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Sent: Tuesday, November 24, 2020 1:42 PM
To: johnm@nwcdc.coop
Subject: [TEST] Co-op Developments in the PNW



Co-op Developments

A short monthly update about co-op development in the Pacific Northwest provided to you on or about the 20th of each month. Please share with your network!

[Support Co-op Development in the PNW: Donate Today!](#)

Give Local or Regional This Year



2020 continues to be an epic year for the Pacific Northwest. The pandemic, wild fires, increasing effects of climate change, and social unrest over the treatment of indigenous and people of color in our society have created a new sense of what "normal" should look like when our region emerges from these struggles. At NWCDC we have seen a three-to-four fold increase in the number of requests for technical assistance. There is a sense the new normal will need cooperatives more than ever.

This year, NWCDC has joined the **Give Local Campaign** of the South Sound Foundation. This program aims to raise funds to provide support for our work in Thurston, Mason, and Lewis counties. You can [visit our page](#) and make a donation to our cause!

Today, November 20, is the final day, so please donate now!

in addition to Give Local, **#GivingTuesday** is on December 1st this year. These funds will be more regional to our entire service area of Washington, Idaho, and Oregon. Please consider [making a gift](#) on December 1st. We would also love to share your story on how NWCDC has helped your co-op or your community.

As is probably obvious, we don't have a dedicated staff person to development. All of our staff spend a significant part of their time helping clients with their co-op projects and the day-to-day operations of the Center. We hope that you find our work valuable to share our story and make a gift of any size.

John McNamara Elected to CooperationWorks! Board

NWCDC Cooperative Development Specialist, **John McNamara**, has joined the board of directors of [CooperationWorks!](#), a national network of cooperative developers. He fills a seat held by NWDC's Executive Director **Diane Gasaway**. John is also co-chair of the Union-Coop Council of the US Federation of Worker Co-ops. He will be working with CW! on a range of issues include professional development and marketing. Diane will be continuing to work with CW! committees on a number of issues including a review of the Madison Principles which guide co-op development in the United States.



Shop Local and Co-op This Holiday Season



The Giving Season is arriving quickly. Now, more than ever, your local co-ops need your support. Recent measures to combat Covid-19 have placed reduced capacities on many local businesses in Oregon and Washington.

The new restrictions occur at the worst time of the year as many retailers depend on holiday shopping to break even. Reduced capacity means more sales will likely go to large on-line retailers that are already seeing record income levels. We are putting together a list of co-op options but your local food co-op is always a great place to start!

We are featuring a [giving guide](#) for co-ops in our region. Help us out by sending information on co-ops in your community! We will start

promoting it on **November 25th** and will run the page through the end of the Kwanzaa holiday. Let us know if we missed any co-ops!

Photo by Caley Dimmock on [Unsplash](#)

Miles Nowlin Launches "Opportunity to Own"

Miles Nowlin may have left NWCDC, but helping people acquire affordable housing remains a core issue for him. He launched a website promoting [Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Ordinances](#) where people can join a call for action and access tools to lobby their government. TOPO is defined on the site as: "Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Ordinances (TOPO) would provide long-term protection of already existing affordable housing by allowing tenant groups the first opportunity to negotiate and bid on rental properties when they come up for sale.

Tenants can form a limited equity housing cooperative (LEHC) to purchase the community or transfer their purchase rights to a non-profit, land trust or government agency. This measure takes the property out of the speculative market, preserving it, stabilizing housing costs and safeguarding it from future redevelopment.

Cities around the country like San Francisco, Berkley, Oakland, Seattle, Burien, Minneapolis, Baltimore are following the lead Washington DC's TOPA act in exploring and adopting their own versions of Tenant Opportunity to Purchase.

Age of Co-opportunity Recap

Last month, Madison Alderperson **Rebecca Kemble** (and Union Cab member), **Charity Schmidt**, University of Wisconsin Center for Cooperatives, and **Yassi Eskandari**, from the Sustainable Economies Law Center in Oakland, CA joined community activists with Cascade Cooperatives in Whatcom County for a discussion about how cities can help build cooperative communities and contemplating the following questions: "How is our local government preparing for our economic future?" "Can cooperatives play a stronger role in strengthening our local economy?" As we began to discuss and research we became very inspired by the work of cooperators around the US who have been engaging with local city governments to support cooperative development.

Together the speakers delivered the information and encouragement needed to prompt a small group of local co-op enthusiasts to form a committee with the intention of pursuing municipal funding for cooperative development in Whatcom County!

If you too want to be informed and inspired you can view the full webinar.

[Watch the Webinar Here](#)

Support Cooperative Development in the PNW

Consider making a donation to support the work of the Northwest Cooperative Development Center. Any amount is appreciated. NWCDC is a 501(c)(3) organization and any gives are tax deductible up to the limits allowed by law. Please support our mission to support community economic development through the cooperative business mode.

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