

Summary: Member Involvement and You!

A facilitated discussion about member involvement, volunteerism, and leadership.

In what ways do members volunteer for their co-op?

- Attend conferences & events
- Being a supportive and respectful neighbour
- Attend General Meetings
- Pay housing charges on time, keep their unit in good shape
- Carpool
- Hands-on tasks: e.g. Deliver flyers, sort recycling, cleaning units
- Organize fundraisers
- Whatever needs doing
- Serve on the Board (President, Secretary, Treasurer)
- Serve on committees (maintenance, by-law, social, kids)
- Community connector / social butterfly, knows everybody and what skills they have

What motivates people to volunteer for their co-op?

- Wanting to give back, be involved, have skills to offer the co-op
- Sense of Obligation (e.g. high school community hours)
- Getting something out of it (skill-building, enjoyment, a sense of accomplishment)
- Sense of ownership of the co-op (keep the co-op full and maintain curb appeal)
- Mentor younger members and provide a model of co-operative behaviour
- Getting asked to volunteer (“suckered into it”)
- People who volunteer as a way of life (“something I’ve always done”)
- Meeting new people and building social skills
- Fun!

Actions: How can co-ops inspire its' members to contribute to their co-op community?

- Write about co-op achievements (pride stories) in co-op’s newsletter
- Recognize and appreciate current volunteers
- Use volunteer sign-up sheets
- Recognize and remove barriers preventing people from volunteering
- Have a designated volunteer coordinator to assess volunteer availability & strengths
- Focus on one-off events
- Use to-do lists
- Use committees and/or task forces
- Tangible incentives: Door prizes, free meals, free tenant insurance
- New member orientation
- Provide childcare
- Show educational and motivational videos at members meetings

Create a SMART member involvement goal for your co-op and plan out actions towards that goal. Remember: Say yes to new ideas, say thank you to your volunteers, stay positive, and have fun!

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Agenda

2:00p.m.-5:00p.m.

1. Introduction, Logistics, Agenda Review, Objectives, Agreement, Parking Lot
2. Plenary: Introductions & Discussion
3. Small group Discussion & Report Back: Stories and Inspiration
4. Break
5. Goal-setting
6. Small Group Discussion & Report Back: Action Plans
7. Conclusion
8. Workshop Evaluation

Objectives

To acquire the tools and knowledge to better your housing co-op in these ways:

- re-energize your community spirit
- recognize the value of different kinds of contributions from a diversity of members
- share specific examples of positive leadership to use in your own co-op
- create an action plan for member involvement in your co-op

Goal for your co-op <i>What is your co-op's member involvement goal?</i>		
Planned Activities <i>Describe actions you and your co-op will take to reach your goal</i>		
Action	Supports/Resources	What steps do you need to take? When do you need to take them?