

What is a Green Cart?

A Green Cart is a mobile food cart that offers fresh produce in certain NYC areas. Green Carts can only sell fresh fruits and vegetables and can only operate in designated areas. To operate a Green Cart you need a valid mobile food vending license and a Green Cart permit.

1. What kinds of produce can a Green Cart sell?

A Green Cart can only sell raw fruits and vegetables such as whole carrots, bananas, apples and berries. Frozen or processed produce is not allowed. For food safety reasons, Green Cart operators cannot sell cut, sliced, peeled or processed fruits or vegetables. Green Cart vendors can receive free help with buying and selling fruits and vegetables. To receive free help, please call the Karp Resources Green Cart hotline at (646) 943-1433.

2. Where can a Green Cart operate?

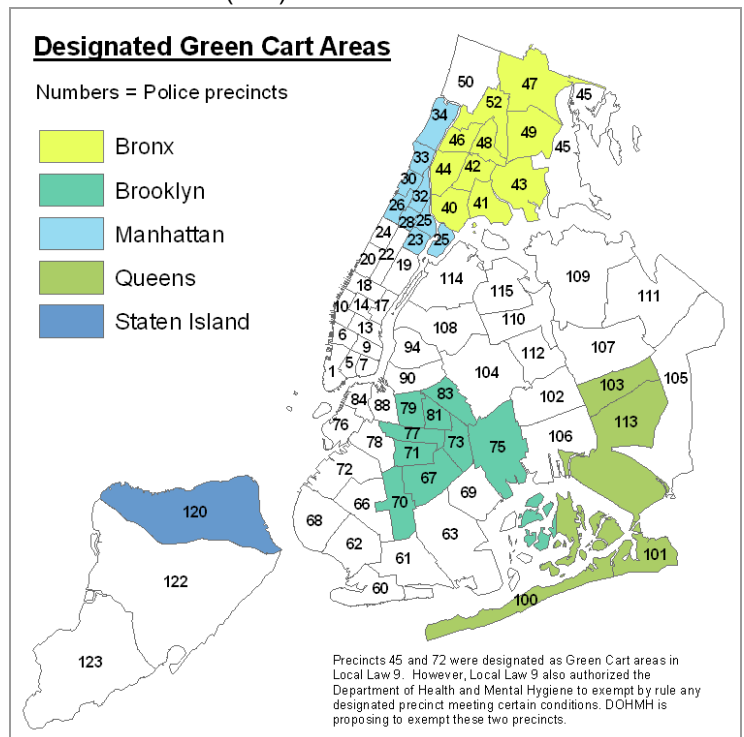
Each Green Cart permit allows a cart to operate in one NYC borough ONLY. Within each borough, Green Carts can operate only in certain designated areas. (See the map.)

3. How many Green Cart permits are available?

New York City has made available 1000 Green Cart permits: 350 for Brooklyn, 350 for the Bronx, 150 for Manhattan, 100 for Queens, and 50 for Staten Island.

4. What do I need to operate a Green Cart?

You need BOTH a license and a permit to operate a Green Cart. The license is for the *person* and the permit is for the *cart*. The license is the same license you need to operate any mobile food cart. **If you do not have a license, you need to get one before you can apply for a permit.**



5. How can I get a mobile food vending license?

- Call 311 and ask for “Mobile Food Vendor License Application”.
- You must first attend a 2-day Food Protection Course for Mobile Vendors at the Health Department. You must register for the course in person at the Citywide Licensing Center at 42 Broadway, 5th floor, in Manhattan. The fee for this course is \$53.00.
- Obtain a Certificate of Authority to Collect Sales Tax from the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance.
- After you complete the course and obtain your tax certificate, apply for a license in person at the Licensing Center.

How Can I Apply for a Green Cart Permit?

