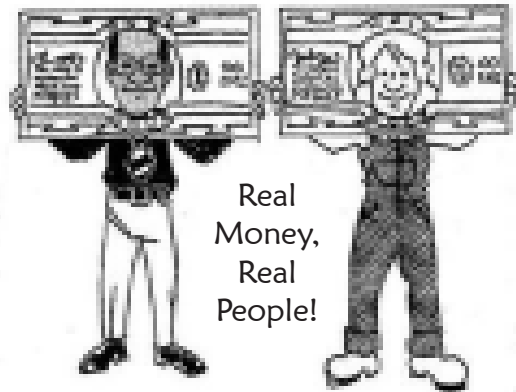


Join the HOUR Exchange

The HOUR Exchange would like to invite your business to participate in our local currency system.

Our membership is composed of local businesses and trades-people, entrepreneurs, and community members who will accept local currency as payment for their listings of goods and/or services.



Real
Money,
Real
People!

Established in 2002, our mission is to educate and promote sustainable community-based economics. The basic premise of our program is that local currency is a tool that can help to keep local businesses thriving by boosting commerce and increasing the capacity for local trades.

HOUR Exchange members seek out businesses who accept local currency. When you become a member you reach the supporters of this system and strengthen your regular customer base.

What are HOURS?

The HOUR is the form of local currency being used by people in Benton County.



1 HOUR =
\$10.00

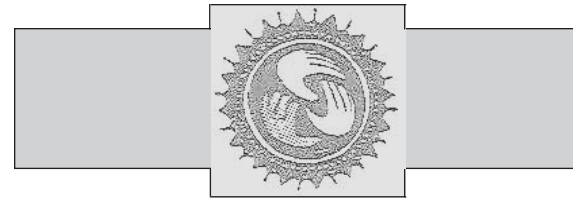
1/2 HOUR =
\$ 5.00

1/4 HOUR =
\$2.50

Local currency is money which is created and controlled locally. The value of the currency is based on the network of people who participate in our currency program creating a pool of resources available for the “HOUR” currency. In essence, the offers of goods, skills, and services bring value to the local money. We call our currency an “HOUR” because it reminds us that the real source of money’s value is created by people: from their time, skills, and resources.

The nature of local currency makes it valuable only within its geographic area. The advantage of this is that the wealth of the currency stays in this region adding to the local spending supply.

The local currency is managed by the HOUR Exchange, a membership run non profit organization. A member-elected Board of Trustees oversees all of the program operations.



The HOUR Exchange is a non-profit organization providing education and tools to promote ecologically sustainable, community-based economics. Our network allows community members to trade goods and services with local currency.

We oversee the creation, issuance, and administration of HOURS, publish a quarterly newspaper which contains the directory of participants, and organize community events to bring people together.

Please contact us
for more information:

HOUR Exchange
PO Box 1534
Corvallis, OR 97339

hourexchange@peak.org
www.hourexchange.org
541-602-9546

HOUR EXCHANGE Local Currency Program

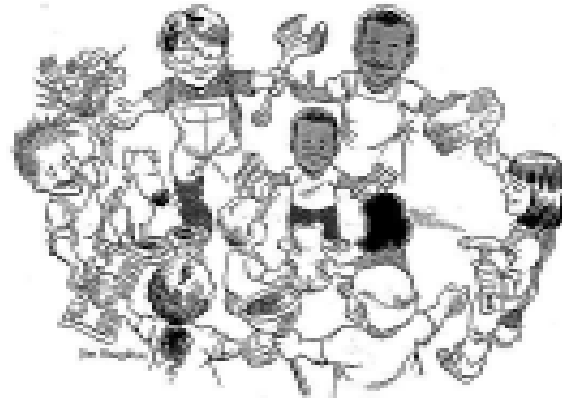


‘Making Community Connections
with Local Currency’

2011
Business Membership
Information

Benefits to Businesses:

