



**WHO  
GETS  
to live in**

**BEACON?**

**FOR THE PAST** two years Beacon Climate Action Now (BCAN) has been organizing neighbors to find political solutions to the climate crisis and fight for a better, more equitable world for all of us.

We've knocked on hundreds of doors in Beacon and Fishkill, chatted with folks at farmer's markets and community events, and hosted our own block parties and festivals. And the number one concern on everyone's mind? Housing.



**WE'RE WORRIED** about it too. Your home should be your safe place, a shelter for you and your loved ones. Being displaced from that safe place due to soaring housing and living costs is traumatic for families, and destroys ties crucial for keeping communities whole. Inadequate or unstable housing access also makes people more vulnerable to the extremes of the climate catastrophe, like unsafe heat waves and flooding. Just the zip code where you live can determine your exposure to toxic pollutants in the air and water.

**IN SHORT,** we don't just care about the planet, we care about the people who live on it, too. And what good is a green future if no one can afford to live there?



## OVERHEARD IN BEACON...

"THREE GENERATIONS MY  
FAMILY HAS LIVED HERE.  
I'M THE LAST TO AFFORD IT."

"It's important to  
have community - to have  
neighbors. Gotta help each  
other out."

"Even with my rent  
so high, my landlord  
doesn't fix a thing!"

"I'm worried about our water.  
It's a finite resource and with how  
fast Beacon is growing, are we  
sure it's protected and safe?"

# \$3,135

Average monthly rent for a 1-bedroom market rate apartment in Beacon

# \$96,891

Median household income in Beacon

# 52%

of Dutchess County renters are cost burdened on housing

# 24,167

residents of Dutchess County (9 percent) live below the poverty level

# 7,107

rental units are needed in Dutchess County for lower-income households (\$35K or less)

SOURCES: US Census Bureau, Mid-Hudson Valley Community Profiles, Dutchess County Housing Needs Assessment (March 2022), Dutchess County 2023 Rental Housing Survey

*Anyone who has ever struggled with poverty knows how extremely expensive it is to be poor; and if one is a member of a captive population, economically speaking, one's feet have simply been placed on the treadmill forever.*

—James Baldwin, *Nobody Knows My Name*

*When it comes to creating a home, how does one reconcile individual needs with the greater community impact? What do we love and why? Are they choices, or does everything merely radiate out from structural inequality? I want to know how we can win. And live together, with respect for each other's humanity.*

—Stacie Williams, *Bizarro Worlds*

Solving the housing crisis requires creativity and persistence. BCAN advocates for:

### **GOOD CAUSE EVICTION**

Protect renters from unfair evictions and rent hikes (passed in Beacon, Poughkeepsie, Newburgh, and Kingston!)

### **LOCAL HOUSING JUSTICE COORDINATORS**

City employees focused specifically on housing issues

### **SOCIAL HOUSING**

A city or state-run department that builds affordable housing on government land

### **RENT STABILIZATION**

Prevents arbitrary rent increases and gives extra protections to renters (requires housing emergency declaration)

### **EQUITABLE ZONING**

Prioritize multi-family zoning and require developers to build more affordable units

Learn more at [beaconcan.org/housing](https://beaconcan.org/housing)



*UNFOLD THE  
ZINE FOR A  
SURPRISE!*

**HOUSING  
IS A  
HUMAN  
RIGHT**

