



EVERETT COMMUNITY GROWERS

2 0 2 5 A N N U A L R E P O R T



Everett Community Growers

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Tremont St Garden 10 year anniversary celebration



Everett Community Growers has immense gratitude for the people of Everett. From **the Growers** in the community garden, who have not only fed their bodies with freshly grown produce, but also their minds and spirits at community-led Healing Circles to the **Civic Engagement & Advocacy Team** members, whose dedication to community-led change has resulted in more opportunities for Everett residents to uplift their voices and learn from each other. From the **Youth Crew's** efforts to create belonging through food to the **Everett residents**, who have come to ECG's workshops, farmstands, and celebrations. Your commitment to the people of Everett is the backbone of ECG.

You are Everett Community Growers.





MISSION

Everett Community Growers, Inc. (ECG) works to build a more just and equitable environment through urban agriculture, youth development, policy advocacy, and community engagement.



NEW

ECG STRATEGIC VALUES

ECG understands that food, land and environmental justice require holistic approaches that recognize the intersection of racial, economic and language justice policies and practices. ECG will advocate for equitable systems by building community power and capacity and advancing community-driven advocacy efforts.

**Advocating for
Food, Land,
and
Environmental
Justice**

ECG will nurture leadership within the community by creating spaces where youth and adults alike build the skills to share knowledge, lead community projects, and to advocate for change.

**Cultivating
Facilitative
Leaders**

ECG will develop community-rooted initiatives by embracing a participatory action research model that puts the people who are directly impacted at the forefront of design, implementation and evaluation.

**Mobilizing
Community-
Driven Impact**

ECG will pursue sustainable practices in urban agriculture and community engagement by ensuring that the environmental, economic, and social principles of sustainability are mindfully integrated into program development.

**Integrating
Sustainable
Development**

**Prioritizing
Accessibility &
Inclusivity**

ECG will prioritize culturally relevant programming, language justice, and community-driven engagement to foster full participation and benefit for everyone regardless of language, culture, disability, or socioeconomic status.

**Harnessing
the Power of
Joy**

ECG honors the cultural uniqueness of our community by actively incorporating joy, cultural celebration, and recognition of individual and collective narratives of past and present into all we do.

**No one knows
everything -
Together
we know a lot**



End of Season Gathering

ORGANIZATIONAL GROWTH



Staff Growth

- Hired Director of Programs (Rebecca Kelley)
- Promoted Farm to Community Manager to Associate Director of Research and Evaluation (Ellie Cordero)

Staff Structure

- Total staff in 2025: 13
- Full time: 6
- Part time: 2
- Seasonal: 5

Organizational Capacity Strengthening

- Provided monthly benefit pay for full time staff
- Created Employee Handbook
- Finalized ECG's Strategic Values
- Provided fresh local produce to community through the free farmstand and new partnership with CHA Produce Prescription Program
- Provided Facilitative Leadership for Social Change workshops to staff and community members



Staff & Youth at the Free Farmstand

AGRICULTURAL OPERATIONS



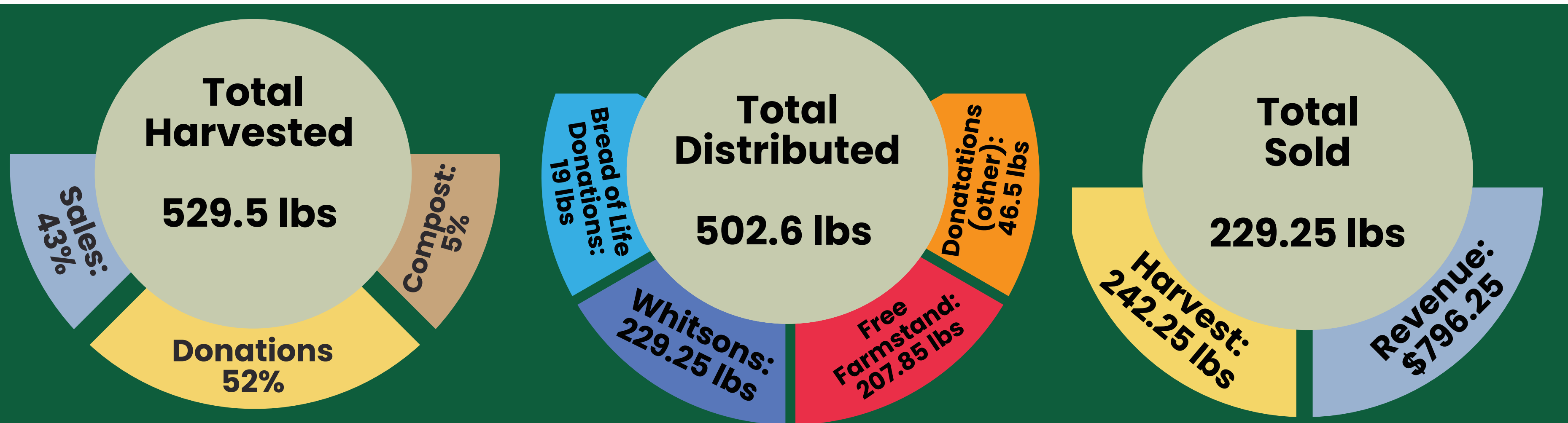
*Sensory Tour of the
Northern Strand Community Farm*



FARM HARVEST

In early 2025, ECG lost the Broadway Farm due to a city construction project. This was an important space for the community to gather and learn about where food comes from and how it can be grown locally. The farm was also Everett's only authorized Healthy Incentives Program (HIP) vendor. The majority of the produce that ECG distributed to the community came from this location.