- ◆ Access to goods and services. The HOUR Trader is our quarterly newspaper which contains the directory of the many individuals and businesses who accept HOURS as payment.
- ◆ Advertising Space. Advertisements in our newspaper are reasonably priced and can be paid for using the HOURS you earn at your business. New business members receive their first business card size ad free!
- ◆ Better than coupons. Many businesses use coupons to stimulate business. HOURS similarly attract people, but unlike coupons, when your business attracts a customer who uses HOURS, you benefit twice. Not only have you attracted business, but HOURS are valuable community money which can be spent by your business to purchase goods or services.
- ◆ Complete control. You have complete control over how many HOURS your business accepts. For instance you could decide to accept HOURS for 25% of the purchase price or only accept HOURS during your slow hours. We encourage you to accept HOURS at a rate which you can use them.
- ◆ Community involvement. We benefit the greater community through our grants program that provides HOURS resources to other non-profit community organizations.



HOURS are friendly commerce that builds connections, respect, and trust between neighbors in our community.

- ◆ Decision-making power. HOUR Exchange operations are performed by our member-elected Board of Trustees. Members are the governing body and are encouraged to take an active role in the organization.
- ◆ Strengthened competition. Many small locally owned businesses have difficulty competing against large-scale transnational companies and wholesale discounters. HOURS strengthen your ability to compete because the HOUR Exchange and our members choose and support local services and products.
- ◆ Support from the HOUR Exchange. Our organization can assist your business in using HOURS by finding the goods or services that your business could use.

What about Taxes & the law?

HOURS are a legal form of local script. There are laws regarding alternative forms of currency, such as, the notes cannot look like U.S. currency, and importantly to businesses, local currency is a taxable form of income when appropriate.

Each one-HOUR note is assigned the specific conversion value of 10 dollars in U.S. currency and this cash value is what is used for tax purposes. For business purposes, HOURS are treated like cash. It is not necessary nor appropriate to file any Internal Revenue Service forms relating to “barter transactions” for your HOURS activity. If you earn or spend HOURS for business purposes then the cash value gets recorded just like any other transactions.

If you receive an HOUR, ask yourself, “If this were a 10 dollar bill, would I report it as taxable income and pay tax on it?” If the answer is “yes”, then add \$10 to your taxable business income and pay taxes on it.

Similarly, whenever you spend an HOUR ask yourself: “If this were a 10 dollar bill, would I report it as a deductible expense & thus lower my taxable income?” If the answer is “yes”, then add \$10 to the specific kind of deductible expense involved; otherwise ignore it on your tax returns.

When accounting for HOURS, you now have two flavors of cash: U.S. currency and HOURS. Ideally, the HOURS could be totaled separately, adding one more column for “HOURS received”. Alternatively, if you have a ledger for petty cash spending, then HOURS spending could be recorded there too, adding a second column for HOURS spent.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP:

As a member, your listings of goods and/or services will be published into four issues of the HOUR Trader, and you are entitled to one vote at membership meetings. New business members placing listings are eligible to receive 3 HOURS.

In exchange for the HOURS that I receive I agree to accept HOURS for full or partial payment for the services/goods listed below, and agree to contact the HOUR Exchange if my contact information changes.

Business name: _____

Contact name: _____

Mailing address: _____

Email address: _____

- I could distribute HOUR Traders at my business.
 Please place my listings on the website.

(Listings are limited to 60 characters per line.)

OFFER:	Details:	Category	Name	Phone

OFFER:	Details:	Category	Name	Phone

Purchase an annual advertising contract and save!

of Listings x \$1 = _____
 Basic Membership \$10-\$30 = _____
 + One year Display Advertising (small ad) \$100.00
 + One year Display Advertising (med ad) \$150.00
 + One year Display Advertising (large ad) \$250.00
 Total Enclosed _____

Mail this form with payment for membership and listings to: HOUR Exchange, P.O. Box 1534, Corvallis, OR, 97339. Please make checks payable to the HOUR Exchange.