

## **Building Wealth in Low-Income Communities**

**Speakers:**     **John Logue**  
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Combining anchor institutions and employee-owned coops can be both environmentally friendly and create sustainable businesses.

Supporting social entrepreneurs leads to sustainable solutions.

“Green-collar jobs” are becoming increasingly more relevant and help communities and cities reduce their carbon footprint.

### **Summary**

- Employee-owned coops can build wealth for individuals as well as create sustainable businesses.
- Anchor institutions represent “sticky capital” that doesn’t get up and leave. They are vested in the surrounding community.
- Social entrepreneurs should have the following qualities to be successful: entrepreneurship, new innovations, sustainable business models, potential for regional or global spread and ethical fiber.
- A sustainable social entrepreneur network requires building an infrastructure.
- A strong social entrepreneurship network brings social entrepreneurs, business entrepreneurs, corporations and foundations together to collaborate, share best practices, leverage resources, accelerate innovation and spread impact.

### **Memorable Quote**

“The most important quality of a social entrepreneur is ethical fiber. Without ethical fiber, all other qualities are irrelevant.”

--Lisa Nitze  
Ashoka

### **Conclusion and remaining questions**

How do we engage anchor institutions, such as hospitals and universities, with communities in a way that creates value for the community?

Do green-collar job opportunities exist in your community that can reduce your community’s carbon foot print and create sustainable businesses that are profitable?

Employee-owned coops create value for the community and build community and individual wealth. A well networked group of entrepreneurs working to solve social problems together around the globe is the most powerful way to achieve global well being.

The term *social entrepreneur* is not synonymous with *unprofitable*. Indeed, most social entrepreneur ventures are quite profitable. However, the primary way success is defined for the social entrepreneur is through their enterprise's ability to improve the quality of life for their target populations.