Though it was a sudden loss, this did not stop ECG from its mission to provide Everett-grown produce to residents. The Youth Crew and staff continued to grow produce at the Northern Strand Community Farm, establishing a free farmstand for donating produce. Additionally, ECG continued to donate to Bread of Life and to sell to Everett High School through Whitsons, Everett Public Schools' food service management company.



FARM-GROWN CROPS

Greens

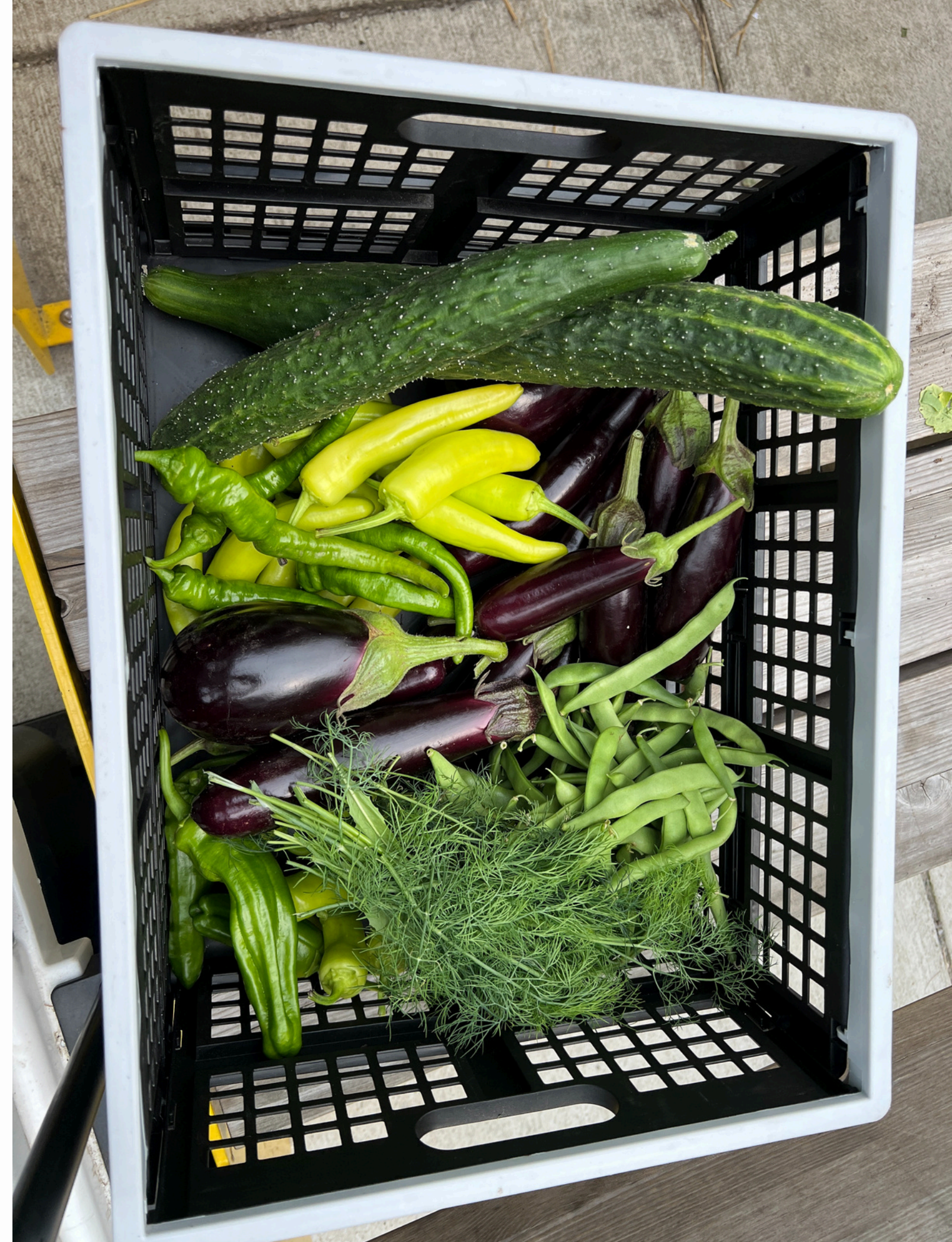
purslane, swiss
chard, bok
choy, lettuce,
kale, mustard

