, atheist, or agnostic,” 21 percent selected Jewish and 11 percent selected Christian (any denomination). The remaining respondents selected another religion, selected multiple religious identities in combination or wrote in an answer.

Household composition: The average number of people per household is 2.12. Thirty-one percent of respondents indicated that they live in single-person households, 42 percent live in 2-person households and 25 percent live in 3- or 4- person households. About one quarter of respondents said they had children living with them.

Education: Thirty-eight percent of survey respondents hold a bachelor’s degree and 58 percent hold a graduate or professional degree. Four percent indicated that they had a high school diploma, some college but no degree or attended technical school.

Income: About half of survey respondents (48 percent) have household incomes over \$150,000/year, and over two-thirds of Coop membership (68 percent) have a household income over \$101,000/year. An equal number of Coop members have household incomes of \$55,000 or less as those with incomes of \$350,000 or higher (10 percent in each group).

For the full report, which contains greater detail about survey findings and discusses methodological caveats and survey limitations, please visit our committee's website.

NEWLY FORMED FAMILY SUPPORT COMMITTEE LOOKING FOR MEMBERS

January 20, 2026



October 28, 2025

The Family Support Committee was voted into existence at the September 30, 2025 - General Meeting and now seeks to assemble a dedicated team of diverse members. The goal of the Family Support Committee is to come up with ways to return the Coop to its former, more family-friendly model similar to when childcare was an option for shoppers and those doing their shifts. As a committee, over the course of one year, we plan to survey current members, analyze work slot patterns and collaborate with Coop leadership to introduce new policies that better support families.

We are eager to incorporate a broad range of voices and perspectives, with a particular emphasis on engaging parents, as this committee aims to address their unique needs as they navigate work and parenting.

When the Coop's childcare program ended around the time of Covid, we first fought to bring it back, but due to many outside factors it became nearly impossible to make childcare a part of the Coop again.

Scheduling, managing and completing shifts is no doubt a challenge for any adult with a full-time job; but for working parents, especially those with children aged 0-12, it can be nearly impossible. As members of the Coop for over 17 years, Brian Russ and Lauren Belski, who proposed this committee, have seen the frustrations parents went through when the Coop ended its childcare program. We know many families who had no choice but to leave the Coop completely.

The Family Support Committee is seeking 4-8 new members and members will be awarded workslot credits for their work. Meetings will take place every six weeks and be conducted either online or in person when possible. Members will be allocated specific tasks, and will be required to conduct research or compile findings outside of meeting times.

In one year's time we aim to report back to Coop leadership team with a solid four to five actionable changes in policy that will relieve the stresses of being a Coop member while also being a working parent.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Family Support Committee, please send an email to Lauren Belski (lauren.belski@gmail.com) and Brian Russ (bruss81@gmail.com). In your message, please explain your family situation, why you would be interested in joining this committee and a few ideas you may already have brewing.

HEARING OFFICER COMMITTEE SEEKS NEW MEMBERS

January 20, 2026



September 16, 2025

The Hearing Officer Committee is seeking new members. The committee conducts and presides over disciplinary hearings, ensures that hearings proceed in an efficient and unbiased manner and, after deciding whether an accused member violated a Coop rule, determines what disciplinary action should be taken.



Applicants should be Coop members in good standing for at least two years, have good attendance records and preferably have judicial, arbitration, mediation or legal backgrounds.

Members of the committee meet and earn workslot credit on an as-needed basis only, that is, when hearings are required. Therefore these members must also earn workslot credits elsewhere in the Coop and remain in good standing.

The nature of the committee's work requires that all members maintain strict confidentiality with respect to all matters on which they work. The committee seeks an applicant pool that reflects the diversity of the Coop membership at large.

If interested, please email Liam at LRMagician@Yahoo.com.

WORDSPROUTS COMMITTEE REPORT

January 20, 2026



August 5, 2025

By Sarah Schenck for Wordsprouts

WordSprouts is the Park Slope Food Coop's long-standing reading series, featuring published authors who are also Coop members. For over 20 years, we've hosted readers and writers in events that are always free and open to all, including non-Coop members.

Our mission is to showcase local writers who are members of the Coop and cultivate friendships between Coop members and our larger community.

During the pandemic, the Coop lost the capacity to host events in our building, and the committee went on hiatus, except for a few events graciously hosted by our neighbors at Old First Church.

We revived WordSprouts in 2025, with an exciting partnership with the Old Stone House (336 Third Street in Park Slope, just off Fifth Avenue), where we host events on the last Wednesday of the month, including delicious snacks provided by the PSFC.

