



## NCFC SUSTAINABILITY PRINCIPLES

NCFC's sustainability framework is designed to complement existing co-op sustainability programs and provide a coordinated platform for development of sustainability programs by other farmer cooperatives. It is based on engagement with NCFC members and a set of principles that articulate the unique values that cooperatives bring to their sustainability efforts.

The National Council of Farmer Cooperatives (NCFC) and its farmer cooperative members have for generations been guided by principles that are integral to sustainably producing food, fiber, and fuel for America and the world.

Our work is grounded in the core values on which farmer cooperatives were founded - shared economic participation, democratic member control, cooperation, and a lasting commitment to community. From those values, the work of NCFC and its member cooperatives, through their own individual commitments to sustainability, is based on the following principles:

**NCFC BELIEVES** the contributions of cooperatives to sustainability are best accomplished through an integrated approach to economic viability, environmental stewardship, and community well-being. We define these as:

- **Economic viability** – Providing safe and affordable food, goods, and services for our customers while supporting the long-term vitality of our members' family farms.
- **Environmental stewardship** – Managing our natural resources carefully and efficiently to help ensure the quality and integrity of the environment today and for future generations.
- **Community well-being** – Conducting our businesses responsibly, maintaining a safe, healthy, and respectful workplace for our employees, and fostering vibrant rural communities.

**NCFC BELIEVES** providing sustainability education is central to its role of:

- Improving cooperatives' ability to achieve their sustainability objectives, and
- Increasing stakeholders' understanding of cooperatives' commitment to sustainability

**NCFC BELIEVES** fostering collaboration among cooperatives and all segments of the supply chain is fundamental to furthering sustainability and continuous improvement in handling, processing, and marketing food, fiber, and fuel.