**Welcome**

Here you will find documentation for [Snowdrift.coop](https://snowdrift.coop/), a non-profit cooperative platform for funding freely-licensed works everyone can use and share without limitations.

**What is Snowdrift.coop?**

The name refers to the [Snowdrift Dilemma](https://wiki.snowdrift.coop/about/snowdrift-dilemma), a game theory metaphor that imagines a large snowdrift blocking a major road after a winter storm. If everyone in the neighborhood worked together, they could clear the road in no time, but how do you know that once you start shoveling, others will pitch in to help? What’s to stop them from sitting back and letting you do all the work yourself?

Our core feature is a new fundraising approach we call [*crowdmatching*](https://wiki.snowdrift.coop/about/mechanism#fnref1). Patrons donate together by all agreeing to match one another instead of donating unilaterally. Monthly pledge amounts start small (1/10 of a cent), but with each additional patron everyone’s pledge increases. This provides assurance that your contribution will be matched, and incentivizes would-be patrons to step up and donate, instead of waiting to see what others do first. Individuals are less at risk of wasting their time/money or being stuck with an unfair burden, and collective impact is maximized.

**What can I fund with Snowdrift.coop?**

Snowdrift.coop focuses on funding [*non-rivalrous public goods*](https://wiki.snowdrift.coop/about/economics#fnref4). This includes art, music, journalism, textbooks, research, technology, and more. Most public goods would be best served if they were freely available to all, yet many still end up behind a paywall or plastered with invasive advertisements, as these restrictions are often the only way to secure proper funding. Snowdrift.coop offers a way to fund public goods without reliance on harmful exclusivity or violations of privacy. Additionally we require our projects to abide by Free/Libre/Open (FLO)standards. Those who aren’t already familiar with these principles can click [here](https://wiki.snowdrift.coop/about/why-flo) to read more about why FLO is important to our mission, and how it supports our goal of supporting non-proprietary projects.

**How is Snowdrift.coop different?**

Platforms like Kickstarter and GoFundMe are increasingly popular options for crowdfunding various sorts of projects, but for every success story there are many more projects that fail, often because they aren’t well-suited to the [threshold format](https://wiki.snowdrift.coop/about/threshold-systems#fnref1), or because they need more than just one-time startup capital to sustain their venture. Additionally many public goods simply aren’t flashy enough to attract the big donors they need to meet their goal. Subscription-based services like Patreon work great for some long-term projects, but typically creators need to offer bonus content in order to stay viable, which can be difficult for projects that emphasize quality over quantity, or for those who want their work to be available to all. Snowdrift.coop aims to provide sustained project funding that doesn’t rely on arbitrary deadlines, transactional rewards, or restrictions to access.

Additionally, Snowdrift.coop is a non-profit cooperative platform. This means that we are owned by members... (need help here)

**Long term?**

We don’t expect to immediately take over the world of crowdfunding, but we hope that we can demonstrate the efficacy of crowdmatching, and that in doing so we might inspire more widespread adoption. Check out our [road map](https://wiki.snowdrift.coop/planning) to see our development progress, and where we’re headed next.

**Get Involved**

\*I figure we could basically just cut and paste the ‘Get Involved’ section from the current home page (<https://wiki.snowdrift.coop/>) here.\*