Our 2025 line-up has featured:

- 2/18/25: Christopher Hastings, graphic novelist/comic artist and creator of *Five Nights at Freddy's* (Scholastic Inc., 2019) and *InvestiGators: Agents of S.U.I.T.* (coauthored with John Patrick Green) (First Second, 2023)
- 3/25/25: Katherine Fennelly, memoir/biography, *Family Declassified: Uncovering my grandfather's journey from spy to children's book author* (Sunbury Press, Inc., 2023)
- 4/30/25: Rosanna Staffa, fiction writer, author of *The War Ends at Four* (Regal House Publishing, 2023)
- 5/28/25: Betsy Andrews, poet and journalist covering food, drink and travel and author of *Coastal: 130 Recipes from a California Road Trip* (Chronicle, 2025)
- 6/25/25: Suzanne Cope, biography and memoir, and author of *Women of War: The Italian Assassins, Spies, and Couriers Who Fought the Nazis* (Penguin Random House 2025)

Our next event will be on Wednesday, September 24, with *New York Times* best-selling author Carina Finn, author of the young readers' fantasy series *Feast and Famine: The Last Great Heir* (Sourcebooks, 2023). Carina's next book will be coming out in February.

The RSVP link for our September event can be found [here](#).

We welcome your suggestions for future events—past events have featured fiction, nonfiction, history, memoir, graphic novel, cultural criticism and cookbooks. Feel free to suggest a Coop friend or nominate yourself as a potential featured guest speaker!

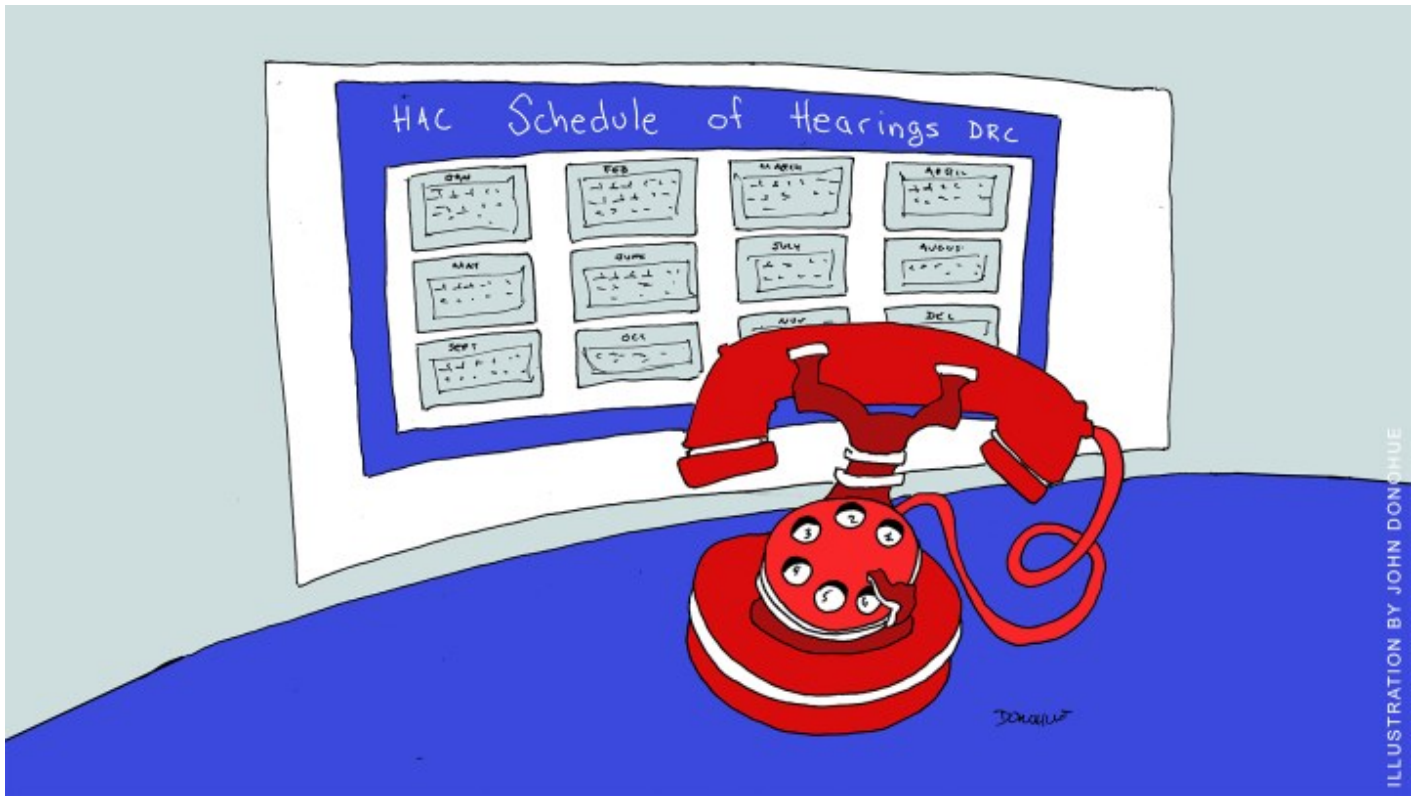
We've been contemplating upcoming events with self-published authors and also works-in-progress, and welcome your suggestions.

