



Community Makes Us Strong

The cooperative business model was born out of the earliest labor movements of the industrial revolution and has been used by Civil Rights activists to create economic opportunity for the powerless in nearly every industry you can name.

Today, many Black communities are organizing food co-ops to resist and defend their communities from food apartheid, the result of the systemic racism that permeates our national food system. NCG food co-ops stand in solidarity by contributing financially to organizing efforts through the National Black Food and Justice Alliance, as well as working to make our network more accessible, inclusive and equitable.

NCG offers education and facilitates dialogue with member co-ops on the path towards being diverse, inclusive organizations with equitable opportunities. Currently 66% of NCG food co-ops report that they are consciously measuring staff demographics. We hope the diversity of co-op staff and leadership moves closer to that of their community over time.

Investments in Racial Justice in the Food System
NCG donates to Alimara Nacional de Campesinos, Agricultural Justice Project, Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund, and National Black Food and Justice Alliance.

\$12M

NCG co-ops donated more than \$12 million to local community organizations in 2023.

\$157K

NCG raised \$157,000 for North American Traditional Indigenous Food Systems (NATIFS) during our Convergence showcase.



Co-ops Are Businesses with Principles

People have been forming cooperatives to advance social and environmental change in the United States and abroad for more than a century. Cooperation is something humans instinctively understand and practice.

Cooperatives are based on international principles intended to prevent the extreme wealth imbalances perpetuated by traditional business models. Food, banking, healthcare, housing, electricity — essential community needs are well met through cooperation all over the world. Look around for co-ops, collectives and credit unions near you to find people working together for the common good.

The 161 food co-ops that own NCG are consumer co-ops (owned by member shoppers) with stores in 220+ communities and growing. While you don't have to be a member to shop at most food co-ops, members receive extra benefits. For example, many co-ops distribute net surplus to members as patronage dividends in profitable years.

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International Cooperative Principles

1. Voluntary and open membership
2. Democratic member control
3. Member economic participation
4. Autonomy and independence
5. Education, training and information
6. Cooperation among cooperatives
7. Concern for community
8. Diversity, equity and inclusion

230

230 food co-op locations in 39 states.

1.3M

1.3 million members of food co-ops.

63%

Co-op members account for 63% of sales at the typical co-op.



Food Co-op Impact Survey

How It Works

- NCG coordinates an annual survey that asks about 25 questions regarding your co-op's social and environmental sustainability.
- Your co-op can access the survey in NCG's sustainability database, Co+efficient. Every co-op has a Co+efficient account and can designate two staff members to answer questions. You also have the option of completing the survey in an Excel spreadsheet.
- NCG provides reminders, encouragement and a stipend for labor reimbursement to co-ops reporting the prior year's data and completing the survey by Feb. 28 each year.
- Co+efficient saves your co-op's survey results each year, so you can generate reports that help you reflect on progress made, use that data to inform decisions and communicate on results to your board, staff and shoppers.
- NCG summarizes all the data collected from co-ops and reports on food co-ops' collective progress in the annual Food Co-op Impact Report. This report is shared with the press, industry, Congress and public to promote food co-ops' value to their communities. Data from the impact survey is also used to demonstrate progress to members in NCG's Ends Report.

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Benefits For Your Co-op

- Tracking your annual sustainability data in Co+efficient can help you communicate progress to your board and other stakeholders through easily created charts and reports.
- Creating charts of your co-op's sustainability performance can assist in identifying opportunities for improvements in energy efficiency, staff retention and other cost savings.

- Get dedicated support from NCG's Advocacy and Sustainability Team to help your co-op track social and environmental data, whether for the first time or the fiftieth.
- Learning to manage sustainability is a great professional development opportunity as environmental regulations and public interest in the climate continue to increase.
- NCG uses the survey data to advocate on behalf of food co-ops with industry, Congress and USDA for programs that benefit food co-ops and their communities.

Support and Resources

NCG is constantly evaluating and updating resources needed to complete the survey to make it more accessible and achievable for all co-ops. Please let us know if you see an opportunity for us to improve.

- Written guides that explain why we ask each question, along with tips for how you might find information needed to answer questions, can be found on NCG's website.
- NCG's Sustainability Specialist can assist your co-op with questions and provide technical support for answering the survey in Co+efficient or Excel.
- There are step-by-step, printable guides on NCG's website to walk your co-op through entering survey information in Co+efficient or Excel.
- There is a training course on completing the Food Co-op Impact Study on Co+op U.
- NCG convenes sustainability calls on the first Tuesday of each month of the year; join to ask questions of other co-ops or share your tips.

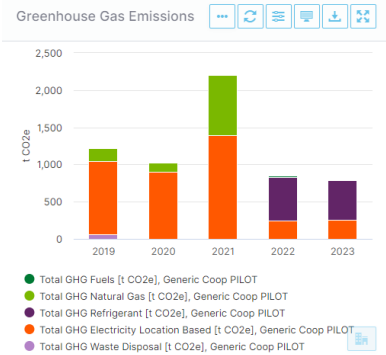
Labor Reimbursements

While we do our best to make the Food Co-op Impact Survey as efficient as possible for your co-op to complete, we recognize that time spent on data collection adds a financial burden. NCG provides a modest labor reimbursement to every co-op that completes a majority of the survey by the annual due date of Feb. 28. The amount is communicated annually in January.

Data Privacy

NCG does not publish or share individual co-op results from the Food Co-op Impact Survey or your co-op's Co+efficient account. The data shared in NCG's Food Co-op Impact Report and Ends Report is calculated using the average of all co-op survey responses and no individual co-ops are ever identified in reporting.

Only your co-op can publish your co-op's individual data — and we hope you will! Talk with NCG's Sustainability Specialist Cole Hawthorne today about using the data you enter in the Food Co-op Impact Survey to create charts and reports that help you tell your sustainability story. Whether it's meeting board reporting requirements or promoting your co-op on social media, there are so many ways the Food Co-op Impact Survey can work for you.



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