



Environmental Policy - November 2023

Background

Pigweed Food Co-operative, trading as Thoughtful Foods, recognises the importance of promoting and maintaining a high standard of environmental care in our operations. We also promote more responsible purchasing of food, by giving consideration to the growing, processing, and distribution of food. This reflects the values of our environmentally conscious members.

This policy is a statement of commitment from our Director and Coordinator Collectives to reflect the values and ethos of Thoughtful Foods.

Details of Policy

In our operations, we endeavour to reduce our environmental impact. This includes:

- Selecting local suppliers and producers where possible, to minimise the carbon miles of the food we sell
- Selecting products to sell in line with the Buying Principles of our Constitution (see Attachment A)
- Minimising packaging waste of consumers, by encouraging our shoppers to bring their own bags and containers and by not providing plastic packaging (we sell paper bags and glass jars)
- Minimising packaging waste of Thoughtful Foods, by ordering items in bulk
- Separating our waste to reduce landfill content
- Spreading environmental awareness throughout the broader co-op community during volunteer training, communications to members and shoppers, and day-to-day activities.

Endorsed by:

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Attachment A: Buying principles and objects extract from the Constitution

The objects of the co-operative are:

- A. To provide a retail source of wholefoods so that members may have some control over the sources of their food supply;
- B. To provide information on and promote the use of:
 - a. low-cost, ethically-produced wholefoods
 - b. bulk minimally packaged foods
 - c. cruelty-free foods
 - d. vegetarian foods
 - e. vegan foods
 - f. organic and biodynamic foods
 - g. chemical free and insecticide free foods
 - h. genetically-modified-free foods
 - i. local foods
 - j. Indigenous foods
 - k. Fairtrade foods
 - l. healthy and nutritious foods
 - m. farmer direct foods
 - n. nano free foods*
 - o. non irradiated foods
 - p. gluten free foods
 - q. heirloom varieties and biodiversely rich foods
 - r. foods produced by other co-operatives
 - s. socially, environmentally and ethically just and responsible foods
- C. To play an active role in reshaping the food system and creating a socially and environmentally just food system, as we believe in the principles of food democracy and food sovereignty.
- D. To run an ethical, not-for-profit sustainable business.
- E. To support waste minimisation and resource efficiency through avoidance, reduction, reuse and recycling
- F. To support other cooperatives whose objects are similar or related to the objects of the cooperative; and
- G. To stimulate community development, foster community spirit and promote sustainable living.

* This is the wording used in the Constitution. We take this to mean added nano-particles (e.g. titanium dioxide), as opposed to foods with naturally occurring nano-particles.