

Why become a shareholder?

Although the Brattleboro Food Co-op is open to the public, we strongly rely on shareholder investments to provide the financial foundation needed for our store to grow and thrive.

If you are a shopper who is committed to buying organic and whole foods, committed to supporting local industry and family farms, and believe in cooperative ownership, we encourage you to invest in the longevity of our store. You will reap the benefits of being a Co-op shareholder and use your voting power to direct future business decisions.

Equity

Your lifetime investment of \$80 promotes the growth and sustainability of our store. Your investment dollars will stay in our community. The entire amount can be paid at the time of joining, or it can be broken up into smaller payments, over as much as two years. You will purchase one share of our business.

Here are the benefits a Co-op shareholder receives:

- A vote in all co-op elections
- An opportunity to run for the Board of Directors or serve on an advisory committee
- Patronage Dividends
- An additional 8% discount to "working shareholders"
- Check cashing privileges for up to \$40 over the amount of purchase
- A free subscription to the monthly Co-op newsletter
- Use of the Co-op's community room for an event or meeting free of charge
- Discounts on cooking classes and other Co-op events
- Free Annual Meeting and Dinner
- Individual and Family Shares Available
- Single Shares: Your one-time investment of \$80 can be paid over 18 months
- Family Shares: Households of two adults and their dependent children under 18 can pay their one-time investment of \$160 over 3 1/2 years

Feedback:

Shareholders and customers have the opportunity to give feedback to the Brattleboro Food Co-op in many ways. First and foremost, we welcome any and all suggestions and comments verbally to any staff member. We also have Feedback Forms available in eight to ten locations around the store for folks to write down their ideas, suggestions, or questions. Board members

generally table for several hours every month, usually on a Saturday afternoon, to solicit comments and suggestions. Check the calendar here on the website, in the Food for Thought, or posted throughout the store to see when this month's session is scheduled. And recently, a small group of shareholders have been gathering on a Sunday evening once a month to air their concerns and suggestions with other shareholders, staff, and board members. A notetaker has tried to capture the topics and discussions at the Shareholder Forums, and the last one is posted here for your perusal.

[Shareholder Forum Notes- November 16, 2014](#)

