SAMPLE VISION & MISSION STATEMENTS

FrogSong (Cotati, CA)

(Cohousing community, this vision statement adopted several years after move-in)

Our Vision for a Wildly Successful FrogSong

We live in joyful community
Deep in connection and caring
Rich in beauty and celebration

By sharing with each other, our possibilities soar
Encouraged to participate and empowered to initiate,
We continuously create our community together

It's the place we call home
Where we grow up,
    Live on our own or partner,
    Raise a family,
    And thrive as elders
Where we savor life together
Share our joys and sorrows
In an atmosphere of kindness and goodwill

It's a place that nurtures and supports our caring for the world
Where, by living in balance, we help sustain the earth
And by taking action, we strive to transform the world

Du•má (Eugene, OR)

(Du•má is a 10-person household operating since 1990)

Our Mission

The mission of Du•má is to actively be of service to others as an inspirational model of living and working together to create social change and community amongst ourselves and with the people of the Eugene area.

Our Values

The values that members of Du•má share help keep us together. We all work towards a lifestyle that

- fosters a sense of community
- is ecologically responsible
- strives for equality
- embraces diverse groups of people
- supports personal growth

Heartwood Cohousing (Durango, CO)

Vision

To create and live in a community which fosters harmony with each other, the larger community, and Nature.

New Culture Institute (Eugene, OR)

(Nonprofit organization that, among other activities, sponsors an annual 2-week summer camp for ~100 people oriented toward personal growth and social change.)

Vision

We envision a world culture grounded in love: embodying compassion, honesty, self-responsibility, delight in diversity, cooperation, and the honoring of all living things. This vision recognizes the interconnectedness of all beings and supports living with intention on the earth.

Mission Statement

We create an environment where personal and cultural change mutually support each other in the context of community.

We willingly experiment with chaos and emotional challenge to create the magic of transformation through transparency and honest reflection.

We promote a nurturing environment where feeling accepted by the community reinforces self-acceptance, which leads to acceptance of diversity in the world.

We are committed to a global community founded in collaboration and co-empowered leadership.

We promote the creation of environments which encourage exploration, curiosity, and creativity.

We support educational gatherings, meetings, workshops, classes, and other similar events to carry out this mission.

Eugene Bio Car-Share (Eugene, OR)

Mission

Eugene BioCarShare is a bio-diesel car-sharing cooperative located in Eugene, Oregon that exists for the following purposes:

- **Share vehicle resources** to lighten our load on the earth.
- **Build connections** among our members.
- **Serve as a model** to promote both car-sharing and sustainable technology.

Core Agreements

1. We strive to treat all members fairly and give everyone an equal voice. To that end, our decisions are made by consensus. While members may occupy roles for a time in service to the group, that doesn't make any one person more important than another.
2. Human-powered and mass transportation are our main form of transport. We consciously choose to counter the "car culture" predominant in the US.
3. We are an advocacy group as well as a demonstration project. We publicize and document our effort for the benefit of others. We emphasize reproducibility in our approach and methods. We expect to actively assist the start-up of other car co-ops.
4. Environmentalism is a priority to us. We use the most sustainable technology and energy sources available to us (such as efficient machines, biofuels, etc.).
5. We recognize that the most important factor in our success is our relationships. We emphasize and encourage personal growth: building safety and trust, compassionate communication, and self awareness. Members are expected to work out conflicts that arise, and support each other in doing this when needed. We aim to build social connections and a sense of community among our membership--we are involved in each others' lives.
6. We help each other gain new skills: interpersonal, organizational, financial, technological, and so on. While most skills can be taken on at the option of the member, we do expect all incoming members to learn the skills and qualities required to participate effectively in the consensus decision-making process, which include active listening, patience, caring, and meeting facilitation.

Breitenbush Credo (Detroit, OR)

Breitenbush Retreat and Conference Center is a worker-owned cooperative and intentional community.

Our Mission

To provide a safe and potent environment where people can renew and evolve in ways they never imagined.

Our Credo

*W*e of the Breitenbush Community dedicate ourselves to living mindfully in the spirit of love, unity, honesty, and service.

*W*e see ourselves as guardians of Breitenbush Hot Springs, safeguarding the earth and healing water, assuring their continued availability to all beings who respect them. Our primary service is to provide a healing retreat and conference center which promotes holistic health, spiritual growth, and facilitates the gathering of people in celebration of the experience of life.

*O*ur Community is supported by the services we provide. We are committed to the health and well-being of ourselves and our families, to live, work, play, and grow together harmoniously.

*W*e mutually support and respect each persons dignity, and awaken to the Spirit within each of us which acknowledges that we are all One.

*T*he Community is committed to a life style conducive to holistic childrearing and personal growth. Our precepts for self growth include: Personal accountability, honest communication, awareness of our actions and the quality of their results, directing our energies to the positive, expressing appreciation for what others do, correcting what is clearly not working for the community or for us as individuals, assuming the responsibility for creating and sharing abundance, and choosing and rechoosing to be together.

*W*e structure our lives such that we can experience daily the rewards of success, peacefulness, and joy. It is our hope that the thriving community which we create will be an inspiration to others in their exploration of lifestyle and community.

*W*e also extend ourselves to the greater society in which we live, the world community, and commit ourselves to being socially, spiritually, politically, and environmentally responsible.

This Credo was born of deliberations that lasted weeks in which the small circle of Breitenbush founding members worked hard to articulate its collective vision for the intentional community it was dreaming into. The Credo has remained as written, unchanged, since voted and agreed upon by consensus in the late 1970's.

International Co-op Principles

1. **Voluntary and Open Membership:** Cooperatives are voluntary organizations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political, or religious discrimination.
2. **Democratic Member Control:** Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. The elected representatives are accountable to the membership. In primary cooperatives, members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote) and cooperatives at other levels are organized in a democratic manner.
3. **Members' Economic Participation:** Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital is usually the common property of the cooperative. Members usually receive limited compensation, if any, on capital subscribed as a

condition of membership. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing the cooperative, possibly by setting up reserves, part of which at least would be indivisible; benefiting members in proportion to their transactions with the cooperative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

4. **Autonomy and Independence:** Cooperatives are autonomous, selfhelp organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their cooperative autonomy.
5. **Education, Training, and Information:** Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers, and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives. They inform the general public, particularly young people and opinion leaders, about the nature and benefits of cooperation.
6. **Cooperation Among Cooperatives:** Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional, and international structures.
7. **Concern for Community:** While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their members.

McKenzie River Trust

Vision

From the Cascade Mountains to the Pacific Ocean, we envision a future in which conservation lands are at the core of community efforts to sustain clean water, abundant fish and wildlife, and diverse natural resource economies in western Oregon.

Mission

The McKenzie River Trust helps people protect and care for the lands and rivers they cherish in western Oregon.

- **Protecting special lands.** The McKenzie River Trust acquires property interests in land with clear public benefits to ensure that those values will be available to people for many generations.
- **Restoring natural systems.** The Trust works to enhance and reestablish the native vegetation, water cycles and other functional ecosystem elements appropriate to the places we protect.
- **Connecting people to places they care about.** The Trust provides site tours, education events, demonstration and research sites, and information about the projects it manages to encourage public support for conservation efforts throughout the region.

School Garden Project (of Lane County)

School Garden Project is committed to a future in which school garden education helps children become healthy adults who eat their fruits and vegetables, know the basics of growing food, and contribute to a thriving community.

BRING Recycling

Mission

Helping people understand how the stuff we use shapes the planet we share.