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DEMOCRAT FOR MAYOR

GREEN NYC

Government that's **R**esponsive,
Effective, **E**mpowering, and
Neighborhood-based

**Scott Stringer's five-point plan to fight
climate threats and health crises block
by block—delivering real results
for New Yorkers.**

“New York City is facing a health and climate crisis that hits hardest in the neighborhoods that have too often been overlooked. GreenNYC is a plan to change that—by investing in local solutions, building neighborhood resilience, and delivering the services families need to stay healthy, safe, and secure. This is how we make government work again—block by block, community by community.” - **Scott Stringer**

OVERVIEW

In a city still grappling with deep poverty, skyrocketing asthma rates, and the growing toll of extreme heat and food insecurity, it's time to bring back community-first governing—real solutions shaped by the people who live the crisis, not just those who manage it.

GREEN NYC is Scott Stringer's plan to fix that, starting local. It builds on his East Harlem “Go Green” initiative, which brought real results: a city-funded asthma center, food access at farmers markets, and more.

Now, Scott intends to scale that success citywide, with **five clear actions** that give neighborhoods the power to shape a greener, healthier future.

This plan will embed **Health & Climate Action Hubs** in the city's hardest-hit ZIP codes—transforming local schools or community centers into engines of public health, food access, and emergency response. Neighborhoods will shape their own priorities, while City Hall delivers the tools to meet them.

Why It Matters

- **Extreme heat is deadly and unequal:** Extreme heat kills roughly 580 New Yorkers each summer. Over 1 million residents live in the city's hottest areas, which are mostly low-income neighborhoods. [[NYC DOHMH Extreme Heat Report, 2024](#)]
- **Food insecurity persists:** Over 1.2 million New Yorkers – including nearly 1 in 5 Bronx residents – struggle to afford enough food. Healthy food options are scarce in many underserved neighborhoods. [[Hunger Free America, 2024](#)]
- **Asthma and air quality disparities:** Black and Latino children account for 80% of NYC's pediatric asthma hospitalizations. In parts of the South Bronx, kids go to the ER for asthma at rates many times higher than in wealthier areas. [[Columbia Mailman School of Public Health](#)]

The Problem

In too many neighborhoods, kids are coughing through asthma attacks caused by mold and pollution. Seniors suffer through heat waves with no shade or cooling centers. Families go to bed hungry, with no affordable grocery store nearby.

These problems are deeply connected—and they fall hardest on already strained communities. They're not accidents. They're the result of disinvestment and a City Hall that imposes solutions rather than listens. Programs remain scattered across agencies, with little coordination. Services are unevenly distributed. And when crises hit—whether it's a blackout or a pandemic—those without strong local networks are hit hardest.

For instance, one agency might plant trees on a block, while another runs an asthma program, but they rarely coordinate efforts or consult the people who live there. Vital services end up spread unevenly.

We can't keep trying to solve asthma, hunger, and climate risks in silos. It's time for a smarter, neighborhood-first approach.

The problem is clear: New York City's most vulnerable neighborhoods are bearing the brunt of multiple crises, and our current government approach isn't meeting the moment. It's time for a new approach that meets people where they are – in their communities – and builds a city that works for everyone.



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The Solution

We will confront these intertwined crises by fundamentally changing how the city works with neighborhoods. GREEN NYC is a community-first roadmap to health fairness and climate resilience, built on five key initiatives that put neighborhoods in the driver's seat.

Together, these proposals create a new local infrastructure for resilience – one that is shaped by residents, powered by community organizations, and backed by an unwavering commitment from City Hall. Scott's plan will:

1. Launch 10 Neighborhood “Resilience Hubs” in NYC’s Hardest-Hit Communities.

- One-stop community centers in high-need ZIP codes.
- Each hub provides: cooling during heat waves, asthma support, fresh food programs, and emergency readiness.
- Staffed by trusted local organizers, with services guided by neighborhood advisory boards.

Goal: Open first two hubs in the Bronx and Brooklyn in Year 1.

These will be new or repurposed community centers located in at least 10 high-need ZIP codes – areas facing the worst climate and health risks (from flood-prone waterfronts to asthma hot spots).

Each Hub will focus on **climate adaptation, public health access, and food equity** in its neighborhood. They will serve as one-stop shops where a family can, for example, get their asthma inhalers refilled, cool off during a heatwave, and sign up for fresh food programs all under one roof.

