

Cooperation Humboldt is helping to build a solidarity economy on California's North Coast. We support existing cooperative efforts and create transformational new solutions where needed.

A solidarity economy empowers us to meet our needs in harmony with nature and without exploiting anyone. It puts people and planet over profit by prioritizing collaboration over competition and cooperation over domination.

5 PRINCIPLES OF A SOLIDARITY ECONOMY

- **Pluralism:** Solidarity economy is not a fixed blueprint, but rather acknowledges that there are multiple paths to the same goal of a just and sustainable world.
- **Solidarity:** Solidarity includes a range of social interactions grounded in collective practices such as cooperation, mutualism, sharing, reciprocity, altruism, love, caring, and gifting.
- **Equity:** Solidarity economy opposes all forms of oppression - imperialism, patriarchy and colonization; racial, ethnic, religious, LGBTQ+, gender, and cultural discrimination.
- **Sustainability:** Drawing heavily upon Indigenous perspectives of living in harmony with nature and with each other, solidarity economy upholds the principles of sustainability and regeneration.
- **Participatory Democracy:** Solidarity economy embraces participatory democracy by enabling decision making and action to be as local as possible, thereby providing ways for people to participate directly in decision making about their communities.



BUILDING FOOD SOVEREIGNTY - ONE GARDEN AT A TIME

Cooperation Humboldt's food team is engaged in an ongoing process of evaluating our projects and exploring how we can increase our impact. This year has brought a sharper focus to our mini garden project to prioritize partnering with (and learning from) other local organizations serving community members who can benefit from our programs the most.

Last year was the first year we offered mini gardens for low-income residents, and we installed over 260. Already during 2021 we've installed 100+ mini gardens, and have partnered on food projects with the Yurok tribe, the Loleta Family Resource Center, and Two Feathers Native American Family Services.

Our latest project on May 14 brought together participants from both Cooperation Humboldt and Two Feathers NAFS to install 37 mini gardens in Willow Creek, Hoopa, Orleans and Weitchpec. Inland Humboldt County grapples with serious challenges accessing nutritious and culturally appropriate food. Whether in a rural

or urban location, healthy, locally produced food options can be difficult to access in Native communities. A 2016 study published in the Journal of Hunger and Environmental Nutrition states that Native communities are twice as likely to experience food insecurity as white communities. This is a result of a long history of social and economic oppression of Native peoples.

Local Indigenous people - who have stewarded this place for thousands of years - are working to reclaim food sovereignty and re-create resilient and restorative food systems. There is much to learn from these leaders, and we are grateful for the knowledge they have shared with us.

We are grateful to Two Feathers for partnering with us to install mini gardens, to all of the hard working volunteers who helped, and to the inland community for trusting us at your homes and for sharing your knowledge and your beautiful part of the world with us. We look forward to future opportunities for learning and collaboration.

A WORKER-OWNED CO-OP IS BORN

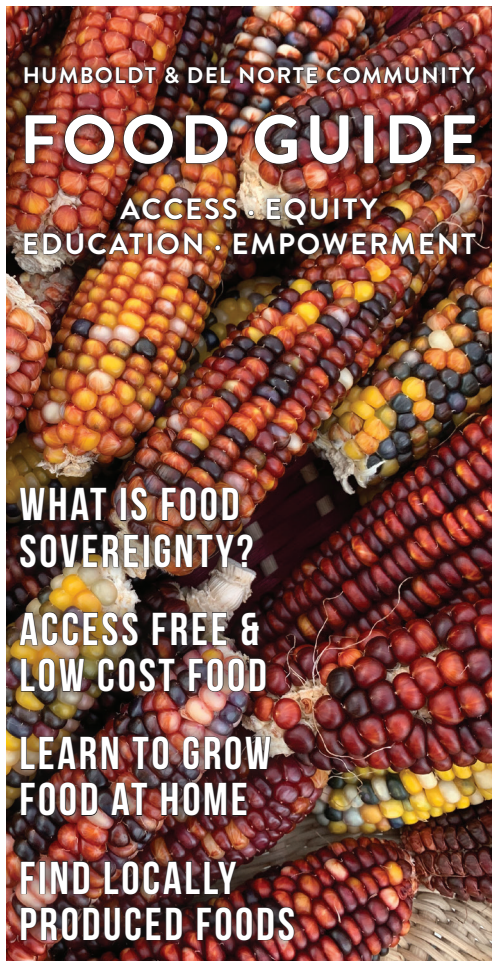
A study conducted by the Humboldt Waste Management Authority found that food waste takes up 30% of the landfill space in Humboldt County, releasing dangerous methane gas and robbing our local soils of essential nutrients. While there is a California law that requires cities, businesses, and owners of multi-family dwellings to provide food waste pickup and processing, a loophole makes it easy for cities to sidestep their responsibility. Many people have no choice but to throw their compostables in the garbage because they don't have the space or the time to manage their own compost pile.