Once you have a license, the next step is to apply to be on the Green Cart permit waiting lists. All individuals who have a **valid mobile food vending license** are invited to apply to be on the waiting lists (see *Question 5* if you do not have a license). **If you have a valid license and are already on a mobile food vending waiting list you can still apply and will get priority** (see *Question 9* for details).

6. How can I get an application to be on the Green Cart waiting lists?

There are three ways to get a Green Cart Waiting List Application Form:

- Go to the Citywide Licensing Center (42 Broadway, 5th floor, in Manhattan)
- Call 311 and ask for “Green Cart Waiting List Application”.
- Visit nyc.gov/greencarts and go to “Information About How to Apply”.

7. What is the deadline to mail the waiting list application form?

Your application must be postmarked no later than the deadline listed on the Green Cart application form. You can only apply by mail.

8. What happens after I mail my waiting list application form?

The Health Department will establish a waiting list of applicants for each borough based on priority groups (see *Question 9*) and a lottery system. The Health Department will mail you a postcard with your waiting list number(s) and will send you a permit application when you are selected from one of the borough waiting lists.

9. How likely am I to get a Green Cart permit?

It depends on how many people apply. Priority for a waiting list position is based on a point system. More points are awarded to applicants who are already on other Health Department mobile food permit waiting lists, disabled U.S. veterans, disabled persons, and non-disabled United States Veterans. The applications within each priority group are randomly assigned a number on the waiting list. If you are unable to show proof of your priority group when you are notified to apply for the permit, your waiting list application will be rejected for ALL the boroughs you checked and you will have to reapply.

10. If I apply for the Green Cart waiting lists, will you remove my name from other mobile food vending permit waiting lists?

No. Green Cart permit waiting lists are separate. Submitting an application to be on a Green Cart permit waiting list will not affect your status or position on any other mobile food vending permit waiting list.

11. I see that some boroughs have more Green Cart permits than others. Will my chances be better if I choose more than one borough?

Your chance of being selected to apply for a permit depends on how many applicants there are, and what your priority group is (see *Question 9*). List all boroughs where you are willing to operate a Green Cart. If you are only willing to operate in one borough, you should list just one.

12. If I already have a mobile food vending permit, can I get a Green Cart permit too?

You can only have one permit at a time. If you apply and are selected for a Green Cart permit and you accept the Green Cart permit, you will have to forfeit your other mobile food vending permit.

What are the Costs for a Green Cart?

13. How much does it cost to apply?

- **Initial Costs:** In order to apply for a Green Cart permit, you need a valid mobile food vending *license*. If you do not already have a license, you need to pay \$53 for the Food Protection Course for Mobile Vendors and \$50 for the license, which is valid for two years. If you are offered a *permit*, the permit costs \$75 and is valid for 2 years.
- **Renewal Costs:** It costs \$50 to renew your *license* for each 2-year period, plus a \$10 fee for tax clearance. It costs \$50 to renew your *permit* for each 2-year period.
- All fees must be paid by check or money order at the Citywide Licensing Center. Fees for the license and permit are waived for a United States Veteran with a New York State Peddler's Certificate or his/her surviving spouse or domestic partner with this certificate.

14. What about the cart itself?

You must buy your own cart and produce. You can find an approved list of cart manufacturers at nyc.gov/greencarts under "Resources for Green Cart Vendors". The Health Department must inspect and approve your cart before you operate it. When your cart passes the inspection, the Health Department will give you a Green Cart umbrella.

15. Is help available for start-up costs?

Yes! The City has partnered with ACCION USA, a non-profit organization that provides low-interest loans for Green Cart vendors. Through ACCION, you may qualify for a loan to cover start-up equipment and inventory costs. To apply or learn more, please call (646) 833-4523 or (646) 833-4542 or visit www.accionusa.org/greencarts.

For more information, call 311 and ask for "Green Carts" or go to nyc.gov/greencarts

Other languages available: Arabic (عربي), Bengali (বাংলা), Chinese (中文), Spanish (Español), and Urdu (اردو)