

Co-op Culture Environmental and Ethical Policy

Co-op Culture aspires to the following principles:

Social Justice – Co-op Culture promotes and supports enterprise that seeks to be part of a fair, just and equitable relationship between the individual and the natural world.

Strengthen community resilience – by helping to ensure the main needs of the community are met despite wider economic instability, energy and resource shortages and global warming impacts. Co-op Culture also aims to be resilient in itself, seeking to be financially sustainable and as independent of external funding as possible.

Appropriate resource use – by making efficient and appropriate use of natural resources, respecting finite limits and minimising and integrating waste streams. The use of fossil fuels is minimised, and use of renewable energy sources maximised.

More than profit – Co-op Culture aims to provide affordable, sustainable products and services and decent livelihoods, rather than just generate excessive profits for others. Co-op Culture believes that enterprise can be profitable, but excess profits are used for wider benefit rather than just enriching individuals.

Part of the community – Co-op Culture works towards building a common wealth, owned and controlled as much as is practical by workers, customers, tenants and communities. Co-op Culture promotes enterprises that treat and pay all workers fairly. Co-op Culture promotes enterprises that have structures which are as open, equitable, democratic, inclusive and accountable as possible, and consciously operate as part of a collaborative, mutually supportive local system.

Appropriate localisation – Co-op Culture supports enterprises that operate at a scale appropriate to the environment, the needs they are meeting and their business sector, with regard to sourcing, distribution and interaction with the wider economy. They don't all have to grow endlessly. They provide local goods for local people as locally as possible, where this makes sense.

Implementation

Co-op Culture as an organisation committed to a radical and ecological view of society we will strive to achieve the highest ecological and social ethical standards - these will take into account not just the ecological impact of our work, but the impact on poorer communities across the globe and on non-human animals.

Members commit themselves to the following.

Reducing the amount of resources we consume and pollution we create by:

- re-using paper, ink cartridges and all other appropriate resources;
- sharing resources where practicable with other groups;
- using recycled, post consumer paper in office and for our publicity materials;
- powering our activities with electricity from renewable sources wherever possible;

- reducing energy use in our work environments;
- using bike mileage to encourage cycling;
- using public transport wherever it provides a viable option;
- not using air travel;
- using ecological cleaning products;
- sourcing second-hand office equipment such as furniture and computers;
- recycling our waste through the most appropriate waste stream.

Reducing our support of destructive transnational corporations and oppressive regimes by:

- buying from small local suppliers, co-operatives or social enterprises, specialist alternative suppliers, or community enterprises in the third world in preference to corporate sources;
- respecting reputable boycott movements;
- buying food that is sustainably produced;
- banking with ethical banks and building societies;
- choosing insurance providers with the highest ethical standards;
- using Free / Open Source Software wherever and whenever practicable; developing copyleft or public domain software for open platforms only.

Reducing our impact on non-human animals by:

- providing only vegan food, cleaning products etc in our work environments, workshops and during other events we organise.

We will consider all of these ideals when choosing services such as banking, printing, when looking for office space and seeking funding.

In addition, Co-op Culture will not provide support for organisations which exist primarily for the creation of private profit, consolidate the ownership of assets into private hands, adversely affect the natural environment, or exploit people and other animals.

Policy adopted January 2016