You can email us at psfcwordsprouts@gmail.com or follow us on Instagram at [@food-coopwordsprouts](https://www.instagram.com/food-coopwordsprouts).

WordSprouts' Committee includes committee leader Sarah Schenck and committee members Susan Horwich and Ruthie Nachmany.

THE HEARING ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE (HAC) IS SEEKING NEW MEMBERS

January 20, 2026



July 15, 2025

HAC's work is organizing the scheduling of hearings for the Dispute Resolution Committee (DRC) and Hearing Administration Committee (HAC). The DRC seeks the resolution of disputes among members by investigating and determining if a member has violated Coop rules. If so, HAC determines the consequence for that violation. Hearings are held if a member wishes to appeal this determination.

HAC only meets when a hearing needs to be scheduled, and this is somewhat rare, with a current average of about one (1) hearing per year. HAC conducts its work by email and phone, and a member of HAC must be present at all hearings. Generally, HAC members will receive about 2-3 shifts for the scheduling of a hearing.

Prospective applicants should be:

- Members in good standing for at least a year before the pandemic
- Willing to work in a collaborative committee environment

- Interested in the ongoing business of the Coop

Please send statements of interest to psfchac@gmail.com. The Committee will interview applicants and then select candidates for election at the General Meeting. We are seeking an applicant pool that reflects the diversity of the Coop's membership.

CELEBRATE OUR COOP COMMUNITY AT THE SECOND ANNUAL POTLUCK
PICNIC

January 20, 2026

Join the Coop Community

Potluck Picnic

Hosted by the PSFC Fun Committee

Sat.
June 14
2025



1:00-
3:30pm



Prospect
Park



by the
Picnic House

Bring a dish, your recipe, games and a blanket!
Coop members and friends welcome

RSVP here



bit.ly/457nHi1

Join us for the second annual potluck and yard games gathering in Prospect Park on Saturday, June 14!

Grab your picnic blankets and loved ones, and let's unwind and celebrate the start of summer and our expansive Coop community with a day in Prospect Park! We will gather from 1-3:30 p.m. at the hill in front of the Picnic House. The closest entrance is at Prospect Park West and 5th Street.

Please RSVP. Your presence is all that is required, but if you'd like to contribute a dish or a game, please indicate so at the RSVP link below.

Rain date: Saturday, June 21, 1-3:30 p.m.

Hosted by the Fun Committee

COMPOST COMMITTEE REPORT: NEW COMPOST ON THE BLOCK

January 20, 2026



April 22, 2025

By Mark Hellermann for the Compost Committee

The Coop generates upwards of 23 tons of food scraps each year. About a third of this gets composted at nine local sites in Brooklyn by members who are part of the PSFC Compost Squad. One of these community sites is just down the street at Union and 4th Ave—GreenSpace on 4th (GS4). A few weeks ago the Coop started offering this compost for sale. The sifted compost from GS4 is sold in repurposed paper coffee filter bags from a coffee shop in Windsor Terrace. All of the bags have unique brown stains (not unlike the packaging on the legendary Powdermilk Biscuits).

Compost inside the bag is made from fruit and vegetable scraps collected at the Coop and from CHIPS soup kitchen. Sources of carbon (aka “browns”) are wood chips from

Greenwood Cemetery, wood shavings from a few Gowanus carpenters, leaves, coffee grounds and small amounts of cocoa chaff. No animal products are used in the making of this product. Except for the delivery of browns every few weeks, these materials arrive at GS4 via people-powered U-Boats. Most production does not rely on burning fossil fuels. You could say this is an ultra-local product that completes a full circle between Coop food scraps and Coop member gardens. (Someone actually did say that.)