Herbs

mint, dill,
basil, sage

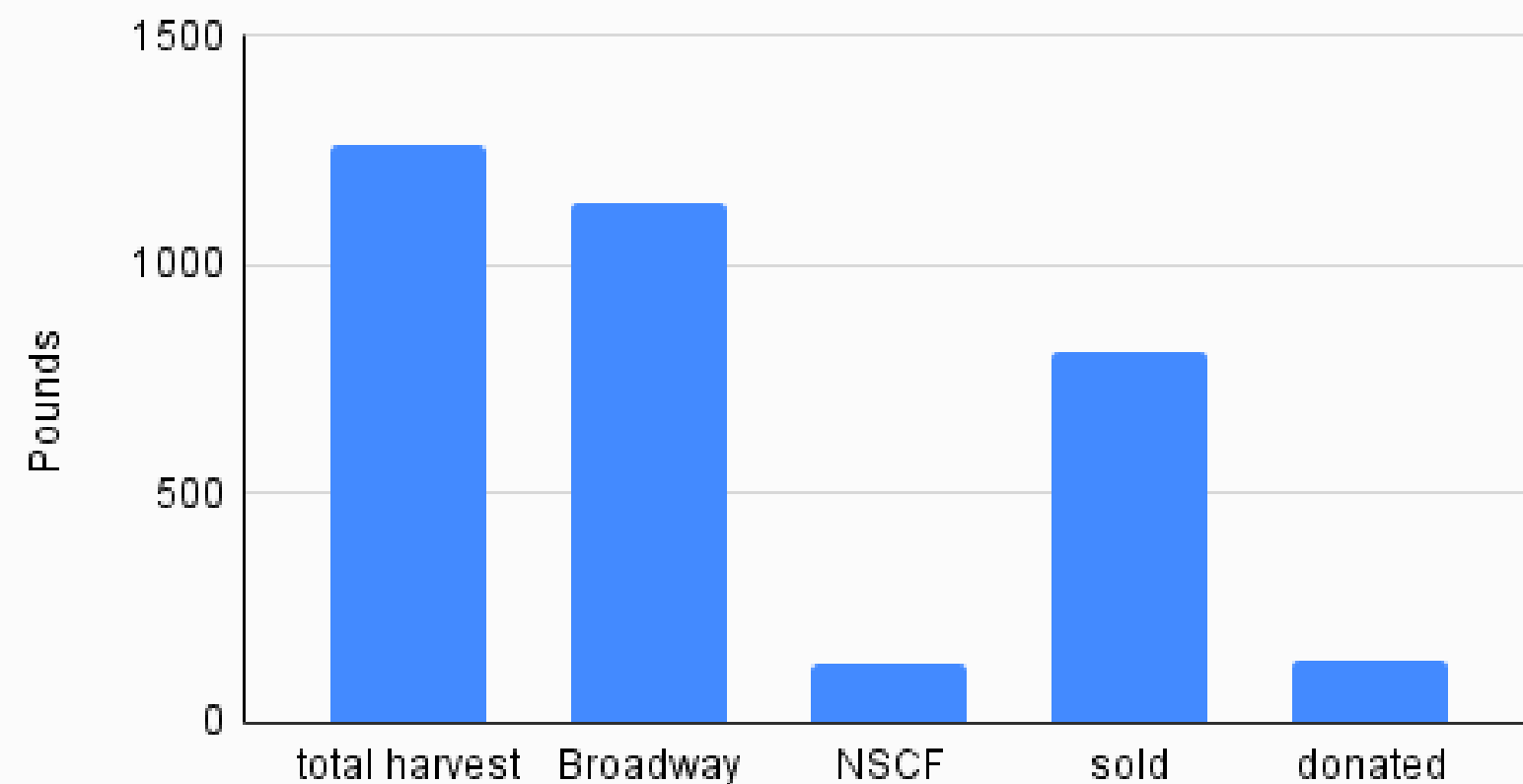
Vegetables

beans, sweet
peppers, hot
peppers, turnip,
eggplant,
cucumber, radish,
squash, tomato,
carrot, beets,

