

Where We are Located

Cooperative Coffees member roasters are indicated by the green circle on the map. Their full names and city locations are listed below.



Alternative Grounds – Toronto, Ontario, Canada
Bean North Coffee Roasting Co – Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada
Bongo Java – Nashville, Tennessee, USA
Café Campesino – Americus, Georgia, USA
Café Rico – Montreal, Quebec, Canada
Cloudforest Initiatives – St. Paul, Minnesota, USA
Coffee Exchange – Providence, Rhode Island, USA
Conscious Coffees – Breckenridge, Colorado, USA
Dean's Beans – New Salem, Massachusetts, USA
Fonseca Coffee – Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA
Heine Brothers' Coffee – Louisville, Kentucky, USA
Higher Grounds Trading Co – Leland, Michigan, USA
Just Coffee – Madison, Wisconsin, USA
Larry's Beans – Raleigh, North Carolina, USA
Los Armadillos – Austin, Texas, USA
Peace Coffee – Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA
Pura Vida Coffee – Seattle, Washington, USA

Calendar of Internal Operations for Coffee Purchases

Despite the physical distances between each member, we maintain unity through our common goals and frequent communication. We hold an annual members meeting towards the end of each year. This is an opportunity to discuss current issues within the fair-trade movement, admission of potential new members and partner cooperatives, and our coffee needs for the coming year. This is when we begin our planning for the next year's imports. The ensuing process looks something like this:

November - Each roaster/member submits his or her estimates for the quantity of coffee needed from any given source.

December - Cooperative Coffees calculates total needs and begins to negotiate contracts with producer organizations. The coffee harvest begins in Central America and Mexico.

January - Based on harvest information and members' holiday sales, roaster estimations are adjusted and the producer contracts are signed. Early arrival coffees from Asia and Africa delivered as needed.

February - Cooperative Coffees' annual Central America trip to visit with major suppliers in Guatemala, Mexico, Costa Rica and Nicaragua. Producers send pre-shipment samples; Coffee Lab International in Vermont performs quality analysis.

March - Coffee shipments begin to arrive from Central America and Mexico, based upon contracts signed in December.

April - Coffee now in our warehouse begins its distribution route to each roaster according to his or her purchase agreements.

May - October - Additional containers of coffee arrive



Cooperative Coffees

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COOPERATIVE COFFEES, INC.

FAIR
Trade
organic
Green
COFFEES



What is "Cooperative Coffees"

Cooperative Coffees is comprised of 17 Fair Trade coffee roasters located in different cities across the United States and Canada. Originally, a few roasters building their businesses upon the ideals of alternative trade united to form Cooperative Coffees as a legally structured buying cooperative. Because of the volumes they needed as small-scale roasters, individually it was impossible to import directly from a variety of coffee farmer cooperatives. But collectively, Cooperative Coffees has established Fair Trade relationships with nine coffee cooperatives from seven different producer countries. We purchase our coffees and conduct business in strict adherence to the following criteria:

- Paying Fair Prices to the Producers
- Offering support for Cooperative workplaces
- Encouraging Environmental Sustainability
- Providing Financial and Technical Support
- Respecting Cultural Identity
- Promoting Greater Consumer Consciousness

However, our intentions as Fair Trade coffee roasters go beyond the simple act of buying and selling excellent quality coffees. We also unite under the common desire to demonstrate through our own example that alternative rules to trade are possible. We strive to open two-way communication and to build partnerships in development with the farmers who supply us with the coffee we roast and sell.



Relating to the Producers

For each of us at Cooperative Coffees, it is important to know that our relationship with the farmer goes beyond a commercial transaction. We strive to establish a partnership with them, in order to facilitate by any means within our capability that the coffee farmers and their organizations achieve their own development goals.

Since the creation of Cooperative Coffees, we have organized numerous visits to meet the farmers. Member roasters have visited remote villages from Chiapas and all of Central America to the wild hills of Ethiopia and Sumatra, in order to better understand the work farmers face - both in their fields and in their offices - to produce and deliver the delicious coffees our consumers demand.

Lucio Gonzalez, former president of the cooperative Mut Vitz explained how middlemen in Chiapas cheat producers of a decent price. "They weigh the coffee improperly, and they might tell us that the coffee is still wet even though we know that it has been properly dried. Others will simply offer us any price they like. And since we have already carried our coffee to the point of sale, it is unlikely that a coffee producer will carry his coffee back home. Of course, the coyotes know that too, so essentially he can just offer any price and say, "Take it or leave it." Whenever we go, the message is clear: there must be a better way to trade!

Ethiopia is the fourth poorest country in the world and the birthplace of coffee. Elders from OROMIA, the first Ethiopian cooperative to enter the Fair Trade register, spoke with pride of their communities and their love of the land. But they also spoke of the harshness of life, the lack of water, health care or schooling. They hope that things will be different now. The money farmers receive under Cooperative Coffees contracts will be three hundred percent higher than what they had received before!

In every cooperative we visit, be that in Latin America, Indonesia or Africa, the farmers send us the same message: Fair Trade in these times of crisis will make the difference between a small-scale coffee farmer's ability to survive or watching his family slide into outright despair. Fair Trade may not be able to alleviate all poverty. But it is a step in the right direction. And besides, it is so easy to do. We get great coffee, and they get a decent price. What could be simpler?

Where we buy our Beans

Country	Cooperative	Region
Guatemala	APECAFORM	San Marcos
México	Mut Vitz	Chiapas
Nicaragua	Maya Vinitic	Chiapas
Costa Rica	CECOCAFEN	Matagalpa
	El Dos	Central Valley
	Llano Bonito	Tarrazu
Sumatra	Gayo Mountain	Gayo
Ethiopia	Oromia	Yrig & Sidamo
East Timor	Cafe Timor	Maubissee

FAIR Trade Organic Green COFFEES

