

# Principle FIVE

# P5

## October 2021

The 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference, also known as COP26, is the 26th United Nations Climate Change conference. It is scheduled to be held in Glasgow, between 31 October and 12 November 2021, under the presidency of the United Kingdom.

Thankfully, attention is being focussed upon the serious commitments required to achieve zero carbon emissions.

Co-operatives are setting a great example in this great collective effort. The October edition of Co-operative News includes stories about the transition to ecological sustainability. For those who do not subscribe to Co-operative News, the October edition can be downloaded [HERE](#)

Carbon Co-op, based in Manchester, is featured in the October edition:

### [Citizen-Led Climate Solutions](#)

see more on their website:

<https://carbon.coop/>

The October edition editorial page is reproduced here. It's good to see that Co-op Press is supporting the transition in practical ways.



## CONNECTING, CHAMPIONING AND CHALLENGING THE GLOBAL CO-OP MOVEMENT SINCE 1871

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The Co-operative News mission statement is to connect, champion and challenge the global co-operative movement, through fair and objective journalism and open and honest comment and debate. Co-op News is, on occasion, supported by co-ops, but final editorial control remains with Co-operative News unless specifically labelled 'advertorial'. The information and views set out in opinion articles and letters do not necessarily reflect the opinion of Co-operative News.

@coopnews cooperativenews



## Co-ops and climate change

Co-op News has covered climate change and we have written about renewable energy and sustainability. But never have I seen these topics receive so much widespread international public attention. Between COP26, more frequent extreme weather events and a growing sense of urgency and unease, the focus is on what individuals, businesses, and governments can and should do to impact the causes, effects and perceptions of climate change.

In this issue we hear voices from co-ops operating at the frontline of renewable energy, and how those operating in different sectors – such as housing and agriculture – are taking part in the climate conversation, and what practical steps they are taking themselves. Because for co-operatives – which through their principles have an agreed mandate to care for the communities in which they operate – this is particularly important, and it is something that we at Co-op News have been considering carefully and seriously. What is our environmental impact? How can we reduce it? As a last resort, how can we compensate?

Prior to Covid we were moving towards a paper-free office, and when the UK lockdown began 18 months ago, all travel to events and meetings ceased as everything went online. Our biggest impact is currently through the print and distribution of the magazine itself. To reduce this, the magazine is printed using vegetable oil-based inks on 80% recycled paper in a chlorine-free process.

Individual copies are sent out in compostable wrapping, and we have also joined the World Land Trust's Carbon Balanced Paper programme, through which we balance the carbon impact of the paper we use through the WLT's trusted conservation projects. We will also be investing in a community energy co-operative; not only will this be truly traceable, but we would also be supporting another co-op that is helping the transition away from fossil fuels.

A lot of different people and organisations are helping us on this journey, but a particular thank you to our printers (Buxton Press), Barry Clavin and Joe Hulme from the Co-op Group's Ethics & Sustainability team, and our directors Shaz Rahman and Lesley Reznicek for helping us drive the conversations.

*Rebecca*

REBECCA HARVEY - EXECUTIVE EDITOR



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**Cooperation Town** is a new network of community food co-ops, organising on streets and estates across the country. We support the creation of small buying groups, providing their members with free and affordable groceries, sourced in bulk and distributed at a very low price.

The co-ops are owned by their members and run according to local needs. Members decide collectively on how to organise and are responsible for the day to day running of the co-op. While each Cooperation Town co-op is independent, the network is designed to share resources and support across the movement.

Anyone can start a Cooperation Town food co-op on their street or estate! In this workshop we will share the basic principles and processes and help attendees take steps to start organising in their community.

**Stir to Action** is running a webinar  
**Setting Up a Community Food Co-op**  
more information **[HERE](#)**



**become a member of Co-op News**  
**<https://www.thenews.coop/be-a-member/>**

## **Principle 5 pamphlet 2**

### **Co-operative Production by Edward Carpenter**

It was delivered as a lecture by Edward Carpenter at the Sheffield Hall of Science in 1883. This venue in Rockingham Street was where George Jacob Holyoake and other radicals of the time promoted co-operative education.

It is as relevant today as it was then and we are very much looking forward to getting it back into circulation.

In the year that the lecture was given, it was printed as a pamphlet by John Heywood in Manchester. Since then it has never been in print.

Chris Olewicz found a copy of this forgotten pamphlet in the Sheffield University Library and realised what a valuable message it carried. Like 'Sheffield and Socialism' the pamphlet will be £2.00 per copy.

In this lecture, delivered at the Sheffield Hall of Science in 1883 later published as a pamphlet by John Heywood, Edward Carpenter discusses the ills of industrial capitalism, and proposes co-operation as an alternative system. Vital economic reforms, delivered on co-operative lines, Carpenter explains, would promote the undertaking of work to a high standard, as well as improving working conditions in industry, and enabling Britain to become more self-sufficient in manufacturing the necessities of life. Published at a time of great change in his life - he would soon purchase land at Millthorpe and begin his new career as a market gardener - Carpenter's biting critique of laissez-faire capitalism remains as potent as ever. Why is it that so much of our natural resource is used to create products of low quality that are rarely, if ever, used? Why is it that inferior



work, with corners cut at every turn, prospers, whilst good work is priced out of the market? Is this the way that things have to be? Extolling the virtues of co-operation, Edward Carpenter vehemently disagrees.

**Members are always welcome to visit the resource centre.**

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