The WORKER CO-OP GUIDE

Italics indicates additions to the original

http://www.bcpl.lib.md.us/~slawrenc/index.html

Main Menu

- Worker Co-op Information
- Directory of U.S. Worker Co-ops *A sort of map, click on a state*
- Products/Services Index

Other Co-op Pages

- University of Wisconsin Center for Cooperatives http://www.wisc.edu:/uwcc/
- Intentional Communities .....http://www.well.com/user/cmty/index.html

Pendulum Co-op
1443 Gorsuch Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21218
Tel: 410-563-1783

Worker Co-op Information

Introduction

Worker-Owned Cooperatives are businesses owned and controlled by their workers. They are a true break with traditional corporate structures. As such, studies have shown that not only do they generate more worker satisfaction, but production efficiency often improves greatly. Businesses that are managed in a participatory way and are worker-owned, increase their productivity growth rate by 52% per year, according to a study by the U.S. General Accounting Office. In the United States, half of the worker co-ops generate annual sales revenues over $500,000, with ten earning over $10 million. The average annual sales per co-op is $6 million.

The most impressive example of a worker co-op is Mondragon, in the Basque region of Spain. Starting with one small co-op of three cooperators and a visionary priest, it now consists of over one hundred high-tech firms that are owned by 25,000 worker members. The Mondragon Experiment, as it is known around the world, continues to demonstrate the direct advantages of shared ownership.

Starting a Worker Co-op

Worker co-ops are simple and inexpensive to set up and their structure can be easily understood by their workers. Each state has its own co-op statute and no two are exactly alike. In order to be a co-op corporation you must meet your state's qualifications. Only Massachusetts, Maine, Connecticut, New York, Vermont, Washington and Oregon, have excellent co-op statutes which allow worker co-ops to incorporate under the co-op corporation rules. If your state's worker co-op laws are too limiting or non-existent, you may be able to incorporate in another state; it's called "foreign incorporation."

Note-Your state's Small Business Development Center will help you draw up a sensible business plan, apply for funding, and check in with you frequently once your business is up and running to make shore it stays that way.

Directory of U.S. Worker Co-ops

Washington (WA) Vermont (VT)

Minnesota (MN) Massachusetts (MA)

Oregon (OR) South Dakota (SD) Wisconsin (WI) Connecticut Rhode Island

New York (NY)

California (CA) Ohio (OH) Pennsylvania (PA) New Jersey (NJ)

Colorado (CO) Missouri (MO) West Virginia (WV) District of Columbia (DC)

Virginia (VA)

North Carolina (NC)

Alabama (AL) Georgia (GA)

Florida (FL)

The following directory contains all the Worker Co-ops in the United States. Only their e-mail, fax or phone numbers are given, to insure minimal natural resource usage.

Alabama (AL)

Freedom Quilting Bee
Product-Women's Clothing Sizes 38-50, Baby Bibs and Blouses
334-573-2225

California (CA)

The Artery
Product-Retail Arts and Crafts Sales
916-758-8330

The Artists'Collaborative Gallery
Product-Retail Crafts and Fine Arts Sales
916-444-3764

BookPeople
Product-Book Distribution
510-632-4700

Capital City Co-op Cab
Product-Transportation Service
916-688-5980

The Cheese Board/Cheese Board Pizza
Product-Pizza/Retail Cheese/Bakery
510-549-3183 fax: 510-549--9314

Weaver Street Market
Product-Retail Natural Foods Grocery and Cafe
919-929-0010

Workers-Owned Sewing Co.
Product-Women's and Children's Clothing Mfg.
919-794-2708

Ohio (OH)

Casa Nueva Restaurant
Product-Mexican American Full Service Restaurant, Catering etc.
614-592-2016

Crumbs, Inc.
Product-Bakery, Natural Foods
614-592-3803

Ebstein, Gutzwiller, and Partners, Inc.
Product-Graphic Design and Media Production
216-421-1600

Orange Blossom Press
Product-Commercial Printing
216-781-8655

Oregon (OR)

Burley Design Co-operative
Product-Manufactures Bicycles and Accessories
503-687-1644 fax: 503-687-0436

Genesis Juice Co-operative
Product-Vegetable and Fruit Juices
503-344-0967

Linton Plywood Assoc.
Product-Sanded Softwood Plywood
503-286-3672

Pennsylvania (PA)

O&O IGA Supermarket
Product-Food and Grocery Store
215-824-3131

Rhode Island (RI)

North Star Express
Product-Commercial Printers
401-781-6086

South Dakota (SD)

Dakotah, Inc.
Product-Manufactures Bed Covers
605-345-4646

Vermont (VT)

