

## DRAFT REVISED Mission

The Food Co-op is a consumer co-operative whose mission is to serve our membership by making available reasonably priced whole foods and other basic goods and resources through its life-affirming, community building, democratic organizational structure.

## DRAFT REVISED Principles

Food Co-op (Co-op) is a model for social and economic agent for change and improvement within the larger community whose members voluntarily and consciously co-operate for the common good.

In the spirit of cooperative endeavor, we affirm and promote the following principles:

1. The Co-op provides healthful food, environmentally responsible products and packaging, nutritional information, and education.
2. The Food Co-op is a member owned cooperative whose members are invited and encouraged to participate in and preserve the well being of the organization.
3. The Co-op is a model for economic, social, and environmental justice, sustainability, democracy and integrity.
4. The Co-op is an engaging workplace where principles of trust, fairness, transparency, democracy and cooperation are practiced.
5. The Co-op supports local farmers and the development of a regional food production system. The products on our shelves emphasize the seasonality and availability of local and regional foods.
6. The Co-op creates a broad range of opportunities for member volunteerism, participation, and involvement.
7. The Co-op operates in a transparent fashion to engender trust in all aspects of cooperative governance and operations. As such, member votes, opinions, and concerns shall be heard and weighted fully.

We affirm the necessity of continuous effort and persistent application of the principals in order to effectively sustain a healthy and viable cooperative. It is our intent to maintain quality and continuity within our organizational structure.

Furthermore, we agree to adopt the Rochdale principles of 1844 as effective and respectable concepts and herein list them in the form revised by the international Co-

operative Alliance Congress in 1966 (Updated in 1995):

**1: Voluntary and open membership**

"Co-operatives 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."

**2: Democratic member control**

"Co-operatives 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 co-operatives members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote) and co-operatives at other levels are also organized in a democratic manner."

**3: Member economic participation**

"Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their co-operative. At least part of that capital is usually the common property of the co-operative. Members 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 their co-operative, possibly by setting up reserves, part of which at least would be indivisible; benefiting members in proportion to their transactions with the co-operative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership."

**4: Autonomy and independence**

"Co-operatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter to 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 co-operative autonomy."

**5: Education, training, and information**

"Co-operatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers, and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their co-operatives. They inform the general public - particularly young people and opinion leaders - about the nature and benefits of co-operation."

**6: Cooperation among cooperatives**

"Co-operatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the co-operative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures."

**7: Concern for community**

"Co-operatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies approved by their members."