



CONTEXT – PEOPLES NETWORK FOR LAND AND LIBERATION

The People’s Network for Land & Liberation (PNLL) is a BIPOC-led Consortium consisting of [Community Movement Builders](#), [Cooperation Jackson](#), [Cooperation Vermont](#), [Incite Focus](#), [Native Roots Network](#), and [Wellspring Cooperative](#). The mission of PNLL is to decommodify the land to reestablish right relationship with the earth and all our relatives and relations. We aim to advance democratic ownership of the means of production and liberatory social relationships. We are committed to building communities that regenerate the earth’s lifegiving ecosystems.

As part of the PNLL consortium, Cooperation Vermont is an intentionally seeded organization established to further this work in this bio region. Vermont was chosen to implement a Build and Fight strategy because it is projected to be one of the most climate resilient bio regions on the North American continent and has a political and cultural history conducive to scalable experimentation.

COOPERATION VERMONT

At its core Cooperation Vermont (CVT) works to further cooperative development within Vermont. CVT was established specifically in this bioregion in preparation for future generations to continue liberatory movement work in a world that will look vastly different in the decades to come because of both climate change and a global end stage for the current capitalist framework. The mission of Cooperation Vermont is to build thriving community economic and environmental democracy.

By organizing with local communities and existing efforts in the state, Cooperation Vermont is preparing for continued deterioration of economic and environmental conditions and for the inevitability of displaced peoples, specifically BIPOC people from the Gulf South and the Southeast.

The vision is to shift away from extractive systems of economic development and, through a Just Transition, collectively create self-sufficient, resilient communities with thriving, ecologically sustainable economies.

With [Cooperation Vermont’s Community Land Trust](#), CVT CLT is decommodifying land to be communally stewarded and used for the purposes of forming and supporting worker owned cooperative businesses, cooperative food production, and equitable housing initiatives.

COOPERATION VERMONT IN ACTION

Cooperation Vermont purchased [The Marshfield Village Store](#) in 2022 and has already converted the business into a profitable worker-owned cooperative. The second story is being used as affordable workforce housing and the third story is being developed for additional units plus an emergency shelter space in case of a severe flooding event. This asset is owned outright and unencumbered by debt. We also have a 10 acre organic farmstead in an [Elder Landsharing Project](#) where elders are bringing their land into our Cooperation Vermont Community Land Trust. There is another 100 acre property likely coming into the CVT CLT within the year as well.

GODDARD COLLEGE

Goddard College first announced that it was closing its physical campus as of April 1, 2024 and going to an online-only model. A few short weeks later, it was announced Goddard College was closing entirely and would be transferring students to Prescott College in Arizona. Since that time, Cooperation Vermont has been engaging with Goddard administration and the Board of Trustees with the goal of purchasing the physical campus.

We are partnering with [Full Spectrum Capital Partners](#) and [Resource Generation](#) to raise \$3.4 million to purchase Goddard College in Vermont and convert it into a [Just Transition Campus](#) as a community-owned space of transformational learning, experimentation and community resilience. As of May 10, we have raised just over \$1M towards this goal and are in process with the Cooperation Fund of the Northeast for a \$2M loan which they received the endorsement from the New Economies Coalition for the project to be able to lend at that amount.

We envision a place where worker owned cooperatives, community based organizations, movement organizing projects, political education groups, focused on meeting the needs of the local community can all converge in one place to work collaboratively to create the foundation for solidarity economy work, build local community resilience, and intentionally prepare for the expected influx of climate and political migration to Vermont, particularly for BIPOC people from the Gulf South and Southern East Coast. We also hold hope for a separate organizing project happening which working to preserve the Goddard College pedagogy with in a cooperative, democratic decision make structure. If this comes to fruition, the campus would definitely still be a place for the residency programs associated with a [Remake Goddard College](#) effort.

Our development plan includes providing space for the creaton of worker owned cooperatves, community based organizatons, an agroecology school, a return of the Insttute for Social Ecology to the campus, space for community events, retreat space and convertng dormitories into equitable housing, and contnue the leases with several important community insttutons that will otherwise have no place to go:

- Maple Hill School
- Vermont Center for Integrative Herbalism
- WGDR Central Vermont Radio
- Goddard Cafe (aspire to reopened as a worker owned cooperative with the support of CVT)

On the campus, Cooperation Vermont, with technical assistance from Incite Focus, will also create a worker owned cooperative for a Community Production Center with a green fabrication lab, woodworking, metal working, and more, to re-localize production and build affordable housing both on campus and throughout the state. While the CVT CPC will be capable of producing a wide array of things, we will intentionally tool it to create net zero 900 square foot housing units that can readily fall under the state of Vermont's Accessory Dwelling Unit program and zoning requirements and be placed on properties with already developed electric, sewage and water, and roads.

We envision a thriving, living, learning and workplace where art and culture are centered and community is co-created. We will serve as a model and inspiration for other communities and assist them in replicating our success.