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## Group ready to bring vision into focus

By [Steven Friederich](#) - The Daily World

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Every Grays Harbor resident should have access to technology, regardless of age or income. Downtown areas and waterfronts should be better utilized. There should be an "Oakville to Ocean" trail system and a heritage tour, to boot. And at least 75 percent of Harborites should recycle.

Sound like lofty goals?

Some folks on the Harbor hope to turn those goals into reality. They've spent the last year going around the community and asking for public participation to generate "thousands and thousands" of ideas. The ideas have since been compiled by a hard-working group of private and public leaders, who are part of the Grays Harbor Vision 2020 movement.

"More than 2,000 people have participated through the process," said Jason Robertson, the project consultant with Olympia-based Barney & Worth. "We now have 37 strategies and 137 actions winnowed down from thousands and thousands of ideas we received."

The Grays Harbor 2020 Task Force will host a Community Town Hall on Thursday at Aberdeen High School, 410 North G Street. The meeting begins with an open house at 5:30 p.m., where attendees can learn more about proposed strategies and actions.

"This is where we make the push to really get down to what we all want," said Lisa Smith, of Imperium Renewables, who is president of the Vision 2020 organization. Smith made a brief presentation before the Aberdeen City Council last week.

Robertson said the group will ask residents to help them figure out what kind of "action items" can be started in 2010 and which ones can be started in 2012 and 2014.

Some aspects of the Vision 2020 plan are already taking shape. For instance, there's a developer looking at improving some waterfront property in Aberdeen.

Asked if the group plans to support the development, because improving waterfront areas is part of their "vision quest," group members said they would support the general concept of improving the waterfront, but not specific developments.

"We don't want to kill Grays Harbor Vision 2020 by fighting over one project," Robertson said.

The group has some unlikely pairings of environmentalists and business interests. But their mantra throughout the process has been about "a three legged stool with people, planet and profits in mind," according to Ron Pinnick, a Grays Harbor Paper employee who has spent almost two years on the plan.

"There has to be trust that we're all here for the common good," said Linda Orgel, who is part of numerous environmentally friendly groups. "And sometimes that's been lacking in the past with other community plans."

"A lot of tomatoes were thrown in the past and it's time to dice them and share them," said Port Commissioner Stan Pinnick, who is also Ron's father.

The group spent this past spring conducting regional forums throughout the Harbor to generate the ideas. Group members also went to a variety of community groups to make their pitch and solicit ideas.

There's also been a running survey at their Web site [www.graysharbor2020.com](http://www.graysharbor2020.com). The Web site is also where the public can download the list of "action" items and goals that the group plans to present early next year.

Once the priorities are set, group members said they will try and find sponsors for the different ideas to help get them implemented.

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