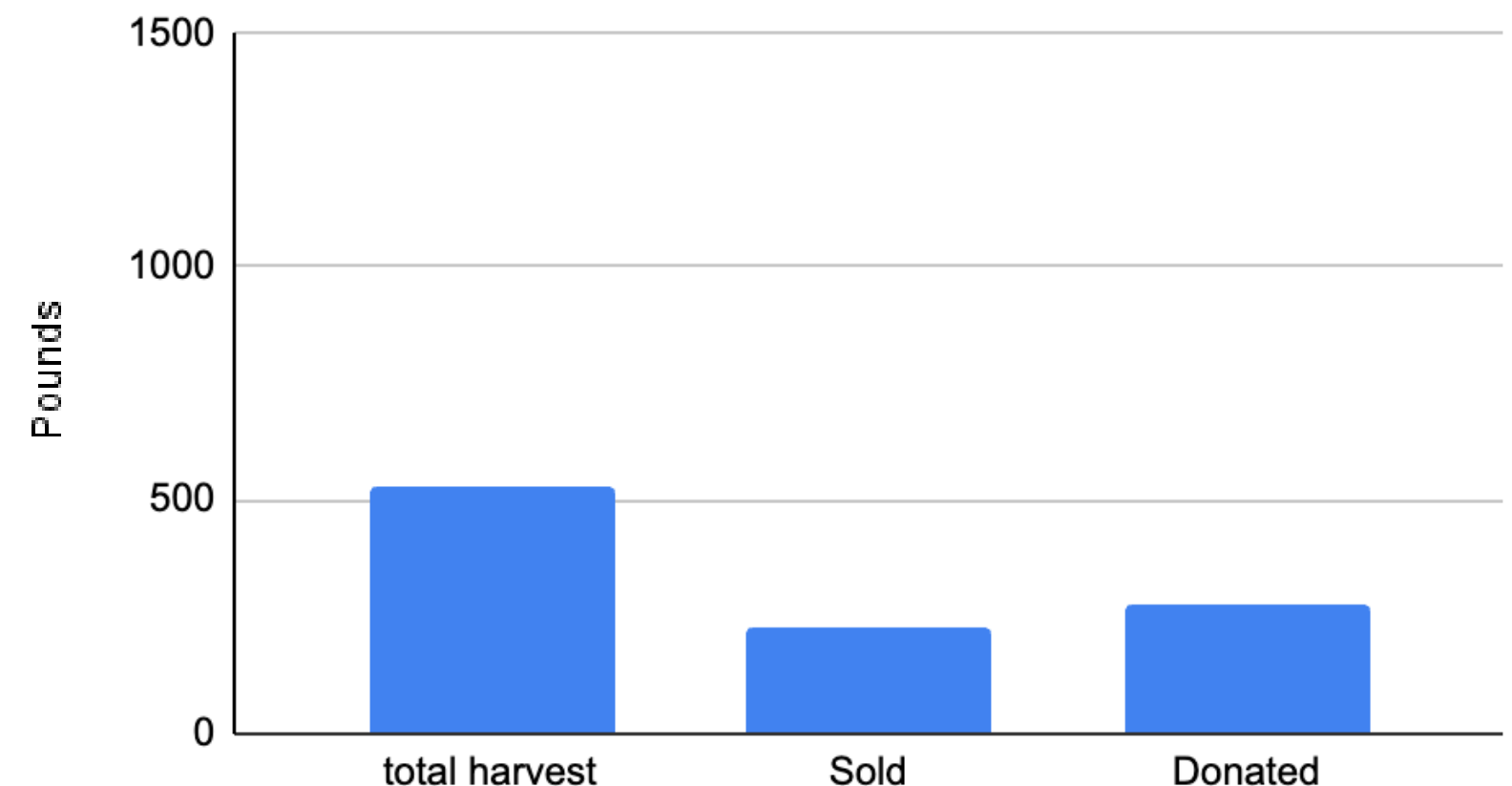


2024 vs 2025

Growing Season - 2024



Growing Season - 2025

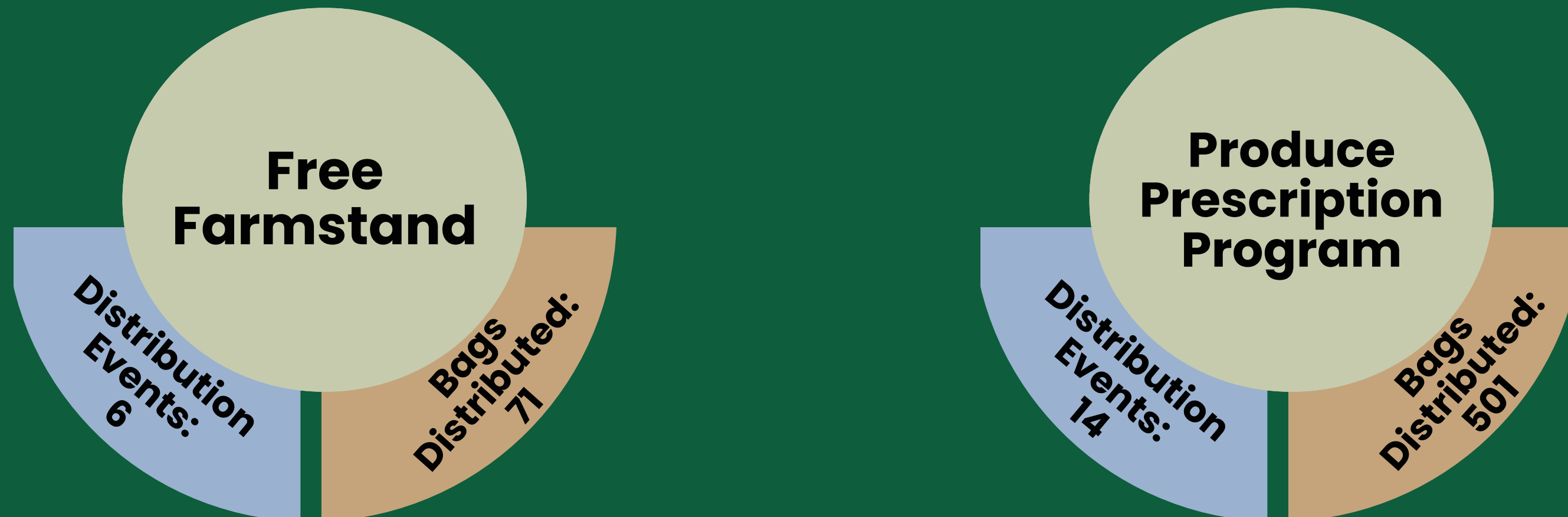


Note: The 2024 chart includes data by location as ECG had two farms – the Broadway Farm and Northern Strand Community Farm. The 2025 “Donated” data includes all free distributed produce, including donations to Bread of Life, Youth Crew and ECG staff, and produce distributed at free farmstands.

NEW DISTRIBUTION EVENTS

The **Free Framstands** were developed in response to the loss of the HIP-certified Broadway Farm. Staff worked with the Youth Crew to establish a farmstand location outside of ECG's offices on Broadway. In addition to fresh produce from the Northern Strand Community Farm, staff handed out food access resources to residents.