Hubs will be **staffed with community organizers, public health navigators, and climate outreach coordinators** who know the neighborhood. Importantly, each Hub will be guided by local residents – through advisory councils and partnerships – to ensure services and solutions reflect local priorities. And when an emergency strikes (like a hurricane or extreme heat emergency), these Hubs will double as resilience centers, coordinating aid and information on the ground.

The Hubs will be **powered by city funding and local partnerships** – bringing together government support with the expertise of neighborhood nonprofits, hospitals, schools, and faith-based groups. By embedding problem-solving capacity directly in communities, Resilience Hubs will rebuild trust and save lives – *neighbors helping neighbors*, with City Hall providing the tools and resources.



2. Fund Local Food and Health Projects through Participatory Budgeting.

- Residents propose and vote on small neighborhood projects—like cooling stations, rooftop farms, or healthy bodegas.
- Scott will revive proven programs like Youth Bucks (fresh food vouchers for teens) and Veggie Vans (mobile produce).

Goal: Launch PB pilot in 5 neighborhoods within 6 months.

Scott will put funding decisions in the hands of the people most affected. **GREEN NYC** will dedicate a portion of the city's budget to **Participatory Budgeting (PB)** in health, food, and climate projects, focused on our hardest-hit neighborhoods. Residents will democratically propose and **vote on how to spend “mini-grants” for community-driven solutions** – whether it's a new rooftop farm to boost local food production, a set of street **cooling stations** to provide relief during heat waves, or an initiative to bring healthier options to corner **bodegas**.

This process ensures that *each community decides what it needs most*. Scott will also **bring back successful ideas from the past** – like “Youth Bucks” that gave young people farmers’ market credits to buy fresh produce, **Veggie Vans** that delivered affordable fruits and veggies to food deserts, and free healthy cooking classes that helped prevent chronic illnesses.

By funding ideas that come **directly from residents**, we not only build healthier infrastructure (gardens, markets, clinics, etc.) but also build civic power and ownership. Participatory budgeting will make city investments more accountable and more effective, because the best ideas often come from those living the reality on the ground.



3. Create NYC's First Health & Climate Justice Corps.

- A paid, city-run jobs pipeline to train local youth and underemployed adults.
- Corps members do real work: mold removal, tree planting, solar installs, composting, cooking classes.
- Graduates earn certifications and connect to union careers.

Goal: First cohort of 100 Corps members hired within 100 days.

Scott will launch a city-funded **green jobs pipeline** to train and employ New Yorkers in the work of building healthier, more resilient communities.

This **NYC Health & Climate Justice Corps** will recruit local youth and underemployed adults from our hardest-hit neighborhoods and **train them to perform critical green and health-focused jobs** – from asthma home remediation (e.g. removing mold or allergens in homes), to installing solar panels and cool roofs on local buildings, to leading healthy cooking demonstrations, planting street trees, expanding recycling and composting, urban farming, and much more.

Corps members will earn a good wage while they train and serve, gaining certifications in fields like solar installation or emergency response, and they will be **connected to union career pipelines** as they graduate the program.

This isn't just a service program – it's a career ladder. By year's end, a Corps member might go from improving their own block to landing a union job in sustainable construction or public health. The Corps will make tangible improvements in neighborhoods every day *and* open up pathways for economic mobility.

In short, Scott will tackle unemployment, community disinvestment, and climate adaptation in one innovative program – **a 21st-century CCC (Civilian Climate Corps)** tailored to New York City's needs.



4. Overhaul City Procurement to Support Sustainability and Equity.

- NYC is the 2nd largest public buyer in America. We'll use that power to support local, sustainable businesses.
- That means: sourcing food from New York farms, buying from local vendors whom we trust and who represent good investments, and making sure MWBEs get contracts.

Goal: Executive order on green procurement on Day 1.

New York City's purchasing power is enormous – our city is **the second-largest public procurer in the country**. GREEN NYC will harness that power to transform our local economy.

As Mayor, Scott Stringer will direct city agencies to **buy more of what the city needs from local, sustainable, and minority-owned businesses**. That means sourcing healthier, climate-friendly food for school cafeterias and public hospitals from New York State farmers and **minority-owned** food distributors, rather than from the lowest-bid junk food contractors.

