

In Our Own Words: Video Clips

(Reading)

Hear employee owners describe their companies, and their experiences at work, in their own words. Follow the instructions below to watch five short videos.

1. [We The Owners: Employees Expanding the American Dream Mini-Video](#)

The film "We The Owners: Employees Expanding the American Dream" shares the stories of three successful employee-owned companies. The full-length film is arguably the strongest and most popular film ever to introduce the idea of employee ownership in the United States. For this course, watch the "[mini-film](#)," a five-minute excerpt of the full-length film. (The mini-film was sponsored by the National Center for Employee Ownership.)

Update: Since the film's release, one of the companies featured, New Belgium Brewing, was sold to another beverage company. Employee owners were compensated in the transaction. Today, however, as a result of the sale the company is no longer employee-owned.

2. [EA Engineering, Science, and Technology, Inc., "We Are Owners"](#)

EA Engineering is a US-based 100% employee-owned company that provides environmental engineering and management solutions. Its website says: "EA's ESOP is designed to provide an ownership interest in Company stock for employees—the people who are primarily responsible for the Company's success. The ESOP is intended to provide our employees with a meaningful stake in the Company, future economic security, and the opportunity to build wealth that can ultimately be used as an additional source of retirement income." Watch this short [video](#).

3. [Up and Go Cleaning Cooperative](#)

Please watch the first few minutes of this video. Up & Go is an immigrant-run cleaning company in Brooklyn, New York, in which workers own the business through a cooperative structure. Watch the [Up & Go Cleaning Cooperative Video](#) through minute 3:40.

4. [New Era Windows](#)

New Era Windows is a window company owned by its workers based in Chicago. It is a unionized worker-owned cooperative. Watch this [New Era Windows Video](#) in its entirety.

5. [Shift Change Preview](#)

This 2013 film tells the little known stories of employee-owned businesses that compete successfully in today's economy while providing secure, dignified jobs in democratic workplaces. The film highlights examples including Mondragon in the Basque Country in Spain. Watch the [preview](#).

Optional: Find more videos about employee ownership [here](#).