In 2025, ECG also partnered with Cambridge Health Alliance (CHA) Department of Community Health to pilot the **Produce Prescription Program**, a fresh produce program for Everett Care Center patients who have screened positive for food insecurity. Registered patients receive produce grown at Eastie Farm in East Boston and Farmer Dave's in Dracut, as well as food resources, including information on local food pantries and food assistance programs, recipes, and local gardening programs.





Healing Circle at the Garden

10 YEARS OF GROWING FOOD & COMMUNITY

In 2025, ECG celebrated the ten-year anniversary of the Tremont Street Community Garden. Established in 2015 after a community land assessment identified an underused plot of land, the Tremont Street Community Garden was born out of community-driven engagement and advocacy.

This past year ECG continued that legacy, by increasing opportunities for the garden to be a space for community connections. With support from the Healthy Neighborhoods Study (HNS), ECG brought Healing Circles to Everett. Healing Circles were developed to change the infrastructure of care through the implementation of an ancient indigenous practice, training community members to lead culturally and geographically relevant healing spaces. Opening and Closing ceremonies based in indigenous cultural practices strengthened Everett's agricultural community in its shared stewardship of the land. Shared responsibility for the land continued in garden cleaning co-working sessions and a medicinal herb tincture workshop.

ECG celebrated ten years of growing through a community-wide party at the garden. The youth of Art Lab Everett made art with local children, an Extreme Heart Art Walk was led by our friends at MyRWA, the Garden Coordinator provided freshly made tacos, and awards were presented to community members whose dedication and care have helped the Tremont Street Community Garden flourish.

30 Growers

14 Events

- 1 Opening Ceremony
- 6 Cleaning day co-working sessions
- 1 Medicinal Herb Tincture Workshop
- 4 Healing Circles
- 1 Tenth Anniversary Celebration for Tremont St Garden
- 1 Closing Ceremony



Values in Action: Cultivating Facilitative Leaders

In 2025, ECG made investments in staff professional development that created connections to a national network of food justice advocates and created new leadership opportunities for community members.

Elizavette Cordero, who was ECG's Farm to Community Manager at the time and is now the Associate Director of Research and Evaluation, was accepted to the **Vital Village Networks' Community Food Systems Fellowship**. The fellowship is an 18-month leadership program that aims to increase opportunities for diverse food system leaders to build their skills, capacity, and networks through a series of community design labs on participatory engagement and human centered design approaches.

Through this program, Elizavette co-facilitated a session, "Community Food Systems: Facilitator Wellness", at the 12th National Community Leadership Summit in Boston.

Elizavette was also invited to apply for and received the **Vital Village Innovation Grant**. In 2026, this grant will fund a Food Literacy Education Workshop series that focuses on healing through growing. ECG will train five growers from the Community Garden to become Agriculture Ambassadors, who will run healing circles focused on food as medicine with a seed to plate style component for all Everett residents.

YOUTH CREW



Youth celebrate the last harvest of the year



YOUTH CREW

About

The Youth Crew is an ECG flagship program and the only program in Everett doing food systems work with youth. ECG hires young people ages 15–20 years old to work on the farm, manage the farmstand, and assist with creating civic engagement workshops.

In 2025, ECG hired 5 passionate Everett youth.

Our Members

Wilber
Tyler
Cristian
Eliany
Kaia



PURPOSE

- Provide unique employment opportunities for Everett youth
- Develop new technical, communication, and social skills
- Foster involvement in local civic engagement
- Bridge opportunities by exposing youth to new experiences typically not made available to them
- Cultivate belonging in a welcoming and non-judgmental community
- Nurture a strong sense of self-worth

ROOTED IN COMMUNITY, GROWING THE FUTURE

In 2025, the Youth Crew program empowered young people in Everett to grow not only food, but also grow their voices, skills, and connection to place. Through hands-on civic engagement, youth explored how food systems intersect with policy, equity, and community leadership, gaining confidence as active participants in shaping their neighborhoods. Interview and résumé preparation equipped them with practical workforce skills, opening pathways to future education and employment. By engaging deeply with local nature and scientific inquiry, participants developed a stronger understanding of urban ecosystems, sustainability, and the science behind what they grow. Together, these experiences cultivated informed, motivated young leaders rooted in community and inspired to build a healthier, more just future.

