

It's Official: The Berkeley CoG is now The CoG.

In the beginning, we called ourselves The Berkeley Cooperative Grocery because we liked the city's legacy of activism, foodiness, and, of course, the legendary Berkley Coop. On the flipside, we were concerned that the name was limiting our appeal. Since we welcome members from all communities, we have decided to move forward as simply The Cooperative Grocery. We've updated our email and web address and will publish a press release to share this change.

Grant Update

The Food Coop 500 foundation will not be awarding a development grant to the CoG. Foundation director Richard Dines called personally to explain their decision, which came down to a different interpretation of *accessibility*.

Food Coop 500 is primarily interested in funding Coops in cities and neighborhoods where there is little or no access to natural foods and products. For them, much of Berkeley and Oakland—with supermarkets and farmer's markets offering local and organic foods and products—does not meet this criteria. Meanwhile, the CoG believes that accessibility is inextricably linked to affordability—one of our three founding tenets. Most natural foods stores and farmer's markets are expensive for middle class families, to say nothing of the working poor. We're aiming to fix that.

Missing the Food Coop 500 development grant does not adversely affect our plans. And we are happy to announce that Jeff Goddin will be the fundraising committee point person—with Jeff's guidance, we look forward to learning about and applying for new grants.

Defining Sustainability

The Sustainability/Products Committee has proposed a test for the food and products offered by the CoG. Considering that we serve a diverse membership from omnivores to raw foodists, this was quite a challenge. If adopted, products would have to meet at least 6 of 9 sustainability criteria—including minimal packaging, fairly-traded and locally-produced. To see the complete list, visit thecog.org and click on the news tab.

We invite all our members to help shape this important working document. Join the next sustainability committee meeting on Sunday, December 10th at 3 PM at Brewed Awakenings, 1807 Euclid (near Hearst) in Berkeley.

Calling All Facilitators

We are developing guidelines on facilitating meetings and decision making. If you have experience you'd like to share, please contact us!

Upcoming Meetings

Sustainability/Products

Sunday 12/10 @ 3 PM

See details in "Defining Sustainability"

Outreach/Education

Sunday 12/17 @ 5 PM

See calendar for location

New/Prospective Members

Saturday 1/6/07 @ 10 AM

1933 Yolo Avenue, Berkeley

Check the CoG home page for a complete, up-to-date calendar.

Stay In Touch

email us:

info@thecog.org

on the internet:

www.thecog.org

Join a Committee

Go to thecog.org, click on the "committees" tab, and select a topic. You will need a Google Account (it's free and takes only a minute to sign up.)

Member Update

321 members since

August 2nd, 2006

PASS IT ON:

Share the CoG Log with friends and family.