Common Ground Restaurant
Product-Natural Food Restaurant
802-257-0855

Data Systems, Inc.
Product-Repair Computer Hardware and Software
802-862-1289

Green Mountain Spinnery
Product-Manufacture Yarn
802-387-4528 fax: 802-387-4001

Virginia (VA)

Heartwood Design
Product-Household Cabinetry, Furniture and Wood Sales
804-361-1262

Washington (WA)

Buffelen Woodworking
Product-Manufactures Wood Doors
206-627-1191

Empty Bowl
Product-Publish Books on Poetry
360-385-4943

Fairhaven Co-op Flour Mill
Product-Organic Whole-grains, Flour
360-734-9947

Fort Vancouver Plywood
Product-Softwood Plywood
360-734-9947

Hardel Mutual Plywood Corp.
Product-Hardwood Plywood
360-754-6030

Hoquiam Plywood Corp.
Product-Softwood Plywood
360-533-3060
Landmark Enterprises Inc.
Product-General Contractor: Housing and Forestry
260-671-9751

Left Bank Books
Product-Sell Books: Wholesale and Retail
206-622-0195

Mount Baker Plywood
Product-Hardwood/ Plywood
360-733-3960

Port Townsend Shipwrights Co-op
Product-Boat Construction, Repair and Related Services
360-385-6138

Puget Sound Plywood
Product-Sanded Softwood Plywood, Siding and Sheathing
206-627-4111

Red and Black Books
Product-Bookstore: Books, Music, Community Info.
206-322-7323

Salal Cafe
Product-Food Service: Breakfast and Lunch
360-385-6532

Stevenson Co-Ply, Inc.
Product-Softwood/ Plywood
509-427-5621

Urban Press
Product-Offset Printing
206-325-4060

Washington Free Press
Product-Newspaper
206-233-1780 (freepres@scn.org)

Western Cascade Truck
Product-Truck/ Trailer Fleet Maintenance(Parts & Service)
206-243-2667

West Virginia (WV)

Country Quilters of West Virginia
Product-Quilting and Quilted Products
304-587-2503

Wisconsin (WI)

The Gift Sampler
Product-Retail Handicrafted Items
414-544-1343

Nature's Bakery Co-op
Product-Whole Grain Baked Goods(Esp. Organic)
608-257-3649

Synaptic Electronic Publisher Co-operative
Product-Custom Design Software/Hardware for Publishing
414-734-6535

Union Cab of Madison
Product-Transportation
608-242-2010

Yellow Cab Co-op
Product-Transportation
414-271-6630

Products/Services Index

The following directory contains the products/services of Worker Co-ops in the United States.

It has to be used with the directory: U.S. Worker Co-ops *Click to find the spot*

Art/Crafts	CA(3)	MO	MN	WV	WI		
Automotive Parts	MA						
Baked Goods	CA(2)	MN(2)	NC	OH	WI		
Bed Covers	SD						
Bicycles	MN	OR					
Boat Construction	WA						
Books	CA	GA	WA				
Cheese Bakery	CA						
Cleaning Services	CA						
Clothing	AL	FL	MO	NC	VA		
Computer Repair	VT						
Computer Software	WI						
Construction/Contractors	MA	MI	MN	NC	WA		
Co-op Management Consulting	CA						
Door Mfgs	WA						
Farm Work	FL						
Flour Mill	WA						
Furniture	DC	MN					
Graphic Design	OH						
Grocery	CA	MT	PA				
Health Care	CT	MN	NY				
Housekeeping	CA						
Laundry Cleaning	CA						
Mime Troupe	CA						
Microcomputers	VA						
Natural Foods-	CA(2),	MO	NY	NC	OH	OR	WA
Newspaper	WA						
Photocopy	MA						
Pizza	CA						
Plywood/Softwood/Hardwood	OR	WA(5)					

Printing	MA	NJ	NY	OH	RI	WA
Publish Books	WA					
Restaurant	CA	MN	NY	OH	WA	VT
Tax Service	CO					
Textile Materials-	VT					
Transportation	CA(2),	WI(2)				
Truck Services	WA					

This Acrobat version has been slightly edited and is intended to demonstrate the sort of directory which Acrobat can be used for. If viewed with Acrobat 2.1 and Netscape 2 the links to a web page will work from the contents. The addresses are shown as text anyway.

Any version of Acrobat will launch another Acrobat file. Click on Social Economy Online

to launch a PDF based on an ARIES message.

There will be a disc as of July 6th , International Co-op Day, with various items to show what is possible by way of linking co-ops online and on disc. Please send any suitable disc or information on web sites to

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