

Deliciously Simple.



FROM THE YEAR OF CO-OPS TO THE CO-OPERATIVE DECADE

The past year has been a watershed opportunity for our food co-ops and for the wider co-operative movement. When the United Nations (UN) declared 2012 the International Year of Co-ops, it brought unprecedented public attention to our business model. In the wake of continuing global recession, co-operative enterprise was showing itself to be a resilient business model. The central purpose of the Year was to shine a light on

co-ops as effective tools for poverty reduction, social engagement, and food security, particularly in the context of the UN's Millennium Development Goals.

Ironically, an outside perspective is often what is needed for us to see ourselves more clearly, and an important outcome of the International Year was that co-ops themselves began to better understand our unique identity and shared strength. Increasingly, co-op members became aware of the contribution of other sectors to economic resilience and sustainability. And together, we could begin to see the potential of the co-operative economy around us.

But the question remained: If the UN has presented its priorities, what were the goals of the co-operative movement itself? As Charles Gould, Secretary General of the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA), pointed out, the real opportunity of 2012 was to use the Year to help achieve a longer-term vision.

As the 2013 National Co-op Directory goes to press, the ICA has released its draft "Blueprint for a Co-operative Decade." It is an ambitious vision in which co-operatives are acknowledged as leaders in economic, social and environmental sustainability, the preferred business model of people around the world, and consequently the fastest growing form of enterprise by 2020. The document, which will be presented at the ICA's 2012 General Assembly in Manchester, UK, focuses on reinforcing the core co-operative identity, mobilizing member participation and communicating our difference.

The crucial ingredient for the success of this ambitious vision will be collaboration among co-ops of all sectors to present a shared message. In our region, the Neighboring Food Co-op Association (NFCA) used the opportunity presented by the International Year to make the case for the vital role of food co-ops in sustaining local economies. In the process, we helped people understand how our business model is relevant across the economy. Our food co-ops have a powerful impact on the food system in our country. And our case becomes truly compelling when linked with the strength of the agricultural co-ops where a majority of family farmers are members. People are choosing credit unions in ever growing numbers and there is renewed interest in worker co-



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ops as a solution to unemployment. Alongside the wave of food co-op start-ups in our region, an increasing number of small businesses are converting to the co-op model as a path to succession that preserves local ownership and integrity of mission. In fact, our business model is relevant not just in food retailing but in all aspects of people's lives, whether as consumers, producers or workers.



Recent studies have enabled us to see more clearly the impact of co-ops across the economy. In addition to our more than 350 food co-ops, more than 1 in 4 Americans are members of over 29,000 co-operatives across the country. And around the world a billion people are members of co-ops — more than directly own stock in multinational corporations. What could we accomplish if even a small portion of our co-ops came together around a shared purpose?

To achieve the ICA's vision of becoming the fastest growing business model by 2020, we will need to move beyond a rhetorical commitment to the principle of "cooperation among co-ops" to policies that prioritize cross sector trade, investment and collaboration on policy. Working together is not simply the right thing to do; it also makes business sense. By working together, we

raise the profile of our co-ops and reinforce our relevance in a difficult economy. We strengthen our business success and ability to serve our members in more aspects of their lives. As demonstrated by the cross sector White House briefing organized by the National

Cooperative Business Association (NCBA) last year, we can shift the dialog on policies that affect the ability of co-operative enterprise to serve more people.

The International Year of Co-ops was an opportunity to tell our story to millions of people hungry for an alternative to business as usual. The Co-operative Decade is our chance to demonstrate the potential of our movement to build more participatory, resilient and sustainable food systems and economies at home and around the world.

Erbin Crowell is Executive Director of the Neighboring Food Co-op Association, a co-operative of over 30 food co-ops and start-up initiatives in New England (www.nfca.coop). He holds a Master of Management: Co-operatives & Credit Unions from St. Mary's University (www.mmccu.coop) and serves on the board of the National Cooperative Business Association. He may be contacted at erbin@nfca.coop.

SECTIONS IN THE DIRECTORY:

Listing Section — States are in alphabetical order. Co-ops are listed in alphabetical order for each state. Co-op listings in this section contain the complete address of the co-op. Additional information is provided for most co-ops at their request including telephone numbers, fax numbers, web page address, store hours, directions for finding the store and display ads. (Pages 11-51)

Alpha Section — Co-ops are listed in alphabetical order along with the state they are in. More information can then be found about a particular co-op by finding it's listing in the state in the Listing Section. (Page 10)

Co-op Companies/Organizations — This section lists companies that are organized and operate as co-ops under the same laws and with the same principles as the co-op stores. It also includes organizations that help co-ops work together. (Pages 6, 9, 52-54)

Support Organizations — The organizations listed in this section provide support to co-op stores or can provide useful information of interest to co-op people. (Pages 55-57)

