

NEWBURGH FOOD PROJECT

FROM INSIGHT
TO IMPACT



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Funders: USDA Urban Agriculture & Innovative Production Program, NY Health Foundation
- Task Force: A dedicated group of growers, leaders, advocates, and residents
- Community Ambassadors: Our trusted messengers who led outreach and engagement
- OpenHub- Yulia Ovchinnikova
- SUNY New Paltz's Benjamin Center- KT Tobin, Brian Obach, and Robin Jacobowitz

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Newburgh Food Project is a collaborative effort to make sure everyone in our city can access good, healthy food. We worked closely with residents, local leaders, farmers, and community organizations to understand the real challenges people face with food in Newburgh. With help from our Community Ambassadors, people shared their experiences through surveys and conversations, helping us learn what's working, and what's not, so we can build a stronger, more fair food system together.



PROJECT OVERVIEW

INNOVATIVE APPROACH

- **Community Ambassadors:** Engaged residents through outreach, community gatherings, and open forums and facilitated focus groups, leading to over 400 responses to the Community Food Survey
- **Community-designed survey:** Ambassadors helped identify needs such as a paper survey, not just digital as well as ensuring the survey was available in multiple languages
- **Stakeholder meetings:** Pantry managers, local growers and farmers, and civic organizations



PROJECT OVERVIEW

Through this work, three top priorities emerged as essential to improving food access in Newburgh:

1. Access to affordable, quality food
2. Reliable transportation to food sources
3. Resources and space for growing and preparing food

These findings serve as the foundation for continued community action, coalition-building, and investment in equitable, local solutions that meet the real needs of Newburgh residents.



FOOD ACCESS & EMERGENCY FOOD

69%

of households
rely on some form of food pantries or
of the food safety free/donated food
net

56%

of households use

30%

of households

remain food
insecure, even
with help

FOOD ACCESS & EMERGENCY FOOD

- Aging volunteer base Limited
- coordination among food pantries
Inconsistent access to culturally
- relevant and nutritious food Language
and transportation barriers to
- accessing emergency food services

TRANSPORTATION

64% 37% 27%

of residents have
some access to a
vehicle

of residents use
public walk
transportation
to access food

LACK OF ACCESS TO A CAR IS LINKED WITH GREATER
FOOD INSECURITY.

TRANSPORTATION

- Many residents face limited affordable and reliable transportation to food sources
- Low-income, elderly, and youth populations are more likely to walk or rely on public transportation, increasing hardship
- Most residents shop outside the city, often traveling 3–5 miles, where food is more available



GROWING & PREPARING FOOD

- 13% currently grow food; 56% want to but lack space.
- 24% of households can't reliably cook/store food
- Youth and single-person households are especially vulnerable

When people can grow and prepare their own food, it strengthens the whole community.

GROWING & PREPARING FOOD

- Limited access to land, tools, and time to grow food
- Inadequate kitchen infrastructure in many homes- Interest in communal kitchens and education.
- Need for culturally relevant education on food growing and cooking

When residents can grow and cook their own food, they reclaim power over their health, culture, and economy.

WHATS HAPPENING NOW?

- Food Scraps Drop-Off Program piloted at the Newburgh and Healthy Orange Farmers' Markets in 2024
- 100% of participants want the program to continue
- Loyalty program encouraged folks to compost scraps
- Food scraps collected by the City of Newburgh Recreation Dept. for composting at their community garden

A collaborative effort between The Newburgh Farmers' Market, Healthy Orange Farmers' Market, OC Dept. of Health, OC DPW Recycling Facilities, City of Newburgh Dept. of Recreation



FOOD SCRAPS & COMPOST

BREAKOUT GROUPS - JOIN THE MOVEMENT

JOIN ONE OF THE FOLLOWING WORKING GROUPS:



- **Food Access & Emergency Food:** Improve coordination, access, and equity
- **Transportation:** Identify mobility solutions to get people to food and food to people
- **Growing & Preparing Food:** Expand land access, kitchen infrastructure, and skill-building
 - **Food Scraps & Compost:** Create systems to transform waste into usable soil



**LET'S KEEP
BUILDING A JUST
AND RESILIENT
FOOD SYSTEM
FOR NEWBURGH!**

THANK YOU!