Staff at the Coop (especially Cecelia Rembert and Joe Gordon) have been very supportive about getting this compost on the shelves so it can find its way into your flower and vegetable beds.

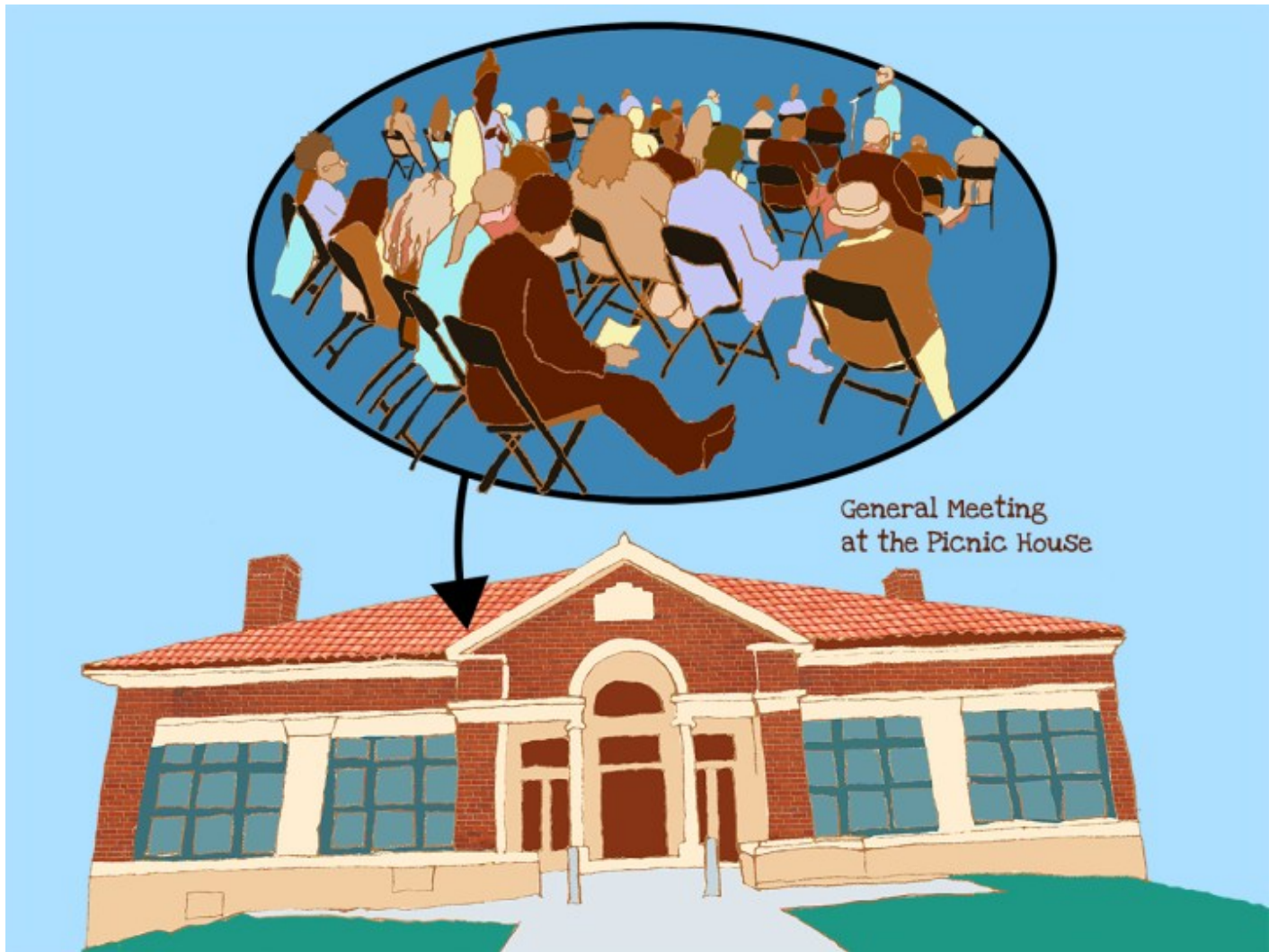
Food scraps not composted at community gardens get picked up by a commercial hauler known as Mr. T, which processes it into bioenergy in New Jersey. Coop members are making a concerted effort to increase local composting and to minimize the amount of food scraps being carted out of state and made into biogas and biosolids.

