

Mankato First Fair Trade Town in Minnesota  
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## HAPPY FAIR TRADE MONTH!



*Click on the picture to go to Fair Trade USA.*

All those positive images reflect the change that has come to small farmers and producers in the Global South because of their involvement in Fair Trade. Despite the difficulties, in the words of [Fairtrade America](#), "Fair Trade Month is a national celebration of fair trade as a concrete contribution to the global fight against poverty, climate change and economic crisis."



**Beans Coffee Company** (featured last month) has decided to support MAFTTI during Fair Trade Month with a donation of one dollar per pound of Fair Trade Organic coffee sold during October.

Make haste, then, to the Mankato Farmers' Market or to [www.coffeebybeans.com](http://www.coffeebybeans.com)!

Thank you, Clay and Eric. Your gesture is much appreciated.

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## Here is MAFTTI's October program for Fair Trade Month. Get involved!

**October 8** (7:00p.m.) at St.John the Baptist Catholic Church, 632 S Broad Street, Mankato.

**Guatemala Special** – in a change to the original program, a 20-minute video will be shown entitled ***"A Culture of Coffee: The Juana Ana Coffee Program in San Lucas Toliman, Guatemala"***. There will also be inputs from three Mankato churches about their support for indigenous people and others in poverty in western Guatemala, savories and sweets from Guatemala, Fair Trade coffee and other beverages and Guatemalan handcrafts from The Fair Emporium, St.Peter. (See [www.maftti.org](http://www.maftti.org) for more detail).

**Tickets \$10.00 (students \$5.00) at the door.**

**"Connected by Coffee"** – the complete, 70-minute film about what it could mean to go "beyond Fair Trade" in relating to coffee producers in Central America will be shown twice in October:

**Saturday, October 17** (1:30m.) at Blue Earth County Library, Mankato.

**Tuesday, October 27** (7:00p.m.) at Centenary UMC, 502 S Broad Street, Mankato.

There will be more space at Centenary than in the library's Conference Room but if you haven't yet seen the film and the 27th is not a good date for you, come along on the 17th. MAFTTI will be glad to see you.

**Library displays** - throughout the month MAFTTI has Fair Trade displays on view - a trifold on coffee at Taylor Library, North Mankato and six boxes at Blue Earth County Library, Mankato. The latter feature attractively presented compilations devised by Arlene Renshaw on a variety of themes. Not to be missed – as you will appreciate if you take a look [here](#)!

**Hallowe'en Reverse Trick or Treat** - MAFTTI Vice-Chair Jane Dow is again working with a number of churches and schools to ensure that Trick or Treating can take on a Fair Trade dimension – some 4,000 -5,000 chocolate minis from [Equal Exchange](#) will be distributed, along with small amount of Fair Trade information.

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## THE FAIR EMPORIUM, ST. PETER

In mid-2014 shoppers in St. Peter noticed that something was afoot at 213 Minnesota Avenue. Sheets of newspaper on the windows hid the renovation work being done inside. Eventually a smart, dark green canopy was installed, the white lettering declaring the premises to be [The Fair Emporium](#) which opened for business last October.



This innovative Fair Trade venture is the brainchild of two local area physicians, Keith and Carrie Stelter. Residents of St. Peter for the last 12 years, they have long wanted to do something practical both to raise awareness of global poverty and to promote 'Fair Trade' products because each purchase rewards its producer in the Global South a little more fairly. Keith said that *"the name of the store was chosen because 'emporium' comes from words meaning merchant and journey. Emporiums were safe and welcoming places of trading goods in ancient cultures, and we wanted to promote Fair Trade in our store's name - thus The Fair Emporium."*

The origins of the project, though it was hardly clear at the time, go back to 1998 when Keith, a Lutheran, spent four months on a medical mission program in Bangladesh and Nepal. That experience opened his eyes to the handmade works of beauty that are part of these and other cultures and the needs that workers have in these countries.

When Keith and Carrie realized that family considerations made it difficult to directly work as physicians in overseas mission hospitals and clinics, the idea of opening a Fair Trade store gradually came into focus. In 2014 when the 213 Minnesota Avenue storefront became available they seized the moment, happy to do so before they became empty nesters. The younger Stelters, Martha (now a freshman at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa) and Peter (a junior in high school) have actively been part of the early days of The Fair Emporium.

Keith and Carrie's store is the only dedicated Fair Trade shop between Mountain Lake and the Twin Cities. Most of their stock comes from Ten Thousand Villages and SERRV but they also offer products from smaller and more area-focused Fair Trade organizations like [Ganesh Himal](#) in Nepal. They also offer a few items that reflect the values of Fair Trade that are produced in the USA.

The opening of The Fair Emporium was, in some ways, an act of faith that a community like that of St. Peter, with a Fair Trade coffee shop and a college where students were interested in Fair Trade, would respond with their interest and patronage. In their own words, Keith and Carrie reflect that *"the first year has been a period where we obviously have learned much about retail, but the highlight is seeing people experience delight in the products we have in our store and telling the stories of where they are made."*

Now their plans for Christmas – the busiest time of the year - are gathering speed. Again they will donate 10% of total sales in November and December to charity. They welcome you to come and browse and buy a special gift for someone or yourself.

