

# Stevens Point Area Co-op Statement of Purpose

The Stevens Point Area Cooperative is a cooperatively owned natural food store democratically operated by its members, Board of Directors, and staff. Membership is open to the public. The yearly membership fee is currently \$40 with a 15% discount on purchases at the register.

In the cooperative tradition, the co-op exercises honesty, fairness, and respect in all its relations with members, staff, patrons, and suppliers, as well as with other cooperatives.

SPAC is committed to providing high quality whole foods, products that are less refined and more nutritious, and products that have a lower environmental impact than commercial counterparts. SPAC strives to offer these foods at affordable prices to both co-op members and the general public.

SPAC is also dedicated to the long term viability of the business and to a secure, healthy, fulfilling livelihood for the staff.

## **To fulfill this purpose the co-op:**

- Welcomes the public
- Maintains a storefront that is inviting and accessible
- Supports local producers and suppliers
- Buys organically grown foods, including fresh organic produce, when feasible
- Encourages minimal processing and environmentally responsible packaging
- Does not accept foods with artificial colors, flavors, and /or preservatives
- Demands honest and informative product labels
- Supports community events and organizations with similar goals
- Educates the public, members, and staff on the interrelated topics of nutrition, the environment, and cooperation
- Encourages member participation at all levels of the Co-op

**SPAC** strives to uphold the **Seven Co-op Principles** defined by the International Cooperative Alliance:

1. Voluntary and Open Membership
2. Democratic Member Control
3. Member Economic Participation
4. Autonomy and Independence
5. Education Training and Information
6. Cooperation among Cooperatives
7. Concern for Community

1% Fridays is the SPA Co-op's charitable giving program.

Since 2000, SPAC has donated 1% of Friday sale to non-profit organizations that serve a need in the community, help people, and reflect the principles of the SPA Co-op and its members.