If you are interested in helping us process more of this nutrient-rich black gold, consider joining the Compost Squad. There are several openings and they are posted on the bulletin board by the elevator and also listed in “Join the Compost Committee” in this edition of the *Linewaiters’ Gazette*. Or you can contact psfccompost@gmail.com.

For more information on GS4 Compost, visit greenspaceon4th.org.

ELECTION NOTICE

January 20, 2026



April 22, 2025

Two members will be up for reelection on the Revolving Loan Committee at the May 27th General Meeting.

The Revolving Loan Committee administers the Fund For New Coops.

More info can be found here.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE SEEKS NEW MEMBERS

January 20, 2026



April 1, 2025

The Personnel Committee works collaboratively with the General Coordinators (GC-s), the Coop's upper-level management team, to provide guidance and support human resources and operational issues such as personnel policies, recruitment and hiring, strategic planning, human resource systems and processes, succession planning and organizational development.

We seek members with at least five years of upper-level management experience or expertise in employment law, human resources (including benefits, performance evaluation, compensation analysis, recruitment and hiring), organizational development, personnel and team management and finance. Applicants should have at least a minimum of three years of Coop membership before applying for this committee, experi-

ence working shifts at the Coop and have excellent attendance.

The Committee meets monthly with the General Coordinators on the third Tuesday at 6:30pm (via Zoom). Additional work and meetings outside the scheduled time will be required.

If you have the relevant work experience and Coop tenure and are interested in serving the Coop in this capacity, please email your résumé and a (short) letter explaining your interest in and qualifications for this important Committee to pc.psfc@gmail.com.

Please put “Personnel Committee Application” in the subject line, then go to <http://bit.ly/2mFY2p1> to complete a short questionnaire.

Deadline for Applications: May 15, 2025*

Diversity Statement: We seek an application pool that reflects the diversity of the Coop’s membership.

* Deadline has been extended to June 1, 2025

EQUITY, ACCESS AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE REPORT

January 20, 2026



Launch of Coop's First Demographic Survey

April 1, 2025

How many languages do Coop members speak?
How many members live outside Park Slope?
How many Coop households have children?
How many people bike to the Coop?
How much money do Coop members make?



Help us understand who we are
by taking the Coop's first-ever
member info survey!

The survey is:

- Anonymous
- Short, easy and fun
- For all Coop members 18+
- Ready for you to take!



Take the survey at bit.ly/coopsurvey2025



Questions? Email the Equity, Access, and Community
Committee at psfc.equity@gmail.com

By Jordan Dunn, Vikas Hiremath and Dory Thrasher for the Equity, Access and Community Committee

The PSFC Equity, Access and Community Committee (EACC) has been developing a demographic survey for Coop members. This is the first demographic survey to be conducted at the Coop. The survey is anonymous, confidential and brief. Every adult member of the Coop (including those who are part of the same household) is invited to individually complete the survey at: bit.ly/coopsurvey2025.

We are proud to announce that the survey is now live. We ask that all adult members of the Coop who are reading this take five minutes to complete it.

The survey has been several years in development, as we have worked to make it as inclusive and representative as possible while keeping it anonymous and concise. The survey asks about 15 demographic questions and is expected to take approximately five minutes to complete.

THE MORE MEMBERS TAKE THE SURVEY, THE MORE COMPREHENSIVE AND ILLUSTRATIVE OUR DATA WILL BE.

Our goals include having a snapshot of the Coop's membership, identifying underrepresented groups and being able to better understand barriers to joining and participating in the Coop. Based on the survey data, we intend to conduct outreach to community groups to better understand some of their needs along with barriers they may encounter joining the Coop, such as language access, (dis)ability, hours of operation, among others. We will be able to compare the data to demographic trends in Brooklyn and in the metropolitan area. This will help us understand to what extent the demographic makeup of the Coop reflects the surrounding communities or whether factors unique to the Coop are contributing to underrepresentation of certain communities such as people of color and working class New Yorkers.

Participation is voluntary, but highly encouraged. The more members take the survey, the more comprehensive and illustrative our data will be. Survey responses are anonymous and members cannot be identified. Our proposal for the survey was reviewed and approved at a General Meeting.

In the current political climate, in which there is tremendous backlash against diversity and inclusion initiatives, participating in the survey is an opportunity to join Coop members in taking action based on our values. As a cooperatively-owned organization which values social justice and food justice, we want to ensure that what we cherish about our Coop can be accessible to and enjoyed by all community members who seek affordable and healthful food. This survey will help us to be more systematic in how we carry out our mission, an appropriate—if not overdue—step for an organization of our size.

