

Hilary Abell

Co-founder, Project Equity



Hilary (right) was “bit by the cooperative bug” when she was a worker-owner at [Equal Exchange](#) in the 1990s and forever changed by witnessing how Latin American farmers used coops to transform their communities. After a decade of internationally focused community empowerment work, Hilary has worked in coop development in the Bay Area since 2003. As Executive Director of WAGES (since rebranded to [Prospera](#)), she led the organization through a period of major growth, resulting in a network of five worker-owned green cleaning businesses that

created 100 healthy, dignified jobs for low-income women. Worker-owners increased their family incomes by 40-80%, built assets through robust profit sharing, and gained business skills and social capital.

Hilary co-founded Project Equity while writing [Worker Cooperatives: Pathways to Scale](#) and consulting for coop development initiatives and nonprofits. For her work with Project Equity, Hilary was awarded Presidio Graduate School’s Big Idea Prize in 2013, an [Echoing Green Fellowship](#) in 2014, and a [2016 Local Economy Fellowship](#). She has her B.A. from Princeton University and her MBA in Sustainable Management from Presidio.