



■ Community Cooperative Governance Document

“Trust, transparency and unity”

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Date: 2nd August 2025

1. What is Our Cooperative?

Our cooperative is owned and controlled by the community. Each member has an equal say in how it is run and shares in the benefits. The cooperative is set up to meet our community's needs and create opportunities together.

2. Our Values

- Democracy – every member has one vote.
- Equality – no one's voice is louder because of money or status.
- Solidarity – we succeed together and support each other.
- Transparency – decisions and finances are open and shared.
- Sustainability – we protect and respect our people and environment.

3. Membership

- Anyone from the community who supports our aims can apply to join.
- Members must agree to follow cooperative principles and pay the membership share.
- Members can leave at any time, but their share is returned according to the rules.

4. Shares & Contributions

- Each member buys one share (affordable amount agreed by the community).
- All shares are equal – no one can buy extra votes.
- Profits are used first to support the cooperative, then shared fairly among members or reinvested in the community.

5. Decision-Making

- General Meetings: held at least once a year, where all major decisions are made.
- One Member = One Vote: everyone has equal power, no matter how much money they put in.
- Consensus First: we try to agree together. If not possible, decisions are made by majority vote.

6. Leadership & Roles

- Members elect a Board of Directors from among themselves.
- The board helps manage day-to-day activities but must always follow the will of the members.
- Roles may include:
 - Chairperson – leads meetings and ensures fair discussion.
 - Secretary – keeps records, minutes, and communications.
 - Treasurer – manages the money with transparency.

7. Accountability

- The board must report regularly to members.
- Finances are shared openly, with annual reports available to everyone.
- Members can call special meetings if there are serious concerns.

8. Conflict Resolution

- Disagreements should be solved through open dialogue and respect.
- If needed, a small elected committee or external mediator can help resolve conflicts.

9. Use of Profits

- Cover cooperative expenses.
- Build reserves for the future.
- Support community projects.
- Share surplus fairly among members.

10. Changing the Rules

- Members can propose changes to this document.

- Changes must be discussed and approved at a general meeting by majority vote.

11. Dissolution (If Needed)

- If the cooperative must close, assets will first pay debts.
- Any remaining funds will be used for community benefit, not private gain.

■ This document is a guide for our cooperative. It ensures that power stays with the people, benefits stay in the community, and decisions are made fairly by all members.

■ Thank You for Reading

This governance document is created to strengthen our unity and guide our cooperative into a fair and sustainable future.



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