



North Coast Co-op Purchasing Policy

Our Purchasing Commitment

As a core part of our commitment to fiscal, environmental, and social responsibility, the North Coast Co-op strives to purchase and sell products which are environmentally sound and socially responsible, which support our local community and economy, and which meet the needs of our diverse membership and community. We also commit to maintaining an internal list of product standards which will be reevaluated on an annual basis.

Environmentally Sound

- The Co-op strives to purchase and sell products which have significant positive environmental impacts in their production or use. Significant positive impacts may include, but are not limited to, regeneration of soil, restoration of habitat, investment in clean, renewable energy, and removal of pollutants and greenhouse gases from the environment.
- The Co-op strives not to purchase or sell products which have significant negative environmental impacts in their production, transportation, or use. Significant negative impacts may include, but are not limited to, the generation of excessive and/or unnecessary packaging waste, pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, habitat destruction, and unsustainable harvest of wild populations.

Socially Responsible

- The Co-op strives to purchase and sell products which have significant positive social or economic impacts in their production or use. Significant positive impacts may include, but are not limited to, support for labor rights, fair compensation and good working conditions, enhancement of equity in food systems, support for co-ops, and positive political, cultural, economic or health effects on producers, consumers, and communities.
- The Co-op strives not to purchase or sell products which have significant negative social or economic impacts in their production, transportation, or use. Significant negative impacts may include, but are not limited to, human rights violations; failure to provide fair compensation and humane treatment to workers, and negative political, cultural, economic or health effects on producers, consumers, and communities.

Local

- The Co-op strives to purchase and sell products which are produced and/or processed locally, particularly when the producer is a locally owned entity. North Coast Co-op defines 'local' as Humboldt, Del Norte, and Trinity counties. To be considered local, a product or brand must be either owned, operated, and/or produced within that region.

Cooperative

- When the Co-op faces a choice among products that meet the goals of this policy to a substantially equivalent degree, the Co-op will prioritize purchasing of products that are produced and/or processed by other cooperatives.

Meeting the Needs of Our Community

- The Co-op supports its mission to purchase and sell products which meet the needs of our membership and community.
- The Co-op strives to purchase and sell products that meet the needs of Co-op members from diverse cultural, religious, and economic backgrounds.

Exemption

- Any, and all, products which the Co-op is required to carry to remain an authorized participant in the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program shall be exempted from this policy to the extent that requirements of the WIC Program conflict with this policy.
- Special exemptions to this policy may be made for products that hold cultural and/or religious significance.

We are continually monitoring our product selection to ensure that it meets these guidelines, however we do not guarantee that all products sold at the Co-op meet these guidelines. Co-op staff have sole discretion to interpret and implement procedures to apply these policies. The Board may provide guidance or interpretation as they see fit. The Co-op encourages members to provide input on the implementation of these policies. Co-op staff will consider all such input but will not be bound by it.