KEY SECTION A:

☎ Telephone number 📠 Fax Number ⌚ Store Hours

KEY MAPS:

* Not a Storefront ○ Organizing ● Co-op with Hours & Location

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Seeking other interested author's for collective work on preventive health care three models: consumer owned & controlled, worker owned & controlled, and hybrid or fifty-fifty from alternative medicine to conventional. Writing experience helpful. Have eighty pages rough draft. **Send e-mail or resume to:**

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Cooperative Grocer Network

Services: To strengthen all retail food cooperatives by creating community and promoting the sharing and development of resources among members. Educational trade association of food co-ops in America. Includes the bi-monthly magazine and website that hosts an online directory of co-ops, and community of cooperators sharing information, advice, and resources. Also stores a vast library of resources developed over the years, including; photo gallery, deli recipe exchange, co-op livable wage model, job classifieds and more. Annual membership dues from \$250 to \$2,500 depending on annual sales. Magazines subscriptions are \$28 per year.

The Cornucopia Institute

(Research, Education and Advocacy)

Services: The Cornucopia Institute is a national nonprofit food and farm policy group engaged in educational activities supporting the ecological principles and economic wisdom underlying sustainable and organic agriculture. Through research and investigations on agricultural and food issues, The Cornucopia Institute provides needed information to consumers, family farmers, cooperative grocers, the media, and other stakeholders involved in the good food movement. Cornucopia acts as a government and corporate watchdog seeking to defend organic integrity. Through research, organizing, networking, coalition building, and economic development, Cornucopia works to empower farmers and consumers, both politically and through marketplace initiatives that protect the environment, human health, and economic justice. Cornucopia's core membership of 7,000+ comes from the farm community and their urban/organic consumer and business allies. We are recognized as having more certified organic farmer-members than any policy organization. Cornucopia's reports and scorecards rating organic brands are widely used by co-op wholesale buyers to make discerning, values-based purchasing decisions.

Food Co-op Initiative

(Resources & Support for Food Co-op Organizers)

Services: On-line resource library, advice and referrals for groups organizing new retail food co-ops in the United States. Sign up for our free newsletter to find out about grant opportunities, training events, webinars and new resources for startups: <http://foodcoopinitiative.coop/contact/list>

The Neighboring Food Co-op Association (NFCA)

is more than 20 food co-ops and start-ups in Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Connecticut that are working together toward a shared vision of a thriving regional economy, rooted in a healthy, just and sustainable food system and a vibrant community of co-operative enterprise.

Northcountry Cooperative Development Fund

(Financing)

Our mission is to invest in economic democracy through cooperative enterprise by financing small and mid-sized co-ops across the US, with an emphasis on community development within underserved communities, and creating opportunities for cooperatives and social investors to invest in the national co-op movement.

Products and services

- Cooperative microenterprise & small business loan \$5,000 - \$500,000
- Lines of credit from \$15,000 - \$150,000
- Cooperative affordable housing loan \$15,000 - \$500,000
- Cooperative homeowner (share) loan \$5,000 - \$150,000

Financial and social impact

- More than \$31 million in financing to cooperative enterprises
- More than 900 cooperatives financed

Northwest Cooperative Development Center

(Promote Co-op Business Model)

Services: Fostering community economic development through the cooperative business model

Open Food Source (OFS)

Freely available open source software is available for coordinating on-line farm-to-table efforts.

Services: Setup and configuration of websites using the Open Food Source (OFS) software, customization of OFS software to meet the specific needs of client organizations, collaboration with similar organizations using the same software package.

Provender Alliance (Trade Association)

Services: A Northwest regional trade association offering an annual educational conference, a bi-monthly journal, a communications network, advocacy and information services. Founded 1977.

The Vegetarian Resource Group/Journal

Services: For 30 years, VRG has assisted co-ops, businesses, health professionals, food services, students, and consumers. Vegetarian polls, food service and ingredient information, national restaurant guide, speaker referral, two \$5,000 college scholarships, advocacy, research. Publications include Simply Vegan, Vegans Know How to Party, Vegetarian Nutrition for Teenagers, Vegan Nutrition in Pregnancy and Childhood brochure, Una Dieta Vegetariana, I Love Animals and Broccoli Coloring Book, and My Vegan Plate coloring page. Visit www.vrg.org



Putney Food Co-op, Putney, VT

**From the Year
of Co-ops to
the Co-operative
Decade...**

**Let's Grow the
Co-operative
Economy —
Together!**

The NFCA is a network of 30 food co-ops and start-up initiatives in western New England that are working together for a thriving co-operative economy. For more information and a map of locations, please visit www.nfca.coop.



THE NEIGHBORING FOOD CO-OP ASSOCIATION
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