



---

**MEDIA ADVISORY**

**For Immediate Release**  
[www.WorcesterRoots.org](http://www.WorcesterRoots.org)

**CONTACT:**

**(508) 343-0035 ~ [Sharron@WorcesterRoots.org](mailto:Sharron@WorcesterRoots.org)**  
**(508) 335-7783 ~ [Matt@WorcesterRoots.org](mailto:Matt@WorcesterRoots.org)**

**Worcester Mayor Proclaims May “Month of the Cooperative”  
for UN Declared Year of the Cooperative**

WORCESTER, MA – On **Wednesday, May, 2<sup>nd</sup> at 3:00pm in front of Worcester City Hall, City Councilor Joe O'Brien** will read Mayor Petty's Proclamation declaring May 2012 the Month of the Cooperative in the city of Worcester.

The press conference is organized by **Worcester Roots Project and Worcester SAGE (Solidarity And Green Economy) Alliance** to bring to light the contributions of cooperative businesses and initiatives in Worcester.

**Speakers include:**

1. City Councilor Joe O'Brien (he will read the Mayor's Proclamation, see below)
2. Sharron Tetrealt, Co-Director of Worcester Roots Project
3. Member of Worker-run Cooperative, EMPOWER Energy Co-op
4. Member of Toxic Soil Busters Co-op
5. Member of Youth In Charge Co-op
6. Peter Cutting, member of Worcester SAGE Alliance
7. Member of ARTichoke Food Co-op

A month of “Year of the Co-op Caravan” events will be announced at the event, including visits to 20 cooperative initiatives, speakers, food, videos and announcements about two upcoming conferences:

1. Green Solidarity Economy Conference in Worcester on September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2012
2. US Federation of Worker Cooperatives National Conference in Boston, MA June 22-24<sup>th</sup> 2012

**Additional Information:**

The solidarity economy seeks to build a just and sustainable economy - one that serves people and planet rather than corporate greed and blind growth. It is a rapidly growing global movement that is grounded in principles of solidarity, equity, democracy and sustainability and builds on concrete practices such as worker, producer, consumer, and housing cooperatives; social currencies, agro-ecology, community banks and loan funds, community land trusts, and participatory budgeting.

Worcester also has a thriving movement to build a solidarity economy, including the newly renamed Worcester Solidarity And Green Economy (SAGE) Alliance (formerly Green Jobs Coalition). Worcester has over a three dozen (and growing) cooperatives, that contribute considerably to the local social fabric and economic development of the area.

More information:

<http://worcesterroots.org>

<http://greenjobsworcester.org>

<http://www.greensolidarityeconomy.org>

<http://worcestersage.org>



## PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS:** The United Nations has declared 2012 the International Year of Cooperatives; and
- WHEREAS:** The International 2012 United Federation of Worker Cooperatives Conference will be held in June in Boston, bringing international attention to the cooperative businesses and initiatives in Massachusetts and Worcester in particular; and
- WHEREAS:** Cooperatives, in their various forms, promote the fullest possible participation in the economic and social development of all people, including women, youth, older persons, persons with disabilities and indigenous peoples, are becoming a major factor of economic and social development and contribute to the eradication of poverty; and
- WHEREAS:** The cooperative movement is alive and strong in the City of Worcester, MA, including worker cooperatives, a consumer food cooperative, housing cooperatives, artisan producer cooperatives, a time-banking cooperative, financial cooperatives (credit unions), and other membership-run cooperatives; and
- WHEREAS:** The City of Worcester recognizes of the contribution of cooperatives to urban economic development with regards to unemployment and underemployment

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Mayor Joseph M. Petty, do hereby proclaim **May, 2012**, as

### **MONTH OF THE COOPERATIVE**

In the City of Worcester and encourage all residents to recognize and participate in its observance.

**Issued at Worcester on this 1<sup>st</sup> day of May, 2012**

**Joseph M. Petty**  
Mayor