About Open Co-op

The Open Co-op was founded in 2004 with the purpose of “building a world-wide community of individuals and organisations committed to the creation of a collaborative, sustainable economy”.

We organise conferences and run projects to help create decentralised collaboration at scale.

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Stakeholder(s):

Co-operatives:
A co-operative is an autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social, and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly-owned and democratically-controlled enterprise.

Young People
Opinion Leaders

Vision
Decentralised collaboration at scale

Mission
To build a world-wide community of individuals and organisations committed to the creation of a collaborative, sustainable economy

Values

Collaboration
Decentralisation
Scalability
Sustainability
Co-operation

Values: Co-operatives are based on the values of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity.

Self-Help
Self-Responsibility
Equality
Equity
Solidarity

Honesty: In the tradition of their founders, co-operative members believe in the ethical values of honesty, openness, social responsibility and caring for others.

Social Responsibility
Caring: for others

Principles: The co-operative principles are guidelines by which co-operatives put their values into practice.
Volunteerism: Voluntary and Open Membership -- Co-operatives are voluntary organisations, 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.

Openness

Democracy: Democratic Member Control -- Co-operatives are democratic organisations 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 organised in a democratic manner.

Membership: 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.

Economic Participation

Autonomy: Autonomy and Independence -- Co-operatives are autonomous, self-help organisations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organisations, 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.

Independence

Education: 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.

Training

Information: They inform the general public – particularly young people and opinion leaders – about the nature and benefits of co-operation.

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

Community: Concern for Community -- Co-operatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies approved by their members.
1. Conferences

Organise conferences
2. Projects

*Run projects*

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**Administrative Information**

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