Please take five minutes of your time to complete the survey. After you finish, please encourage your friends, squad members, the next person you interact with at check-out or on line, along with other adult members of your household, to complete it too.

Many thanks!

REVOLVING LOAN COMMITTEE REPORT

January 20, 2026

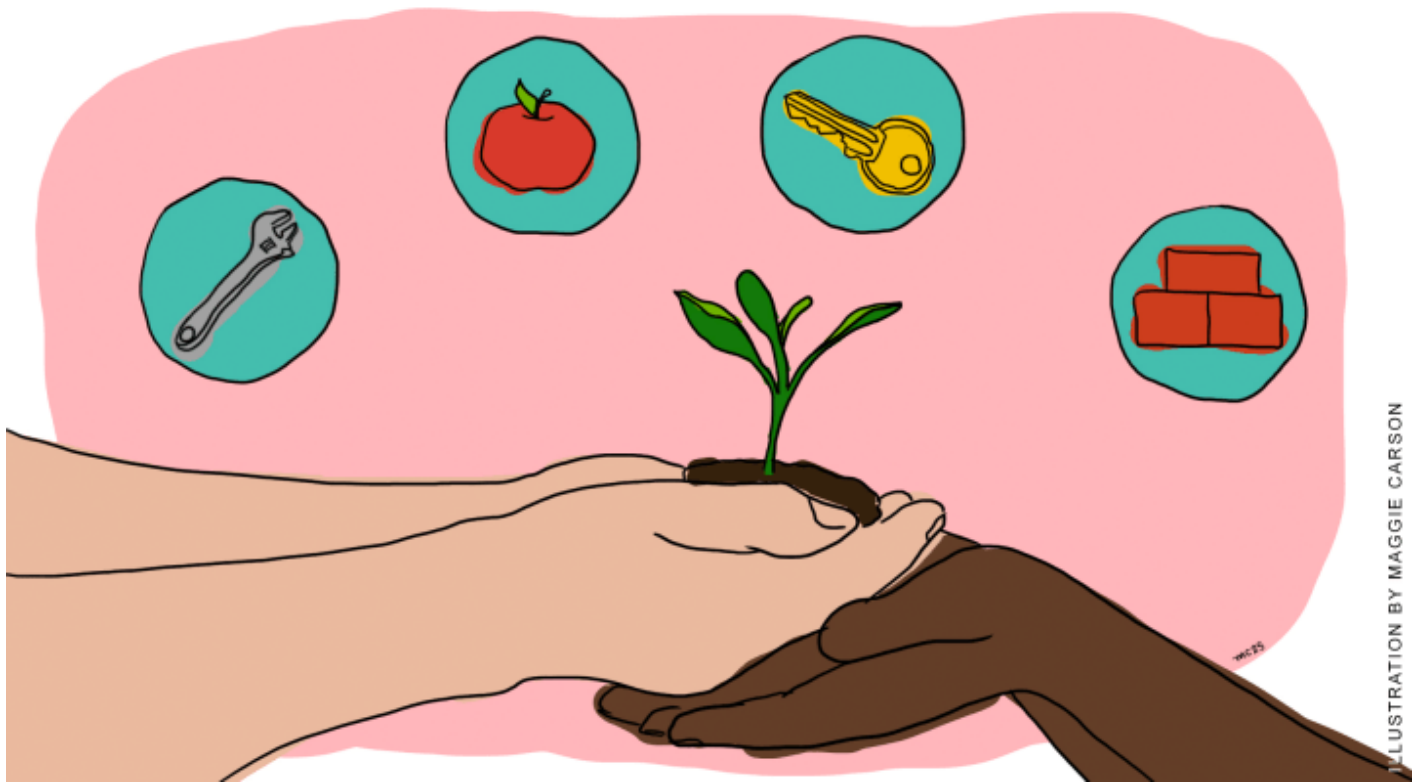


ILLUSTRATION BY MAGGIE CARSON

April 1, 2025

By Kathy Martino and Wendy Fleischer for the RLC

The Revolving Loan Committee manages the Fund for New Food Coops.

The Fund for New Food Coops supports start-up food coops that rely on member labor. Using donations from the Park Slope Food Coop, its members and other supporters, the Fund for New Food Coops offers low-cost loans to help new food coops pay for the critical items that enable them to grow and to generate income. Examples of appropriate uses for loan funds include rent deposits, refrigeration and other major equipment and physical upgrades to shopping or storage space.

