



## Member Profile | Ag Energy Co-operative

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(Contributor: Laura Toombs, Marketing, Communications & Administration Associate, Ag Energy)

The primary objective of Ag Energy Co-operative Ltd. is to create affordable energy solutions customized to each member's needs and risk tolerances. Ag Energy was founded over 28 years ago by greenhouse growers to help pool their natural gas purchasing power. Since then, we have expanded our offerings to include electricity and evolved into an experienced energy management team. Our membership is now open to co-operatives and all agricultural producers/processors.

Over 80% of our board of directors are members and all of our directors are elected by the membership. We give funds back to the membership whenever we make a profit through patronage preferred shares, dividends, and cash.

Our co-operative's strength comes from our members, our staff and the value we bring to the community. We give back to the community through our advocacy, volunteerism and association memberships. We understand that the energy market can be difficult to navigate, so we prioritize educating our members and the broader community. Ag Energy also has two staff members on the On Co-op board, enabling us to further promote co-operative values. We actively pursue policy reforms for the energy and co-operative sectors.

Recently our advocacy work on the ECPA legislation paid off for us. The Energy Consumer Protection Act (ECPA) was introduced in 2010 to stop bad business practices used by some licensed retailers. While this legislation helped remove abuses, it also increased the workload for each small customer. As a smaller company, we could no longer meet the administrative requirements needed to continue serving residential customers. Ag Energy moved to exclusively supplying large commercial customers.

This legislation was not designed with the co-operative business model in mind. After thorough consultation, Ag Energy pursued an ECPA exemption for all co-operatives. The provincial government examined Ag Energy and decided our business model has significant built-in consumer protections. As of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 Ag Energy is exempt from the Energy Consumer Protection Act and is now able to serve members of any size.

Although we were not able to ensure an exemption for all co-operatives, our exemption is still a significant victory. It demonstrates what can be accomplished through advocacy, education and communication.

Our goal is to be a trusted advisor and supplier of energy. We want to grow conservatively, ensuring the new members who join us share our belief in the co-operative model. As always our mission is to create affordable energy solutions customized to each member's needs and risk tolerances. If you are interested in learning more about Ag Energy call us at 519-763-3026 or visit our website!

<https://agenergy.coop/>