



MADWORC

Welcome Packet

Welcome to MadWorC

This packet will provide lots of info about our organization and hopefully answer any questions.

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MadWorC is Madison's local peer support network for worker co-ops seeking to build the solidarity economy in Madison. Local worker co-op organizing is critical to making sure worker cooperatives have the tools, skills, and resources necessary for maintaining strong businesses. We exist to help all of Madison's worker co-ops, not just our members, and we encourage worker co-ops to get involved by joining, attending meetings, sharing resources, and more.

Our mission is to support and build the solidarity economy in the Madison area by promoting worker ownership and democratically controlled workplaces. We provide cooperative education, development support, peer networking, and technical assistance towards growing an ecosystem of worker-owned cooperatives, which can mutually support each other while building racial, gender, and economic justice in our communities.

Read more to learn about who we are, what we've been doing, how to participate, and what MadWorC can do for you.

MadWorC's Activities

Learn about what we do



Current Initiatives

Here's what we're currently working on.

TRADE SCHOOLS

Creating a curriculum for trade school students about worker cooperatives

PEER NETWORK

Strengthening our peer support network

CONVERSIONS

Helping small local businesses convert to being worker cooperatives

DEVELOPMENT

Developing more worker cooperatives in Madison

SUPPORT

Supporting existing cooperatives through trainings on key topics.

PRINCIPLE 6

Connecting cooperatives to each other to maximize strengths

REGIONAL EVENTS

Hosting a semi-annual Regional Rendezvous for worker-owners

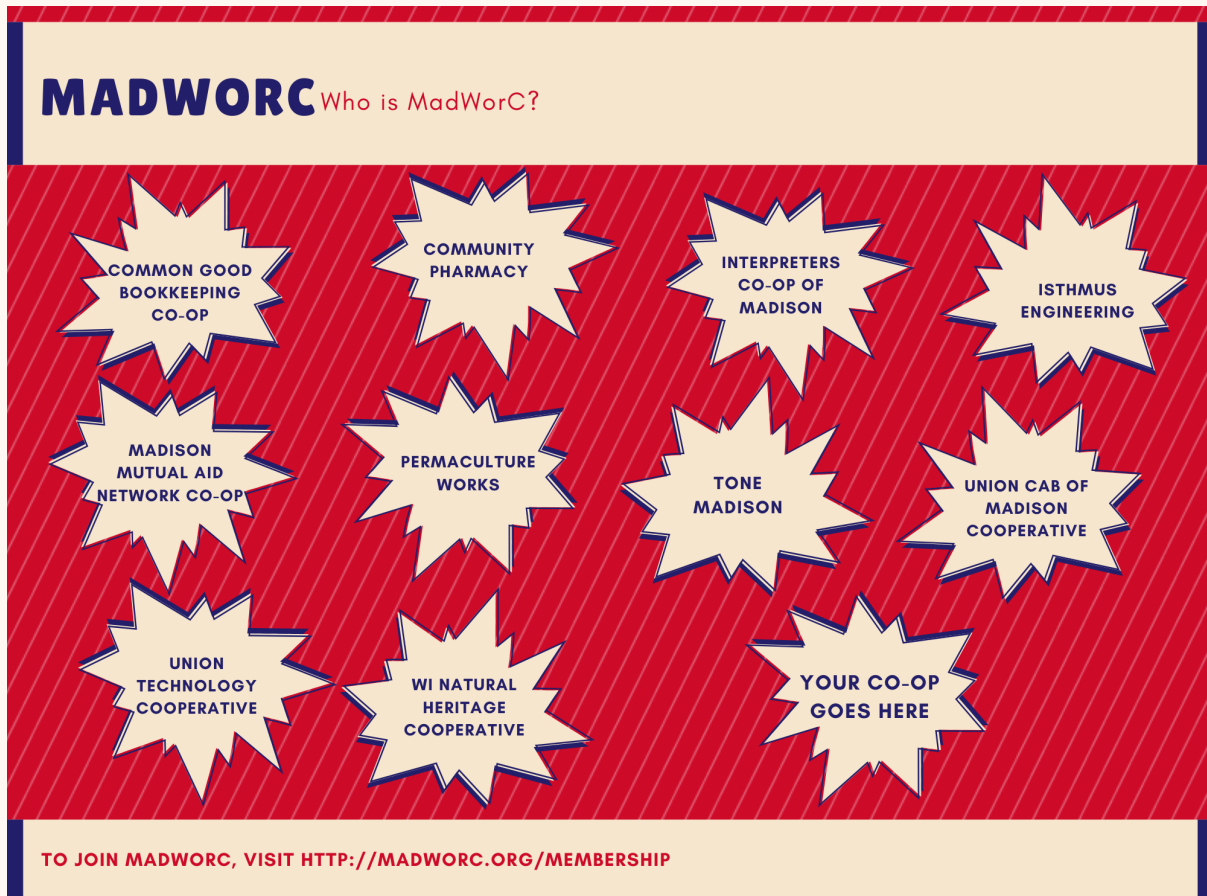
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When our Coop was getting started the Board Member Exchange events where we attended other Worker Coop Board meets were very educational.

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Who is MadWorC?

Meet Our Members



Common Good Bookkeeping Cooperative is a cooperative of bookkeepers who provide support to a variety of local organizations, including many local worker cooperatives.

Community Pharmacy is a pharmacy and wellness cooperative, with a full-service pharmacy at their east side Madison location.

