



January 3, 2011

Greetings,

Our global cooperative movement towards creating more cooperative and equitable communities entered an exciting time when the United Nations' declared 2012 the "International Year of the Cooperative." As 2011 was the UN "International Year of the Youth," reflective conversations have been had around that intersection by assessing the role of "youth" in the cooperative year and movement. In the United States, many cooperative sectors acknowledge the lack of "youth" participation and the importance of the presence of young people to the perpetuation of cooperative enterprise in this country. The National Cooperative Business Association's IYC Steering Committee is appealing to you to assist in increasing cooperative youth participation through your engagement in a Youth focused Committee in the context of the IYC.

The Committee, meeting one to two times monthly on the phone, will operate throughout 2012 and may evolve into a permanent fixture in following years to foster continued involvement of youth in cooperative enterprises. Exact expectations of time and input on the part of Committee members will be determined during the initial meetings of the group, as will an action plan for addressing any issues of sectoral, geographic, or identity representation in the Committee's membership, if needed. Part of the structural conversations will be the task of specifically defining "youth" in a way most relevant to the Committee and useful to the US cooperative movement.

Please distribute this invitation far and wide. Indicate your interest in Committee membership to [emily@nasco.coop](mailto:emily@nasco.coop) by the 12<sup>th</sup> of January to be included in the following week.

In cooperation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Emily M Lippold Cheney".

Emily M Lippold Cheney  
NASCO Executive Director  
NCBA IYC Steering Committee Participant