

MASSACHUSETTS

ASSETS: **\$28 BILLION**

REVENUE: **\$3.3 BILLION**

MEMBERS: **2.5 MILLION**

JOBS CREATED: **11,200**



MASSACHUSETTS CO-OPS AT A GLANCE

Co-ops in Massachusetts are working to build a better world by creating quality jobs, building community wealth, protecting the environment, reducing poverty and strengthening the local economy.

REAL PICKLES

Greenfield-based Real Pickles makes naturally fermented and raw pickled vegetables rich in probiotics while creating stable and fulfilling jobs with ownership opportunities.

NEIGHBORING FOOD CO-OP ASSOCIATION (NFCA)

NFCA is a cooperative network of 35 food co-ops and startups across New England that are working together to achieve a thriving cooperative economy rooted in a healthy, just and sustainable food system.



All of Real Pickle's vegetables are sourced from local, organic farms and distributed solely within the Northeast U.S. with the goal of supporting a regional organic food system.

MASSACHUSETTS TOP CO-OPS BY SECTOR

CREDIT UNIONS: **230**

HOUSING: **130**

EDUCATION: **50**

CHILDCARE: **30**

FOOD: **25**

MEDIA: **16**

INSURANCE: **11**

ABOUT CO-OPS

According to federally-supported research by the University of Wisconsin Center for Cooperatives, co-ops inject \$3 trillion into the U.S. economy every year. Located in every state and every Congressional district in the U.S., co-ops create millions of jobs and offer solutions to meet challenging public policy issues—from affordable housing to early childhood learning. They spur economic growth in underserved rural America; empower individuals, families and communities; and ensure that Americans have access to high-quality goods and services at competitive prices from businesses they trust.

MASSACHUSETTS CO-OP EQUAL EXCHANGE RANKS AMONG BEST COMPANIES

Three cooperatively-run businesses, two of which are NCBA CLUSA members, achieved the highest possible company rating in the 2015 edition of The Better World Shopping Guide. Equal Exchange, Organic Valley and Divine Chocolate each earned an A+ rating and were listed among the “20 Best Companies On the Planet.”

Equal Exchange, a Fairtrade worker-owned cooperative, was rated Number 5; farmer-owned Organic Valley came in at Number 7; and Fairtrade chocolate supplier Divine Chocolate was ranked Number 20.

Based in West Bridgewater, Mass., Equal Exchange's mission is to build long-term trade partnerships that are economically just and environmentally sound, to foster mutually beneficial relationships between farmers and consumers and to demonstrate the contribution of worker co-ops and Fair Trade to a more equitable, democratic and sustainable world.

Equal Exchange operates as a democratic worker cooperative—currently one of the largest in the country.



Coffee is among Equal Exchange's products that foster mutually beneficial relationships between farmers and consumers and demonstrate how worker co-ops help build a more equitable, democratic and sustainable food system.

The Better World Shopping Guide rankings are based on overall social and environmental records culled from 50 nonprofit, governmental and private sources representing more than 20 years of data collection. The guide rates the products and services of more than 2,000 companies by evaluating their impact on human rights, environmental sustainability, animal protection, community involvement and social justice.

According to Better World Shopper, the book aims to turn grocery lists into powerful tools for change and is the only comprehensive guide available for socially and environmentally responsible consumers.

Founded in 1916, the National Cooperative Business Association CLUSA International is the trade association for cooperative businesses in the U.S. and an international development organization active in Africa, Southeast Asia and Latin America. For 100 years, NCBA CLUSA has advanced, promoted and defended co-op enterprise, highlighting the impact that co-ops have in bettering the lives of individuals, families and communities.

NCBA CLUSA
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