The purpose of the Fund for New Food Coops is to expand the role of member-run cooperatives in bringing healthy food at low prices to residents across Brooklyn and beyond. New, strong food coops will ultimately help the Park Slope Food Coop better satisfy its burgeoning membership and help meet the skyrocketing interest in food cooperatives. Providing favorable financing and, thereby, demonstrating the credit worthi-

ness of new coops is one concrete way the Park Slope Food Coop supports nascent food coops and is aligned with the Cooperative Principles that encourage mutual support.

Currently there is more than \$60,000 available in the Fund.

The fund has made two loans to the Greene Hill Food Co-op, which serves Bedford-Stuyvesant, Clinton Hill, Fort Greene and surrounding areas. The PSFC loans have been a key support for the stability and growth of the member-run Co-op. While there has been little demand for loans by the Revolving Loan Committee of late, we expect interest in member-run coops to grow in the next period.

The Committee consists of two members, with Joe Holtz as the staff liaison. It continues to manage the loans to Greene Hill. The Committee will be asking the May 2025 General Meeting to re-elect one of its current members for a new three-year term and to elect Committee Co-Founder Joe Holtz to the Committee effective on June 28th, 2025, which is the day after he retires.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE REPORT: RECYCLING IN NYC IS EASIER THAN YOU THINK

January 20, 2026



March 11, 2025

By Stephanie Wilson for the Environmental Committee

The City, a nonprofit news organization that reports on local issues for New Yorkers, recently published an article called “Recycling in NYC Is Easier Than You Think: A Guide for the Confused.” It includes an interview with a New York City Department of Sanitation (DSNY) spokesperson, provides general information about recycling in NYC, and debunks myths about the topic. The PSFC Environmental Committee has summarized the tips to help us recycle more effectively:

I’m not sure I can recycle this object. I should throw it in the trash to avoid wishful recycling and potentially contaminating the recycle stream, right?

Nope! In New York, if you think it might be recyclable, it's better to put it in the recycle bin than in the garbage. "If you're not sure, let us take care of it. We are the experts. If you put it in the trash, it definitely doesn't get recycled," said Joshua Goodman, spokesperson for DSNYC.

What materials are most likely to be recycled?

Paper and metal are more likely to be repurposed. Plastics and glass are more likely to end up in landfills if they can't be resold.

Is this plastic-lined carton (e.g. the ones that contain soup stocks and plant milks) recyclable? Does it belong in the paper recycling?

Plastic-lined cartons do not belong in paper recycling, but they do belong in the other recycling stream which consists of metals, plastics, and glass.

Should I recycle this paper?

Yes, any paper product you can think of, besides the plastic-lined cartons, can be included with paper recycling.

Can I recycle paper coffee cups?

Yes, plastic coffee cup lids should go in the metal, plastic, and glass bin. The cup goes into paper recycling.

How about brown take-out containers with a wax or plastic lining?

Yes, throw it in paper recycling. All the material can't be pulped because of the lining but they can use some of it.

Envelopes with plastic film windows? Do I need to remove the film?

You can put the whole thing in paper recycling. Recyclers can take out the plastic liner and metal pieces.

Used pizza boxes?

Yes, these can be thrown in the paper recycling, even if it's greasy or cheesy. Just remove the crusts or any leftovers first.

Wood like a cutting board or chopsticks?

These should go in the compost, not in paper recycling.

Can I recycle this rigid plastic thing?

Yes, any rigid plastic can be recycled. It's rigid plastic if it maintains its shape when it's on the counter.

What items can be recycled that are surprising?

Empty hairspray and aerosol cans, pots and pans even if they are non-stick, plastic takeout containers and small appliances made of mostly metal or plastic without rechargeable batteries, such as microwaves or toasters.

What about this broken glass, knife or other sharp objects?

No, it's better to double bag the items and put them in the trash for worker safety.

What else is definitely not recyclable?

Styrofoam, fake Christmas trees, disposable gloves, face masks, ceramics, eyeglasses, mirrors, lightbulbs, floppy and filmy plastic bags, bubble wrap, cellophane (i.e. cling wrap), cables, string lights, hoses and extension cords.

What do I do with plastic bags then?

Though larger retailers are required to provide bins for recycling plastic bags, these are hard to recycle and often have fewer reuses than rigid plastics.

Do I need to throw containers with certain numbers away?

Nope! In NYC, throw all plastic containers with a number in the recycle.

Do I need to scrub containers clean before I recycle it?

No, rinse off recyclable items, but no need to scrub or use too much water. If it's mostly empty, you can put it in the recycling bin.

