Employment Opportunities

Individuals interested in working at the Evergreen Cooperatives should contact Jeff Stupiansky at Towards Employment, 216.696.5750.

Partnership Opportunities

The Cleveland Foundation invested $3 million to launch the Evergreen Cooperative Development Fund, a revolving loan fund that helps create new cooperative businesses in Greater University Circle. In less than 18 months, the fund has been able to leverage this investment by a ratio of 6 to 1.

Help us build community wealth to transform Cleveland and change lives.

To learn more or to donate to the Evergreen Cooperative Development Fund, contact

India Pierce Lee
Program Director for Neighborhoods, Housing and Community Development
216.615.7186 or ilee@clevefdn.org

Lillian Kuri
Program Director for Architecture, Urban Design and Sustainable Development
216.685.2028 or lkuri@clevefdn.org

Evergreen Cooperatives are pioneering, innovative models of job creation, wealth building, and sustainability.

The neighborhoods of Greater University Circle – Hough, Glenville, Fairfax, Buckeye-Shaker, Little Italy, and East Cleveland – are home to a growing network of Evergreen Cooperatives, businesses that are working to create hundreds of green jobs for local residents.

Evergreen Cooperatives are a partnership between our neighborhoods and some of Cleveland’s most important anchor institutions – Case Western Reserve University, the Cleveland Clinic, University Hospitals, and many others.

Each year, these major institutions purchase more than $3 billion of goods and services. Most of their suppliers, however, are located outside of our region. What if Cleveland’s institutions used more of their buying power to meet their needs locally and keep resources in the community? How would our neighborhoods and our neighbors benefit? How many new jobs could be created?

Imagine the possibilities...
businesses are now hiring

Evergreen Cooperatives have made tremendous progress in a short time – just 18 months – and are developing and launching the first four cooperatively owned businesses.

**EVERGREEN COOPERATIVE LAUNDRY**  Evergreen Cooperative Laundry opened its doors in October 2009 and is the greenest commercial-scale, industrial laundry in Northeast Ohio. This $5.7 million startup offers quality, cost-efficient, commercial laundry service to health care institutions, nursing homes, and hotels. When fully operational, the laundry will create 50 new jobs.

**OHIO COOPERATIVE SOLAR**  An employee-owned, community-based energy company, Ohio Cooperative Solar will perform large-scale installations of solar panels on roofs of the city’s biggest nonprofit institutions. The first installation will be made in October 2009 on top of a Cleveland Clinic building. To provide year-round employment, this cooperative also will perform weatherization for households. It will eventually employ about 50 workers.

**GREEN CITY GROWERS COOPERATIVE**  This year-round, large-scale, food production hydroponic greenhouse will be located on 14 acres in the heart of Cleveland, with five acres under glass. It will produce several million heads of lettuce per year, along with other crops such as herbs. The greenhouse will employ 50 local residents and launch in mid-2010.

**NEIGHBORHOOD VOICE**  Neighborhood Voice will be an innovative, “hyperlocal,” community information source that integrates print and online media, serving the neighborhoods and institutions of Greater University Circle. With the guidance of a full-time professional publisher, high school and college students will be trained to run the business side of the Neighborhood Voice, developing their entrepreneurial and journalism skills. Look for our first issue in 2010.

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evergreen cooperatives are committed to

**NEIGHBORHOOD-BASED BUSINESSES**  Evergreen is building a network of new local companies that provide top-flight goods and services to Cleveland’s anchor institutions, among other clients.

**EMPLOYEE OWNERSHIP**  Evergreen companies are organized as worker cooperatives. That means that employees will not only be paid living wages and benefits, they also will build equity in their companies.

**HIRING LOCALLY**  Evergreen companies hire employees from low- and moderate-income neighborhoods of Greater University Circle.

**GREEN BUSINESS PRACTICES**  Evergreen Cooperatives are the greenest businesses in their fields, consistent with our commitment to making Cleveland a model of environmental sustainability.

**BENEFITING OUR NEIGHBORHOODS**  Each Evergreen company contributes at least 10 percent of its pretax profits to the Evergreen Cooperative Development Fund to help create more good jobs in our neighborhoods.