In May of 2021, Full Cycle Compost - a worker owned, bicycle powered composting service - opened for business in Arcata as a grassroots solution to this problem. Subscribers leave their food waste at the curb for pickup and a trailer-toting cyclist from Full Cycle picks up compostables and delivers them for processing at Jardin Santuario or Caudal Fin Farm. Full Cycle offers discounts for six-month subscriptions and an Income Equity pricing plan for low-income subscribers. Visit fullcyclecompost.com for more information.



Full Cycle Compost was incubated through a collaboration between Cooperation Humboldt's Worker Owned Humboldt program and the North Coast Small Business Development Center. Anyone with a business idea can access these no-cost services and receive one-on-one support from one of our Cooperative Business Advisors - from your idea to your opening day, and beyond.

Worker owned businesses are more stable and resilient than their more common capitalist owner/employee counterparts, and everyone shares the power and the profit. Full Cycle Compost is part of the larger regional cooperative ecosystem that Cooperation Humboldt is working to create.



2021 FOOD GUIDE AT LOCAL NEWSSTANDS NOW

Our 2021 Community Food Guide is available now at newsstands throughout Humboldt and Del Norte Counties, as well as at the North Coast Co-op, Eureka Natural Foods, and the North Coast Growers Association booth at local farmers markets.

The Food Guide is an annual magazine that supports access, equity, education, and empowerment in our local food system. It's packed with useful information about why local food is important, how to find it, and how you can grow your own garden here on the North Coast.

2021 marks the first year of publication by Cooperation Humboldt. The magazine existed previously as the Local Food Guide by Locally Delicious. This year's edition includes directories of local food producers as well as expanded editorial content exploring the intersections of food justice and social justice plus lots of information about gardening in our bioregion. Other areas of growth this year are the inclusion of all content in Spanish online and a stronger focus on providing critical resources for free and low cost food to low-income community members.

Equity was a big focus for us when we decided to take on this project. We set out to highlight Indigenous voices and explore connections between race, class, gender identity and food.

We believe that access to nutritious and culturally appropriate food is a fundamental human right, and that communities should be empowered to determine how their food is produced and distributed. This Guide is an important tool for sharing that vision and bringing it to fruition.

We hope you'll find the Food Guide to be useful and inspiring! We invite your feedback by email at food.guide@cooperationhumboldt.com.



DONATE TODAY!

VOLUNTEERS CELEBRATE AT JARDÍN SANTUARIO



Photo credit: Adan Pérez,
Centro del Pueblo

In April, Jardín Santuario won the Nature's Path Gardens For Good Contest, with the support of more than 700 votes from the community. The \$5,000 award will pay for rent, tools, and multilingual educational signage. In May, a generous local individual donated \$1,000 to pay for the garden's water. We deeply appreciate the strong community support.

Volunteers from Centro del Pueblo and Cooperation Humboldt care for the garden, host community events and plant giveaways, and support anyone who wants to participate.

You can find the team in the garden most Saturdays from 2:00-4:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to come work in the garden and share the harvest.

Garden meetings are held in Spanish and English at the garden on Wednesdays at 5:00 p.m. For information email arcata-garden@cooperationhumboldt.com.

JARDÍN SANTUARIO: ARCATA'S SANCTUARY GARDEN

Early this year, a team of volunteers from Centro del Pueblo and Cooperation Humboldt formed to meet the need for new energy, leadership and stewardship at the community garden on the corner of 11th and F Streets in Arcata. The space is owned by the Arcata Presbyterian Church, a strong advocate for peace and resource sharing. The garden had previously been stewarded by Open Door.