What about this greasy aluminum foil?

Yep, NYC accepts all aluminum foil, even if it's soiled.

What about this item with mixed materials, such as an oatmeal tin which has a paper middle, metal bottom and plastic top?

It can go in either recycle bin. You can rip it apart and recycle each component separately, but you don't have to. Just don't throw it in the trash.

How about metal and plastic caps?

Ideally the plastic caps should be kept on the bottles or containers, but it's okay if you forget and put them in the bin separately. Metal caps can be tossed in by themselves or kept on the bottles.

Where can I find more information?

Again: Recycling in NYC Is Easier Than You Think: A Guide for the Confused. Also, check out DSNYC's website. PSFC Environmental Committee: psfc.environmental.com-mittee@gmail.com

Image source: Courtesy of SWANA

ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE REPORT

January 20, 2026



March 11, 2025

By Sarah Chandler, for the Animal Welfare Committee

The Park Slope Food Coop Animal Welfare Committee is a nine-person committee that creates guides, articles and tips about the treatment of animals in the production of products sold by the PSFC. Our goal is to provide transparent, factual information for members about the animal-based products sold in the Coop, as well as plant-based alternatives and products that might have been tested on animals. We have guides for beef, chicken, pork, fish, milk, butter and plant-based milks and egg replacements, and a guide to cosmetic and household products. We are working on a variety of more complex product guides, such as yogurt, ice cream, cheese and pet food.

To create our guides, we start our research by getting product lists from buyers and surveying Coop shelves. We then develop a series of questions to ask farmers and producers, based on known animal welfare issues for that species, as outlined by organizations devoted to the humane treatment of animals, as well as questions that have been raised by PSFC members.

WE CREATE PRODUCT GUIDES SO MEMBERS CAN LEARN ABOUT THE TREATMENT OF ANIMALS AS THEY ARE MAKING THEIR FOOD CHOICES.

We ask about the animals' living conditions, what they are fed, breeding practices, body modifications (for example, partial or complete amputation of tails, beaks or horns), and slaughter practices. Based on these interviews and/or surveys with farmers and producers, and information from product websites, we create product guides so members can learn about the treatment of animals as they are making their food choices.

There are many limitations to this work: We cannot always get a response from producers; we don't have the capacity to independently verify the claims a farmer or producer makes; and in many cases the producers themselves have no way of tracking

animal welfare because they source from a huge number of places (tracking pet food sources is a particular challenge).

We continuously look for ways to provide more information to the membership about animal welfare issues relating to Coop products. To that end, in December of 2024, we hosted Andrew deCoriolis, the Executive Director of Farm Forward. Through campaigns, publications and consulting, Farm Forward advocates for safe, healthy and humane animal farming. They work closely with food companies, universities and city municipalities to help them improve the welfare of animals in their supply chains. For example, Farm Forward leads the development of the Good Food Purchasing Policy (GFPP)'s animal welfare standards for municipalities and public school systems. In 2024, Farm Forward released the results of a comprehensive investigation into Alexandre Family Farms, a leading certified organic, humane and "regenerative" dairy company, which uncovered systematic animal abuse and likely violations of several certification standards.

"HUMANEWASHING" IS AN EFFORT TO MARKET ANIMAL PRODUCTS TO CONSCIENTIOUS CONSUMERS THROUGH DECEPTIVE PACKAGING AND LABELING BY CREATING THE ILLUSION OF GOOD ANIMAL WELFARE PRACTICES.

During our meeting, we asked Andrew questions about how our committee can better inform PSFC members about animal welfare issues related to the products we carry and at the point of purchase and how to educate ourselves about current standards and labels and improve our guides. Farm Forward has recently been working on a campaign to end "humanewashing" on food labels. "Humanewashing" is an effort to market animal products to conscientious consumers through deceptive packaging and labeling by creating the illusion of good animal welfare practices. Labels such as "Cage Free," "Humanely Raised" and "Natural" are examples of humanewashing: These labels are not standardized, are often self-certified, and do not require third parties to validate animal welfare conditions. Since product labels can't be trusted to pro-

vide an accurate view of animal treatment, our committee works to provide members with the best information we have about the products the Coop sells.

We have gotten feedback from many members who assume that animal-based products at the Coop are procured because they have higher animal welfare standards. Buyers carefully consider every item that is carried at the Coop, but when it comes to animal welfare, many products we carry may not be the best options available. We will continue improving how we inform the membership in 2025 (and beyond), and we encourage everyone to educate themselves about the products they purchase from the Coop.