

## What is the Valley Alliance of Worker Co-ops?

A “co-op of co-ops”, the Valley Alliance of Worker Co-operatives (VAWC) is an integrated network that works together as a means of strengthening the efforts of our individual co-ops to develop their businesses, serve their members, and contribute to the wider cooperative economy. VAWC is itself an expression of cooperative principles and is rooted in the ideals of co-operation, mutuality and solidarity. Our core goal is to provide ourselves with the resources and support we need to advance our co-operatives, empower our members, and benefit more people in our communities.

## Who can be a member?

Workplaces that meet the criteria of being a worker co-operative as defined by the US Federation of Worker Co-operatives and the International Declaration on Worker Co-operatives (CICOPA). Membership is open to worker co-operatives in and around the Connecticut River Valley in Western New England. VAWC's activities are centered in the Connecticut River Valley between Springfield, MA and Brattleboro, VT. Contact us about applying for membership.

## What does VAWC want to achieve?

We envision a co-operative economy where one can live an entirely co-operative day: An economy built on workers' self-determination and freedom of action and association; An economy of breadth and depth that puts working people in control of their economic destiny while serving their communities in accordance with the co-operative values and principles.

## We work in local, national, and international movements.

From International Co-operative Alliance's Statement on the Co-operative Identity

Definition: 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.

## Current Membership

VAWC is a cross industrial membership organization with seven members sustaining over 50 jobs and earning a total revenue of over \$5.5 million. The age of member co-ops ranges from 1 year to well over 30. Since 2008 the VAWC system has increased annually in membership, jobs and revenue.

For more go to [www.valleyworker.org](http://www.valleyworker.org).

VAWC is a proud member of the United States Federation of Worker Co-operatives, [www.usworker.org](http://www.usworker.org).



Working for a Co-operative Economy



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## Our Mission Statement

The Valley Alliance of Worker Co-operatives is dedicated to building a sustainable local economy by facilitating the growth and development of worker cooperatives. To realize this, we provide support for our members, develop new worker cooperatives by offering mentoring and skill-sharing, and promote worker cooperatives by educating and developing community awareness.

1.888.482.6804  
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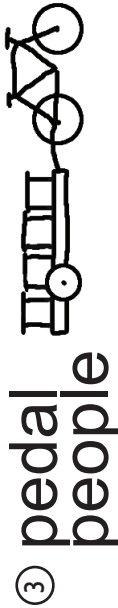
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