

Woodsworth's Social Audit Objective #4

Environmental concerns

To encourage the responsible use of all our resources.

FINDINGS

This issue was not included in the 1989 Social Audit. 2001 audit asked members about the local environmental issues (Woodsworth's environment) and the larger global environment.

More than 80% of members are in favour of spending more money to ensure a healthier environment.

39% said that we should spend whatever is needed on goods and services to ensure a healthier environment; 45% supported spending a little more in order to meet our environmental goals.

As for the wider environment, 30% of Woodsworth members said that we should spend whatever is needed for a healthy environment and 53% supported spending a little more to achieve global environmental goals.

When we looked at age groups, location, income, education, and years of residence in Woodsworth, we found no real significant differences.

Projects

72% support an environmental audit of Woodsworth to assess our use of pesticides and cleaners; 80% want to investigate the disposing of non recyclables, e.g. diapers; 56% support showers and toilets that conserve water; 71% wish to investigate alternative power sources.

IMPLICATIONS

These numbers, especially when compared with support for other causes in the survey, are very high. They reflect a real interest in the environment, both at the local and the global levels.

Even though not everyone participates at Woodsworth, there is an underlying belief in community living.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

The spending policy for capital and operational costs should be updated to reflect the members' commitment to environmental concerns.

That the co-op initiate an environmental audit as part of 2003 planning.

That the co-op look at garbage and recycling in Woodsworth, both unit trash and communal.