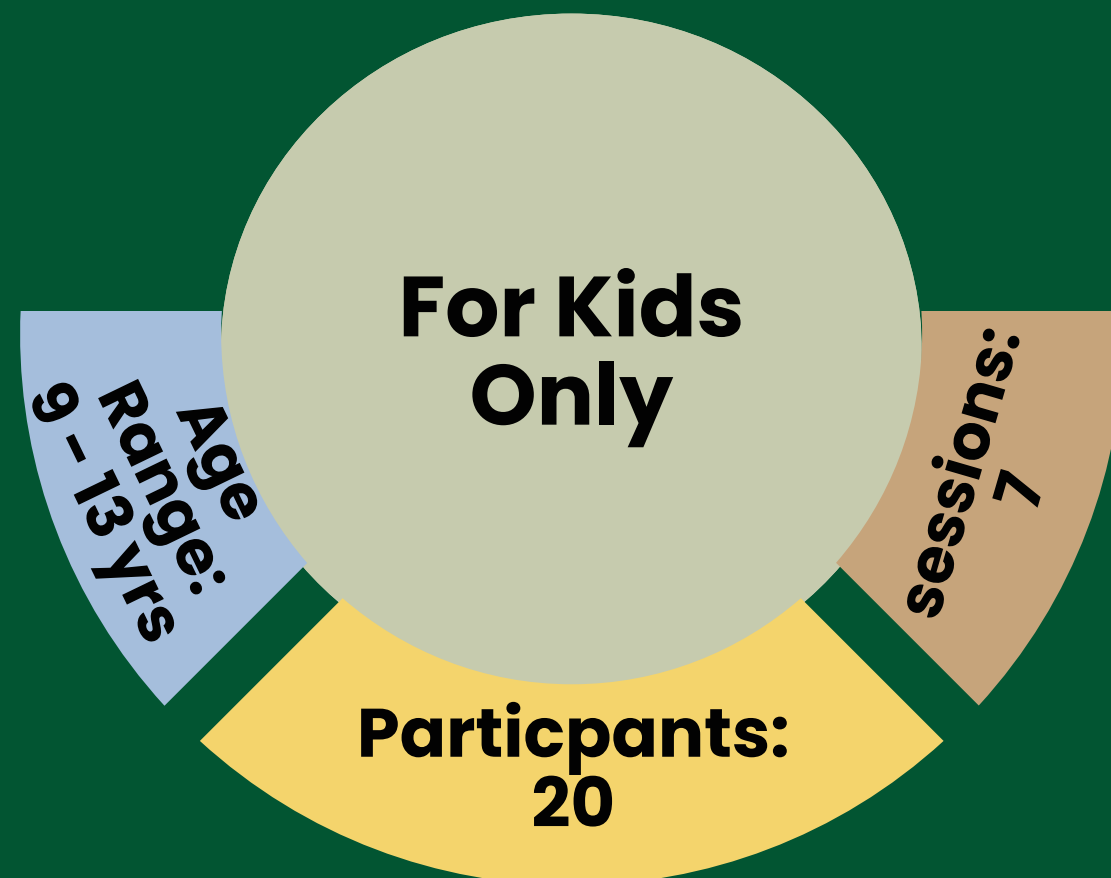
2025 Workshops

- **Municipal Government Workshop with Samatha Lambert**
- **Interview Preparation Workshops with Rebecca Kelley**
- **Cooking Classes with the GreenRoots Teaching Kitchen**



GROWING OPPORTUNITIES FOR EVERETT'S YOUTH

ECG partnered with the For Kids Only (FKO) after-school program to offer 20 Everett youth in grades 4-8 a meaningful, hands-on gardening experience. Throughout the summer of 2025, students learned by doing, connected with nature, and strengthened community by working together to design and build a vibrant Pollinator Garden. Through this project students learned about food justice, urban farming, and how to be stewards of the land they live on.



CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & ADVOCACY



ADVOCACY IN BLOOM

In 2025, ECG’s Civic Engagement and Advocacy programming empowered community members to take meaningful action for people and place. Together with partners MyRWA and the City Tree Warden, participants planted 100 trees across Gateway Park and Rivergreen Park in Everett, strengthening urban green spaces while building a shared sense of stewardship. Accessibility and inclusion were central to this work. With funding support from the Massachusetts Office of Environmental Justice and Equity, ECG purchased 60 real-time translation devices, which supported engagement across three live languages. On-site translation services from Rosetta and Liaison Interpreter Program of Somerville (LIPS) ensured more people could participate fully. This commitment to representation translated into action, with four testimonies submitted to decision-makers, including two at the Statehouse and two at City Hall. Through collective advocacy, environmental action, and inclusive civic participation, the ECG community helped shape a greener, more equitable Everett.



