

Cooperative Business Initiative

Economic Development Committee

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What is a Cooperative?

Cooperative businesses are owned and democratically controlled by their members.

There are about 80 cooperatives in Madison, owned by workers, consumers, farmers and small business owners.

Program Goals

Capacity building around technical assistance, financing, community organizing and tracking & reporting the impact of cooperative businesses in the City of Madison.

Increased number of family-supporting, living wage jobs as a result of worker ownership. This can include new jobs created by new co-ops, jobs retained by the transition of a business to a co-op ownership or unionized co-op models.

Community asset building. Technical and financial support for programs that help create ownership of businesses and community owned assets with a focus on communities of color, low wealth communities and communities excluded or exploited within the traditional workforce.

Potential New Co-ops

Start-up support will focus on employee-owned co-ops providing living wage jobs

- Construction/building trades
- Health care
- Transportation
- Food system
- Green/solar retro-fitting
- Light manufacturing

Union Cab





**COOPERATIVE
HOME CARE
ASSOCIATES**

**Committed to delivering
quality care by
creating quality jobs**

**CH
CA**





Sustainergy in Cincinnati

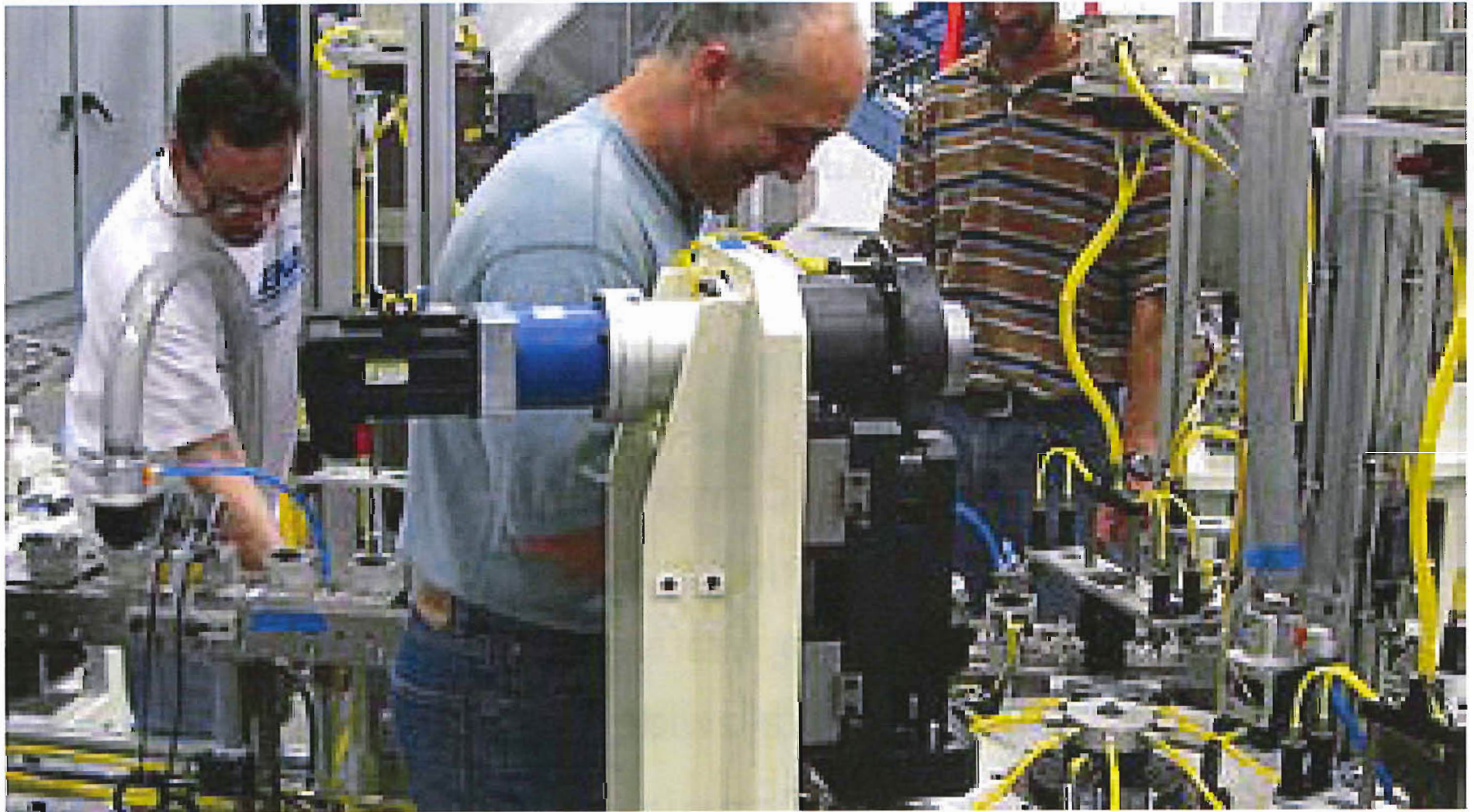


WE are a **WORKER-OWNED** business in the **ENERGY EFFICIENCY** and renewable energy industries. We are committed to helping **HOMEOWNERS** significantly **REDUCE** their **ENERGY EXPENSES** and **IMPROVE** their home's level of **COMFORT**.

Allied Community Co-op



Isthmus Engineering and Manufacturing



Sample list of supporters and partners

- Unions and Labor partners
 - WRTP Big Step (WI Regional Training Partnership)
 - SCFL (South Central Federation of Labor)
 - IUPAT (Painters and Allied Trades)
 - SMART (Sheet Metal, Air, Rail, and Transportation)
 - UFCW (United Food and Commercial Workers)
- Cooperatives
 - University of Wisconsin Center for Cooperatives
 - MadWorC (Madison worker-owned co-ops)
 - Willy Street Grocery Cooperative
 - Cooperative Network (statewide co-op association)
- Community based organizations and lenders

What can the partners offer?

- Training: including leadership development, business skills, apprenticeship programs
- Space for co-op business incubation & training facilities is a possibility
- Market analysis, business pipeline
- Technical assistance: Business development, Legal, and financial services
- Favorable benefits
- Lending/Grant funding

Goal: Build a sustainable system

- Accountable and representative leadership
- Clear and careful thinking about goals
- Establish metrics, evaluation system
- Communicate to all stakeholders
- Leverage City funds for private investment
- Embed cooperative development capacity in a diverse group of resources: professionals, unions, cooperatives, community orgs, SBDC, lenders