

# Worker Cooperatives in Wisconsin

Wisconsin is home to 32 worker cooperatives that provide services in a wide range of industries. Here are some examples of cooperative start-ups and conversions.

## Northwind Solar ★

Northwind Solar is a solar power system design and installation company founded in 2007 in Amherst, WI. In 2016, UWCC provided technical assistance to transition to a worker-owned cooperative.

Throughout the 9 month conversion, UWCC provided governance and organizational support.

## Cooperative Veterinary Care

Spring Green and Mazomanie Animal Hospitals provided veterinary care in the river valley community for over 20 years. The clinics were owned by three local veterinarians who are nearing retirement. Concerned about continuity of care, quality jobs and their local economy, they determined that cooperative conversion aligned with their values and sold the clinics to their employees.

## Union Cab ★

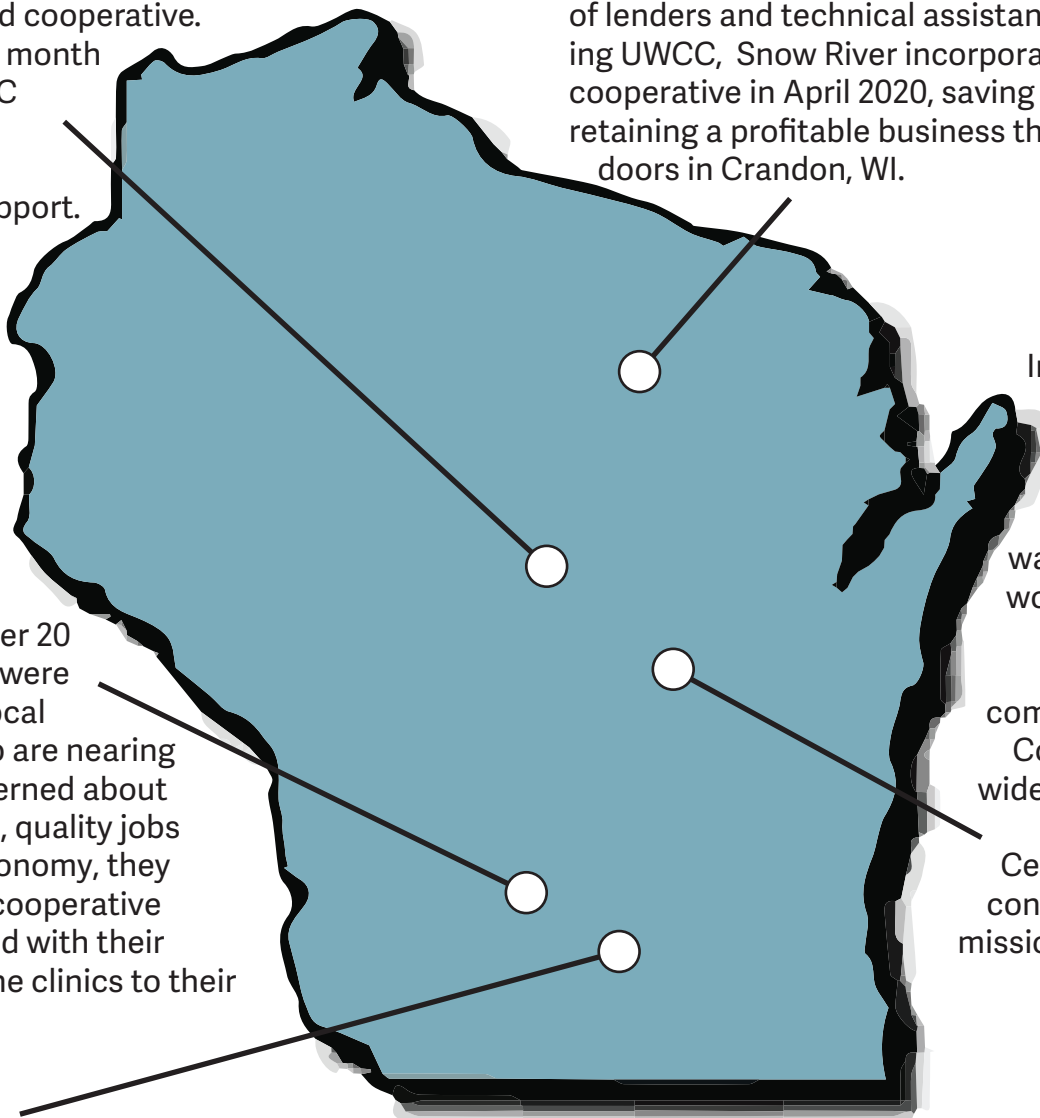
Union Cab of Madison Cooperative is a worker-owned cooperative providing taxi and transportation services in the city of Madison, WI. Union Cab Cooperative was organized after several cab companies in Madison went on strike in the late 1970s. Since then, it has grown to be Madison's largest taxi fleet providing 400,000 rides annually.

