

MISSION STATEMENT

To excel as a sustainable business providing ethically sourced, vegetarian products as a pioneering Worker Co-operative.

OUR VISION

Essential Trading is an inspiring example of a successful Worker Co-operative business in action. Our commercial success enables us to;

- Continue to build and strengthen relationships with suppliers and customers, offering world class service levels in all aspects of our business.
- Provide a sustainable business model that is mutually beneficial and fair
- Offer a stimulating and supportive environment for all workers, respect for the individual and a strong sense of business purpose.
- Continue to reduce our environmental impact locally, nationally and globally
- Uphold and promote our core beliefs within all areas of our business.
- Become the vital link between small producers and the Independent Trade Sector with our ongoing commitment to ethical values and sourcing
- Recycling our success into strengthening communities, both locally and globally

BACKGROUND

Harvest had been trading as a business since 1971, in the Bath district, and as a registered co-operative since 1983. It began as a macrobiotic commune and a shop in Bath. Over the years it expanded to include a wholesale warehouse and two retail shops, one in Bath and one in Bristol.

Nova was launched in 1981 by six people, to service the needs of whole food outlets around the country. In 1987 they moved to a new site at Lodge Causeway Bristol, to accommodate both a wider range, and growing volumes of products being supplied.

As a result of the merger in 1991, Essential Trading's wholesale operation is now based in Bristol, with extended product range and distribution, which includes Europe.

The two retail shops are continuing to trade under the Harvest name, helping to provide feedback to the wholesale side.

As a business, trading for a fairer world, Essential Trading has various ideals linked to trading. We sell only vegetarian produce, campaign against Nestle, and support economically developing communities in breaking their dependency on constant foreign aid. We encourage local businesses and charities. We also encourage consciousness raising, by

selling alternative magazines in our shops. Profits made by us are re-invested in Essential Trading and other co-operatives. We also support ethical investments, in being aware of what our monies are being invested in.

Essential Trading has a democratic decision making structure and aims to ensure that all workers have a say in the conditions and content of their work. We strive to provide a working alternative to the exploitative management structures in most businesses today. We also consider our own individual needs at work. We encourage and expect people to be able to realize their own limitations, as well as those of others, giving each due consideration and support.