

**TEMPORARY ENDS
POLICY A**

PREAMBLE

To clarify the meaning and intention of Ends/Purpose policies, we suggest that the Co-op be considered as analogous to a tree.

Vision statements describe the soil in which the tree grows – the world we live in. We consider three aspects of that world in our vision statements: How we treat the planet; how we treat one another; and how we treat other living things.

Value statements describe the tree – our values about cooperative principles, organic foods, interpersonal relationships, relationship with the community, etc., that the Co-op embraces in its operations.

Mission statements describe the fruit of the tree.

Goals are definitive statements and commitments about bringing the tree to fruition. They state what we are going to do.

Strategies define the ways in which we attempt to meet our goals.

COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES

1ST Principle: Voluntary and Open Membership

Cooperatives are voluntary organizations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

2nd Principle: Democratic Member Control

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members who actively participate in setting their policies and making decisions. Men and women serving as elected representatives are accountable to the membership. In primary cooperatives, members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote) and cooperatives at other levels are organized in a democratic manner.

3rd Principle Member Economic Participation

Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that is usually the common property of the cooperative. They usually receive limited compensation if any, on capital subscribed as a condition of membership. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing the cooperative, possibly by setting up reserves, part of which at least would be indivisible; benefiting members in proportion to their transactions with the cooperative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

4th Principle: Autonomy and Independence

Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their cooperative autonomy.

5th Principle: Education, Training and Information

Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives. They inform the general public—particularly young people and opinion leaders—about the nature and benefits of cooperation.

6th Principle: Cooperation among Cooperatives

Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional, and international structures.

7th Principle: Concern for Community

While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their members.

Cooperatives are based on the values of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equity and solidarity. In the tradition of their founders, co-operative members believe in the ethical values of honesty, openness, social responsibility and caring for others.

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