## Snow River Cooperative ★

When the owner of Columbian Home Products was ready to retire, the employees of this small wood product manufacturing plant connected with their union to explore employee ownership. With support of lenders and technical assistance providers including UWCC, Snow River incorporated as a worker cooperative in April 2020, saving eight Union jobs and retaining a profitable business that nearly closed its doors in Crandon, WI.

## Cooperative Care

In 2001, caregivers in Waushara County formed Cooperative Care to provide better wages and benefits to workers while offering superior service to people in the community. Since then, Cooperative Care has widened its service area throughout Central Wisconsin and continues to expand its mission of helping people stay in their homes.



**Worker cooperatives** are values-driven businesses owned and controlled by its workers that put worker and community benefit at the core of their purpose. In contrast to traditional companies, worker members at worker cooperatives participate in the profits, oversight, and often management of the enterprise using democratic practices.

# Worker Cooperatives in Wisconsin

	Cooperative Name	Sector	City
	Central Wisconsin Bookstore Cooperative	Media	Stevens Point
	Codeversant Cooperative	Technology	Madison
	Common Good Bookkeeping Cooperative	Professional Services	Madison
	Community Pharmacy Cooperative, Inc.	Health	Madison
	Cooperative Care	Health	Wautoma
	Cooperative Veterinary Care	Veterinary	Mazomanie
★	Derute Consulting Cooperative	Professional Services	Milwaukee
	Equal Exchange	Food & Beverage	Madison
★	Ethos Green Power Cooperative	Rural Electric	Viroqua
	Flora Contracting Cooperative	Renewable Energy	Milwaukee
	Get It Right Educators' Cooperative	Education	Madison
	Hay River Publishing Cooperative	Media	Downing
★	Interpreters' Cooperative of Madison	Professional Services	Madison
	Ironroots Cooperative	Restaurant	Madison
★	Isthmus Engineering and Manufacturing Cooperative	Manufacturing	Madison
	Just Coffee Cooperative	Food & Beverage	Madison
	Madison Area Cooperative Housing Association	Housing	Madison
	Madison CycleWorks	Transportation	Madison
	Maple Valley Cooperative	Food & Beverage	Cashton
	Maroon Calabash	Health	Milwaukee
	Nature's Bakery Cooperative	Food & Beverage	Madison
	nINA Collective Cooperative	Professional Services	Madison
★	Northwind Solar	Renewable Energy	Amherst
	Penokee Mountain Cooperative School, Inc.	Education	Ashland
★	Roots4change Co-op	Health	Madison
	Small Axe Cooperative	Professional Services	Madison
★	Snow River Cooperative	Manufacturing	Crandon
★	Tone Madison	Media	Madison
	Underground Self Defense	Health	Madison
★	Union Cab of Madison Cooperative	Transportation	Madison
	Union Technology Cooperative	Technology	Middleton
★	Wisconsin Natural Heritage Cooperative	Professional Services	Madison

## ★ Cooperative Conversion

When a business is sold to its workers to create a worker cooperative

When a business is interested in converting to a co-op, UWCC has assisted with bylaws, forming governance structures and policy, training employees and board members, acquiring finances, and strategic planning.

View a directory of Wisconsin co-ops here