TURNING PARTICIPATION INTO POWER

2025 Workshops/Events

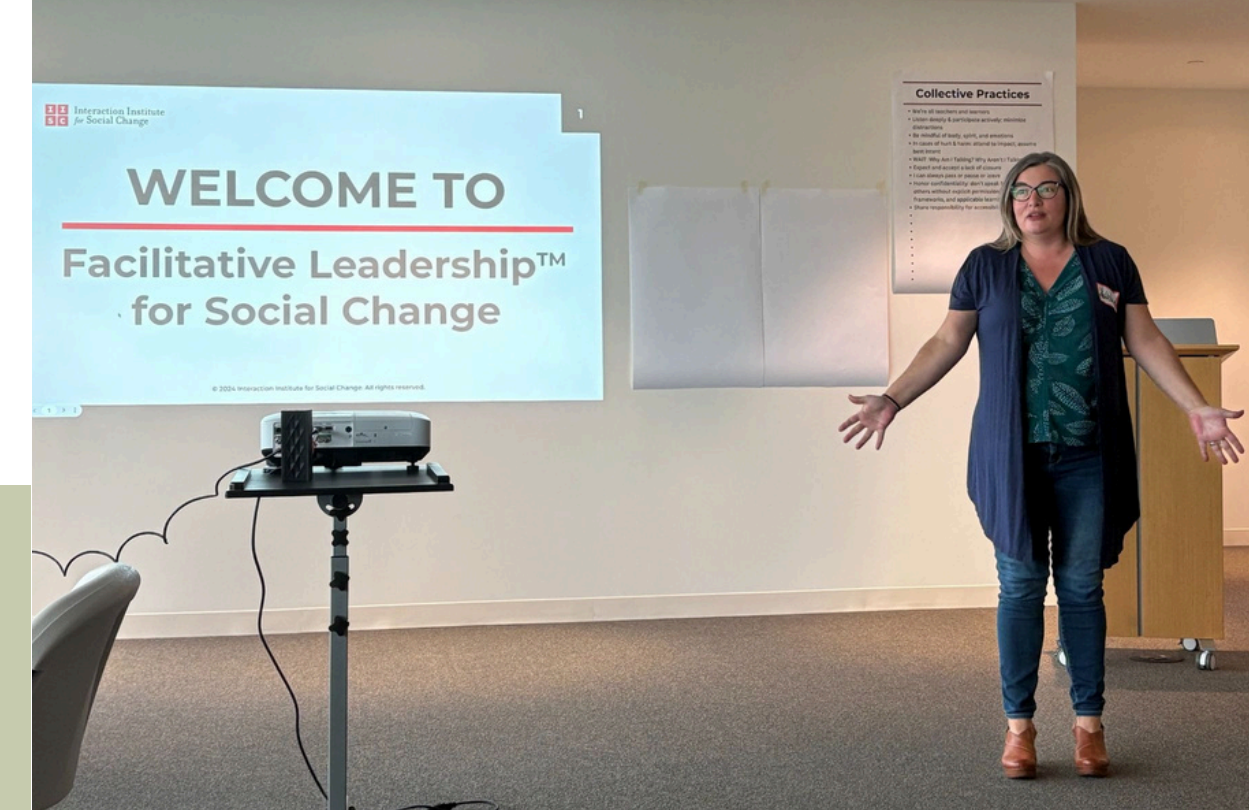
Hosted 4 Community Workshops

- "Sharing our Stories" using Greater Boston Anti-displacement Toolkit
- "Heat, Trees and Air" connecting ECG's climate-led projects and sharing air quality monitoring results, recruiting for tree planting, distribute communications for extreme heat during summer
- Municipal Government and Elections
- Healthy Neighborhoods Study Affordability Report Card

Hosted ECG outreach table with Electrify Everett CBOs on Earth Day

Contracted the Interaction Institute for Social Change (IISC) to lead the Facilitative Leadership for Social Change workshop series for staff and community members

- 1 all day in-person session in Medford
- 3 virtual sessions



Staff welcomes community and staff to first Facilitative Leadership Workshop





HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOODS STUDY



HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOODS STUDY

About

The Healthy Neighborhoods Study (HNS), based in Boston, is the largest resident-driven, participatory action research project in the US about neighborhood change processes, like gentrification and climate change, and health impacts.

HNS Communities

The 9 Massachusetts communities taking part in HNS are the cities of:

Brockton | Chelsea | Everett | Lynn
Fall River | New Bedford

And the Boston neighborhoods of:
Dorchester | Mattapan | Roxbury



METHODOLOGY: PARTICIPATORY ACTION RESEARCH (PAR)

**An approach to research
and knowledge creation
centered on two beliefs:**

- Those most directly impacted by a problem are in the best position to understand and solve it
- The best way to understand a problem is by acting to solve it

HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOODS RESEARCH CONSORTIUM (HNRC)

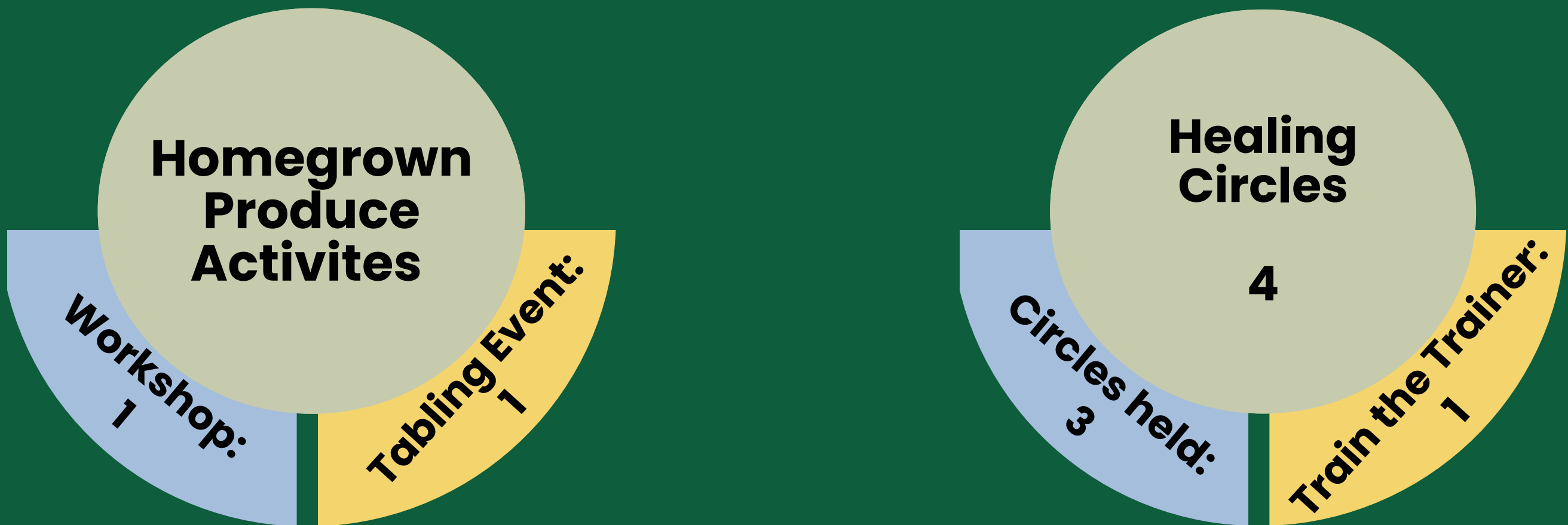
The HNRC is a partnership of community residents and organizations, academics, and government and non-profit advocates committed to advancing equitable development in Eastern Massachusetts and community leadership of this work.



