INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND EDUCATION SQUAD REPORT: WHY PRICES KEEP CLIMBING

June 16, 2026



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By Sarah Z. Canner & Stephen I. Klein

If grocery prices at the Coop feel like they keep edging up, they are. A lot of what we buy starts as a commodity—basic items like wheat, corn, soybeans, coffee and oil—and those prices are set in global markets, not at the neighborhood level.

Wars, droughts, tariffs, labor shortages and shipping problems all ripple through the food system quickly. Fuel plays an enormous role, too, because diesel powers nearly

every step of getting food from farm to shelf: planting, harvesting, processing, trucking, shipping and stocking.

Right now, the biggest pressure point is the U.S.-Iran conflict and the Strait of Hormuz crisis, which has closed the strait and prevented transport of petroleum and fertilizer. That waterway carries 20 percent of the world's oil, so when shipping there gets disrupted, energy prices jump. Gasoline in the United States is up sharply, even with some recent easing.

A lot of the world's urea and ammonia, essential ingredients for fertilizers, move through the same region, so those prices have surged as well. That matters because fertilizer is one of the biggest costs for farmers, especially in the spring planting season. If farmers use less fertilizer, that can mean lower yields later on—and higher food prices down the road.

These are new pressures on an already strained system. Prices never really came back down after Covid, and recent tariffs and poor crops have added to the strains. So the Coop isn't dealing with one big shock—it's facing several at once.

Even so, the Coop has been able to maintain fairly stable prices in this volatile environment. Britt Henriksson, Receiving Coordinator and Buyer of Bulk and Gourmet Foods, said: "We have been seeing higher price hikes since Covid—there were not enough drivers and port workers and the cost of containers for shipping increased. After Covid eased, there were not enough workers across the board (prices never did come back down to pre-Covid prices). The most recent hikes were from tariffs and bad crops. I believe one or two small companies have said they will start charging a small fee per invoice or increase their fuel pricing for transportation due to rising fuel prices."

So yes, prices are still climbing—but a lot of work is going on behind the scenes to keep the Coop as steady as possible.

EQUITY, ACCESS AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE REPORT

June 16, 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 interaction 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 respondents 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.

WORDSPROUTS COMMITTEE REPORT

June 16, 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 neigh-

bors 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.

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

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

June 16, 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.committee@gmail.com

Image source: Courtesy of SWANA

ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE REPORT

June 16, 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.

EQUITY, ACCESS AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE REPORT

June 16, 2026



By Azi Khalili for the EACC

December 17, 2024

Founded in 2004, the Equity, Access and Community Committee (EACC) was established to uphold the Park Slope Food Coop's commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion. The EACC is a team of academics, researchers, attorneys, educators, artists and activists united by a shared passion for equity and social justice within the Coop.

Dedicated to creating an accessible and welcoming space, the EACC advocates for diversity, challenges discrimination and promotes equal participation. Working alongside Coop staff, managers and members, the committee investigates cases of discrimination and offers support to members who have experienced or observed discrimination based on racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, ableism, religious bias, etc.

We review reports, mediate conflicts and propose structural changes to address and

prevent discriminatory practices. Though the EACC does not impose penalties, our mission is to foster a fair and inclusive environment for all members.

In an effort to better understand and serve the Coop's community, the EACC is launching an anonymous demographic survey. Approved by the General Meeting, this survey will gather insights on the Coop's membership to inform outreach, recruitment and programming and to ensure the Coop reflects the diverse Brooklyn and Greater NYC communities it serves.

Key goals of the survey include understanding member demographics, identifying underrepresented groups and shaping policies that enhance inclusivity. By addressing potential barriers to participation, the EACC hopes to improve Coop accessibility and make data-informed decisions to meet members' needs. The EACC hopes to launch the survey in late December or early January. We will notify Coop members as soon as it's available.

To further support its mission, the EACC is also building a new website. This resource will provide members with information on the committee's role, how to report incidents and ways to engage in the Coop's efforts to build a more equitable community. Stay tuned for updates as the site develops!