Interpreters Cooperative of Madison provides language interpretation in a variety of languages, written translation, and online language interpretation.

Isthmus Engineering and Manufacturing is a cooperative that creates industrial machinery.

Madison MAN's purpose is to create means for everyone to discover and succeed in work they want to do, with the support of their community.

PermacultureWorks is a new cooperative focusing on permaculture education.

Tone Madison is an independent publication covering culture and politics in Madison, Wisconsin.

Union Cab of Madison is Madison's worker-owned taxi company.

Union Technology Cooperative does technology support for a variety of businesses, including helping many new cooperatives set up their technical systems.

Wisconsin Natural Heritage Cooperative is a group of conservation biologists working on contract with the Department of Natural Resources.

Our Work

What does MadWorC do?

MadWorC is a non-profit organization supporting cooperatives in the Madison area. We've existed since 2009, when we were formed by members of several different local worker cooperatives. Our organization is composed of representatives from whichever cooperatives choose to join - we hope your co-op will consider attending meetings and getting involved.

MadWorC has done a number of things since 2009, including:

- **Increasing communication between worker co-ops**
- **Promoting worker-ownership to Madison businesses**
- **Helping obtain city funding for worker cooperatives**
- **Tabling at large-scale events to help promote worker cooperatives among the public**
- **Arranging support opportunities between co-ops, such as a board-member-exchange program**
- **Advocating for worker cooperatives at the city and state level**
- **Running a discussion mailing list for those interested in worker cooperatives**
- **Coordinating a book club in 2021-2022**
- **Hosting a semi-annual Regional Rendezvous, a midwest worker cooperative gathering**

MadWorC's board meets monthly, and meetings are open to everyone. Each member co-op gets one vote at the meeting, but there's no limit on how many people from your co-op may attend.

Our current initiatives include:

- **Helping small local businesses convert to being worker cooperatives**
- **Creating a curriculum for trade school students about worker cooperatives**
- **Strengthening our peer support network**
- **Developing more worker cooperatives in Madison**
- **Supporting existing cooperatives through trainings on key topics.**
- **Connecting cooperatives to each other to maximize strengths**
- **Hosting a semi-annual Regional Rendezvous for worker-owners**

We work closely with other organizations in Madison that support working cooperatives, too.

MadWorC exists to connect co-ops. What does your co-op need? What can your co-op share? You can join our mailing list at <http://madworc.org>.

How to Participate in MadWorC

There are lots of ways to get involved.

The first way to participate in MadWorC is to attend our monthly meetings. If your co-op is a member of MadWorC, you get to appoint someone to our board, but everyone is welcome to attend our monthly meetings, even if you aren't a member.

The next way to participate in MadWorC is to join one of our committees or our board. We are currently re-forming some of our committees. Committees usually work on things like education, outreach, and fundraising.

If you'd like to get involved on a committee, you can contact our staff person at madworc.coordinator@gmail.com

We hold social events. These are a great way to get to know us in a less formal context (no agenda, no reading to do ahead of time). We host three social events per year - after our annual meeting, in late spring/early summer, and to celebrate Co-op Month in October. Visit <http://madworc.org/socials> for the schedule and locations.

We also invite you to participate in our semi-annual Regional Rendezvous as a presenter (sharing your co-op's experiences) or as an attendee. More info about the Regional Rendezvous, including the program guides from past years, is on our website.

What Can MadWorC Do For You?

We're here to help!

MadWorC exists to support worker cooperatives and build the solidarity economy here in Madison. We can help connect you to a variety of resources, including other cooperatives both locally and across the country through our involvement with a variety of peer networks.

We're working on creating a library of co-op bylaws and policies that members can have access to.

We're also working on creating some support packages that members will be eligible to purchase at discounted rates, such as IT support, bookkeeping/finance support, and more.

We also have a place on our website where each cooperative member of MadWorC has a page about itself. We can add whatever you want to that page - a description of your co-op, links to your website, information about your products or services.

In 2024, we are creating a set of trainings for existing cooperatives on key topics for sustaining a strong cooperative. We'll be looking for cooperatives who would be interested in testing out those trainings once they are ready, and then we'll have them available going forward.

Our Partners

MadWorC partners with several organizations, including:

Madison Cooperative Development Coalition (MCDC): The City of Madison's initiative to form worker cooperatives that address income inequality and racial disparities by creating living-wage and sustainable jobs. The Coalition works to strengthen the local cooperative ecosystem.

The Madison Public Library: The library has resources for folks starting businesses, and regularly hosts MCDC's Co-op 101, 201, and Financing trainings.

The University of Wisconsin Center for Cooperatives (UWCC): An internationally valued Center that provides education, outreach, and research to a diverse range of communities. It is the only U.S. university-based center that studies and supports all forms of cooperatives.

Worker Justice Wisconsin: WJW is Wisconsin's only workers-rights center, and has a co-op incubation program. Their work focuses on incubating worker cooperatives formed by primarily immigrant, Latine, low-wage workers.

How to Join MadWorC

We'd love to welcome you as members!

Any worker co-op can join MadWorC. Visit our membership site to find out more and get a link to the application. Our membership page is <https://madworc.org/membership/>. As part of the application, we'll ask you some questions about your cooperative, including details like when it was formed and how many worker-owners you currently have. We'll also ask some demographic questions. These questions are all to help us build a better picture of the worker cooperatives in Madison so we can best advocate for co-op needs and connect co-ops to each other.

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Being part of MadworC has helped us to see the power and potential of Coop Principle 6 in action.

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