The new garden team began by revitalizing the garden – clearing out the winter weeds and redesigning the layout while nourishing the existing perennials. Then, in a joyful ceremony conducted in Spanish, Mixteco, and English, we dedicated the space as a Sanctuary for immigrants and anyone seeking protection from unwelcome police/ICE interference in the lives of peaceful people.

PUBLIC BANKING: DEMOCRATIZING FINANCE

Our Public Banking work continues to grow. Last year Cooperation Humboldt helped to pass CA AB 857, which created a process to allow the creation of up to 10 local public banks.

Unlike Wall Street's privately-owned banks, which focus on private shareholder returns, public banks leverage their deposits to focus on lending to resolve pressing local needs such as affordable housing, small business loans, and public infrastructure projects, including rebuilding after wildfires and floods. Even better – these investments are fiscally prudent; public banks can reduce the cost of capital infrastructure projects by up to 40%.

The law requires a public bank to follow all the same financial and regulatory requirements as commercial banks. Public banks will be subject to the Brown Act and Public Records Act, thereby ensuring their transparency, good governance, and commitment to the public interest.

Although our community is too small to capitalize our own public bank, we are working with advocates from Marin to Del Norte to explore the creation of a "Public Bank of the North Coast."

We are planning to host a virtual town hall forum this fall with State Senator McGuire, so stay tuned!

One in four households in California are unbanked or underbanked. On June 2, the California Assembly stood up for them by passing AB 1177 (the Public Banking Option Act). If it passes the Senate, this law will allow Californians to

create a BankCal account, use a BankCal debit card, deposit funds, automate bill pay, and set up direct deposit all with no fees or penalties. By providing a public option for essential financial services, this will help close the racial wealth gap, eliminate the need for exploitative alternatives to traditional banking, and reduce Californians' risk of falling into catastrophic debt.

JOIN THE COOPERATION HUMBOLDT CORE TEAM!



Study groups are the path to leadership of the organization. All are welcome.

Sign up for a 12 week study group at cooperationhumboldt.com/study-groups

NEW RISING HMONG ASSOCIATION SPREADS ITS WINGS



New Rising Hmong Association (NRHA) was formed in 2020 to connect the Northern Humboldt County Hmong community with access to health, wellness, and social services, and to strengthen community engagement while bridging the gap between traditional and modern cultural beliefs.

NRHA was formed with guidance, counseling, and mentorship from Cooperation Humboldt's

Community Health Worker Collaborative, Pata Vang from Open Door Community Health Centers, and Lindsay McCovey from Native American Pathways. NRHA has already applied for and received two grants and is working toward the goal of becoming an independent nonprofit.

Our first event will be a live virtual bingo event in Hmong and English. During this event, we aim to inform the Hmong community about vaccination locations, best practices with safe social distancing, hand washing, and essential information about COVID-19. The event will also provide a great opportunity for youth to have fun spending time with their elders.

NRHA is currently composed of four Hmong women, volunteering our time. We are conscious of the changing needs of our community, and we listen to our community to grow and adapt to those needs.

If you have questions or want to help NRHA with a donation of any amount, please contact us at newrisinghmongassociation@gmail.com.

PREPARE FOR FIRE SEASON WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

Join our Disaster Response and Community Resilience team to better understand our local disaster response network and build a more resilient community!

- Envision, plan, and create Resilient Hubs.
- Prepare for fire season through free trainings in partnership with our local branch of the American Red Cross.
- Create meaningful educational events highlighting emergency preparedness - skillshares, neighborhood meet ups, and other activities to bring communities together.

In times of disaster, neighbors are your first responders, so why not work with them now to better prepare and identify resources and plans that can help you keep your family safe?

We would love to get to know you and/or your pods or group! For more information and to get connected, visit cooperationhumboldt.com/resilience.



P.O. Box 7248
Eureka, CA 95502

www.cooperationhumboldt.org
info@cooperationhumboldt.com

*Cooperation Humboldt is a 501(c)(3)
nonprofit; tax ID # 95-4126989.*