It means shifting city contracts to purchase green infrastructure supplies (like solar panels, cool roof materials, electric vehicles, and energy-efficient appliances) from vendors who hire locally. Scott's administration will adjust procurement rules to reward **sustainability, fair labor, and local job creation** – using the billions of dollars in city purchasing to boost our environmental goals and invest in communities of color.

By buying better (not just cheaper), the City will reduce emissions and waste, support small businesses, and ensure that public dollars circulate back into our neighborhoods. This overhaul will include breaking up large contracts where possible so that neighborhood-based and MWBE (Minority/Women-owned Business Enterprise) vendors can compete, and providing technical assistance to help local businesses bid for city work.

Simply put, Scott's administration will lead by example: the city government will practice the sustainability and fairness it preaches.



5. Establish a New NYC Department of Food & Climate Resilience.

- Right now, food access, public health, and climate response are spread across 10+ agencies.
- We'll centralize it under one department with a clear mission: keep New Yorkers healthy, fed, and prepared.

Goal: Appoint founding commissioner and integrate key programs within first 6 months.

To sustain these efforts and truly prioritize frontline communities, we need to **overhaul the City's own structure**. Scott Stringer will create a dedicated Department of Food & Climate Resilience to coordinate what is now a scattershot approach to food policy, public health preparedness, and climate adaptation.

Why a new department? Because the future of public health, food access, and climate justice **can't be siloed across agencies anymore**. Right now, responsibility for these issues is split among too many departments – causing gaps in services and a lack of clear leadership.

The new Department will serve as a hub at the highest level of City government to drive all our resilience initiatives. It will unify and expand programs that strengthen local food systems and climate preparedness. For example, this department will lead citywide efforts to **expand fresh food access** in underserved areas (helping neighborhood bodegas stock affordable produce through partnerships with local distributors), **support community gardens and urban agriculture** by securing land and funding for community-run farms, and **improve our food supply chain** by investing in small food businesses and local farmers.

It will also work hand-in-hand with the Health Department, Parks Department, Emergency Management, and others to ensure that climate resilience (from cooling centers to flood planning) and food security are front-and-center in our city's planning. Importantly, this Department will institutionalize community participation – establishing neighborhood advisory councils so that each community's voice guides city policy.

By creating a single home for food and climate resilience, we send a clear message: tackling hunger, health disparities, and climate threats is a permanent, integrated city priority, not an afterthought.



An Integrated Policy

Each of these five initiatives reinforces the others. **GREEN NYC** will launch new community hubs, invest in grassroots projects, create jobs for local residents, reshape city spending, and build a government infrastructure that puts resilience and equity at the core.

This comprehensive approach will deliver results that people can feel in their everyday lives – cooler streets, healthier homes, better food on the table, and a real plan when the next crisis hits. And importantly, these are not pie-in-the-sky ideas; they are built on models we know can succeed. From East Harlem’s Go Green efforts to participatory budgeting pilots and youth climate corps programs elsewhere, we’re taking the best of what works and scaling it up. This is bold, and it’s absolutely achievable.

A City That Works for Every Neighborhood

Scott Stringer believes that building a healthier, more resilient New York City **starts with investing in those neighborhoods that have been left behind**. **GREEN NYC** is not just a climate plan or a health plan – it’s a commitment to *governing differently*, with neighborhoods as full partners in change. When every community has a seat at the table and the tools to thrive, our entire city wins. A city that works for every neighborhood is a city that works for **everyone**.

This vision will make New York City safer, fairer, and more livable for all. Think about what success looks like: A child in the South Bronx will breathe easier because her apartment is mold-free and her block is lined with new trees. A senior in Brownsville will stay cool and healthy during a heat wave, thanks to a local Hub that checks on her and a nearby cooling center where she can find relief. A family in East Harlem will have a convenient place to buy fresh groceries and the knowledge to cook healthy meals, reducing diabetes and heart disease.

Neighborhoods that once felt neglected will become **models of urban resilience** – with solar panels on roofs, community gardens on formerly vacant lots, streets shaded by trees and cooling canopies, and residents actively shaping a safer environment. And as these communities flourish, so does New York as a whole. We all benefit from cleaner air, reduced healthcare costs, and the economic boost of new green jobs and local businesses. The city retains families who no longer feel they must leave to find a better quality of life, keeping our communities intact and our future bright.

