**Sample Story for your Food Co-op’s Newsletter, Blog, Social Media,**

**and/or Board of Directors Packet or Update**

**Neighboring Food Co-op Board Peer Gathering**

*Please edit this article as you see fit for use in your co-op or organization’s newsletters, e-newsletters, or website — and* ***include a quote from your attendees****! Remember to link up with photos from the Peer Gathering on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/Neighboring), as well as resources and presentations:* [*www.nfca.coop/nfcaboardpeergathering2018/*](http://www.nfca.coop/nfcaboardpeergathering2018/)

*For more resources or images, please e-mail* *erbin@nfca.coop* *or visit* [*http://nfca.coop*](http://nfca.coop)*.*

**Neighboring Food Co-ops Board Members Gather for Shared Learning**

On September 15th, 2018, [*add the names of your Board Members who attended the gathering.*] joined more than 55 representatives from 21 [Food Co-ops](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001e4vH_p2JDa9KObqf3Sk_kZS1zyhVzoviqqlNVDPMxFUYuST41DGr2v3YrE31DR4Asfp-pdBDL7p6cJmoQ5du2m5k6bbeb8AitgOJmWSROP4Zan53ahEiHlxxOEeUhiiHxfZ8l2HXCnSd5ylo7mOoqqcS7fSCOlow1DEaWPmhQlY=&c=uwQ0iyuYWRJUqzIPRduJ8DJMsK9Xv3bIT3v57p2DQrEm0RCvDsGi0g==&ch=GVa3YEtoJzMN5PctvYA_esNyWvZOH03IMtEPS6sCnsCgCDTjNLnUhw==) from across the Northeast, participating in the Neighboring Food Co-op Association's (NFCA) first gathering organized specifically for members of co-op boards of directors, hosted by Upper Valley Food Co-op in White River Junction, Vermont. The event was free for member co-ops and sponsored by the Cooperative Development Foundation (CDF), National Cooperative Bank (NCB), and Simply Voting.

The NFCA is a federation of food co-ops including [*your co-op*] that is focused on growing a more just, sustainable, and inclusive economy by supporting the success of its members. Peer training events are designed to bring together representatives from Neighboring Food Co-ops for shared learning and mutual support, providing valuable information for addressing challenges and sharing innovations. and case studies, while creating ongoing networking and peer support opportunities among Neighboring Food Co-op staff in our region.

[***Use this space for a quote from one of your attendees, or use ONE or TWO of the following***:

“I learned a lot and have much info and new ideas to take back to my Co-op,” said one participant.

“I appreciated the balance of tangible/actionable with bigger picture conversations at the NFCA Board Peer Gathering,” said Faye Mack, Board President of City Market/Onion River Co-op.  “We left with great follow-up ideas from our peers to bring back and implement on our Co-op’s Board.”

 “The topics were great, the panels were informative—great ideas and resources and valuable to connect with others,” said another participant.

The day included presentations from NFCA Staff and food co-op Board Members on the topics of “Member Engagement Strategies that Work,” “Successful Board Recruitment and Retention Strategies,” and “The Challenges and Rewards of Diversity and Inclusion (or Honoring Co-op Vision/Mission),” and concluded with a tour of Upper Valley Food Co-op.

For presentations, photos, and other resources from the gathering, visit <http://nfca.coop/membergatherings>.

***The Neighboring Food Co-op Association includes more than 35 food co-ops and start-up initiatives across New England and New York State, locally owned by 144,000 people like you! For more information and a calendar of upcoming events, please visit***[*www.nfca.coop*](http://www.nfca.coop)*.*

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