COMMUNITY CARE IN ACTION

2025 was the final fully funded year of the Healthy Neighborhoods Study (HNS). HNS made the most of this year, hosting Consortium meetings and designing and implementing 9 community-led action pilots. At the end of the year, HNS held an in-person Collaborative Data Analysis event at the Conservation Law Foundation’s offices in Boston. Together, participants compiled compelling evidence for PAR’s ability to facilitate community-led systems change. The Cortsorium also created an archive of the past ten years of community research and action. To extend HNS’s momentum beyond the 2026 funding period, the Cortsorium has built a dynamic action network model that will sustain both research and real-world impact.

In Everett, ECG implemented 2 community-designed action pilots: Healing Circles and Homegrown Produce, a project to enhance community knowledge on how to grow produce at home. ECG remains committed to these programs and will continue to support them beyond HNS’s funding period. Additionally, ECG’s Associate Director of Research and Evaluation will help lead the next chapter of HNS alongside the Conservation Law Foundation.



OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT



*Growers accept an award in
front of their garden plot*



2025 Workshops/Events

- **Hosted 3 events for MA Urban Agriculture Week**
 - Guided Sensory Tour of the Northern Strand Farm
 - Film Screening of “Common Ground” and Panel Discussion with Everett growers
 - 10th Year Anniversary Celebration of the Tremont Street Garden
- **Tabled at Everett Public Schools Resource Fair and the City of Everett Resource Fair**
- **Conducted 4 interviews with Everett residents for the Everett Storytelling Project – a short film documenting the impacts of structural racism and health inequities in Everett**
- **Everett Storytelling Project Community Presentation**
- **Staff and growers attend the 2025 MA Food System Forum**



Staff give awards to growers at the 10 year anniversary celebration

**Values in
Action:
Harnessing the
Power of Joy**

SOWING STRATEGY, REAPING RESULTS IN 2026



COMMUNITY GARDEN AS A GATHERING SPACE

In 2025, ECG successfully piloted 4 community engagement events at the garden: Closing and Opening ceremonies, Healing Circles, Homegrown Produce, and cleaning day co-working sessions.

In 2026, ECG will continue these programs and expand upon Healing Circles with a new Food Literacy Education workshop series.



YOUTH NOURISHING YOUTH

In 2026, ECG will expand the relationship with Whitsons, increasing the sale of youth-grown produce to support healthy meals at Everett High School.

Youth will also donate produce to the Everett Community Fridge as a hands-on introduction to mutual aid.

RAISING COMMUNITY VOICES

Several large-scale developments are planned for Everett that will require Community Benefits Agreements (CBAs). ECG will continue to partner with local CBOs and provide opportunities for community involvement to ensure that CBAs are informed by the wants and needs of Everett residents.



CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF URBAN FARMING

In 2026, ECG will be celebrating the 10-year anniversary of the Northern Strand Community Farm! Plans are underway for a vibrant community celebration, with more to share in the year ahead.

NETWORKS THAT STRENGTHEN OUR WORK

ECG is a proud member of the following state networks, communities of practice, and coalitions.



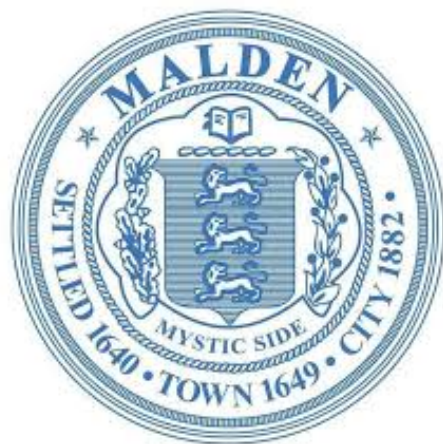
Food Policy Council Network
Urban Agriculture Network



Community of Practice
Make Hunger History Coalition



The Everett Youth Worker Network



Tri-City Hunger Network

Everett Food Policy Council



FUNDERS & PARTNERS

Everett Community Growers acknowledges the contributions of the organizations, foundations, institutions, and state and municipal programs that support our mission. This work is made possible by your generosity and partnership.



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COMMUNITY HEALTH AND
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A CITY 1892 • A TOWN 1870 • INCORPORATED A CITY 1892



Healthy
Neighborhoods
Study



ELECTRIFY
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BCNUEJ
Barcelona
Laboratory for Urban
Environmental Justice
and Sustainability



Mystic River
WATERSHED ASSOCIATION



MAPC



La Comunidad, Inc.



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Conservation
Law Foundation



KOB