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## FAIR TRADE AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



For member states of the United Nations 2015 is the year of transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the **Sustainable Development Goals**. Sexy language it is not – but the 15-year MDG effort has produced considerable successes even while falling short in some areas, e.g. reducing extreme poverty by half (with the serious exception of sub-Saharan Africa); raising primary school attendance in the Global South to 90%; halving child mortality; saving millions of lives through focused campaigns on HIV/AIDs, malaria and TB; seeing the political participation of women continue to grow.

Short video assessments of progress achieved in the 15 years of the MDGs are [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#).

The idea of replacing the eight MDGs with [Sustainable Development Goals](#) emerged out of the Rio+20 Conference in mid-2012. A total of 17 SDGs were negotiated through an international process that extended well beyond governments. They were agreed at the [Sustainable Development Summit](#) held in New York, September 25-27, as a framework for international development cooperation for the period 2016-2030.

[Here](#) is a list of the 17 agreed SDGs and the UN's Press Release.

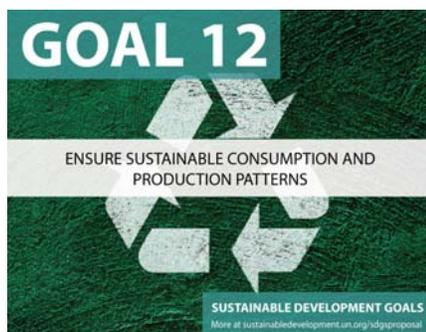
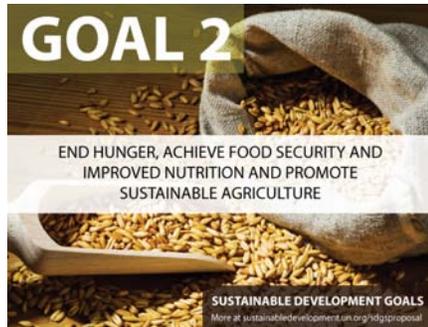
The SDGs may seem daunting, but the same was felt about the MDGs 15 years ago – and now there is even greater urgency because of wider awareness of the impact of climate change on planetary sustainability. As Susan Brown, Global and Regional Policy Director of WWF International, put it recently, *"Let's be realistic about this. We actually don't have another choice. We are expanding into our natural resources at a rate which is not sustainable. And I don't want to think about what the end-game looks like in 15 years if we don't get this right."*

Jeffrey Sachs, Director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University, speaks up for the SDGs [here](#) and points up some of the exciting challenges ahead.

Introducing the SDGs in New York, Ban-Ki moon, UN Secretary-General, said, *"We must engage all actors, as we did in shaping the Agenda. We must include parliaments and local governments, and work with cities and rural areas. We must rally businesses and entrepreneurs. We must involve civil society in defining and implementing policies – and give it the space to hold us to account. We must listen to scientists and academia. We will need to embrace a data revolution. Most important, we must set to work – now."*

With this in mind the priorities for Fair Trade activists appear to lie in these four goals:

- **Goal 2.** End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.
- **Goal 8.** Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.
- **Goal 12.** Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.
- **Goal 17.** Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.



The SDGs are designed for the future of today’s children especially in mind. [“The World We Want”](#) is a child-friendly version of the SDG proposals that went to the UN for approval, produced by the Latin American and Caribbean Movement for Children.



## FAIR TRADE CARBON CREDITS

The 2015 UN Climate Change Conference, aka **COP21**, will take place in **Paris, November 30-**

**December 11.** The conference objective is to achieve a legally binding, universal agreement to limit greenhouse gas emissions and restrict global temperature increase to no more than 2C above pre-industrial levels.

Fairtrade International has just announced that **COP21** will be the occasion for launching '**Fairtrade Carbon Credits**'. This initiative has been developed in collaboration with the [Gold Standard Foundation](#), an internationally recognized organization based in Geneva, Switzerland, with expertise in climate and development projects. Established in 2003 by WWF and other international NGOs as a best practice benchmark for energy projects developed under the UN's Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), **Gold Standard** was set up to ensure that projects deliver genuine emission reductions and long-term sustainable development.

The **Fairtrade Climate Standard** is an add-on standard to **Gold Standard** certification of carbon emissions reductions and sustainable development benefits. The standard enables producers to improve their resilience to climate change, while also making their own contribution to reducing emissions. A minimum price ensures the costs of running the carbon reduction project are covered. What's more, producers receive a Fairtrade Premium for each credit sold: money to support them in the fight against the impacts of climate change in their communities.



*"We're happy to have Fairtrade join us in helping to finance the transition to a low carbon economy that's so urgently needed," says Marion Verles, CEO of **Gold Standard**. "For any company or individual looking to make a direct impact on protecting our climate and promoting development around the world, this is a no brainer."*

The full text of Fairtrade International's announcement is [here](#).

Andreas Kratz, Director of Standards and Pricing at Fairtrade International, introduces this topical new development on the **Gold Standard** [website](#), which is well worth looking at for other reasons too.

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#### CATCHING UP WITH MAFTTI

The **Fair Trade Shopping Guide** has been revised to take account of recent changes in the local availability of Fair Trade products. The Guide can be found [here](#) – with a PDF version [here](#). Spot the new energy bar?

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## **STOP PRESS!**

### ***Two new Fair Trade Town declarations have just been reported -***

Philadelphia, PA and Santa Rosa, CA. It's good to see these fruits of Fair Trade activism announced in Fair Trade Month. There are now 44 Fair Trade Towns in the USA. Philadelphia is the second largest Fair Trade Town in the country. Santa Rosa is the 10th in California. Come on Minnesota!

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