



GOOD NEWS Grays Harbor

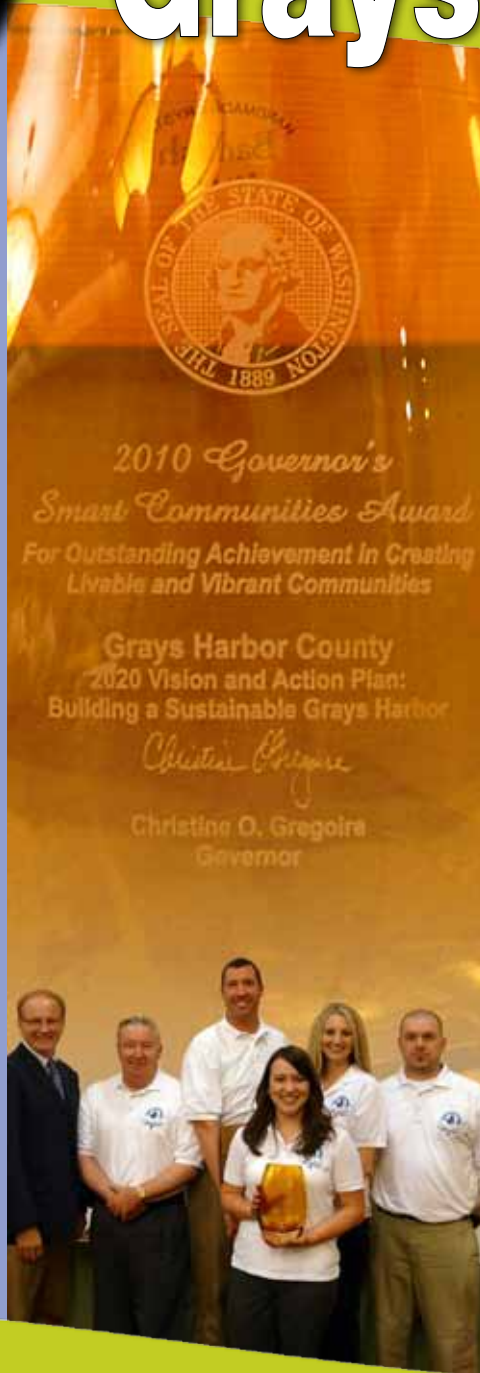
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Grays Harbor 2020 Receives Governor's 2010 Smart Communities Award

The Grays Harbor 2020 Vision and Action Plan received a 2010 Smart Communities Award from Washington Governor Chris Gregoire. The panel of judges lauded the program as a "great example of a grass roots effort...with strong public participation, excellent priorities, actions and partnerships and a strong local spirit." The judges also noted early implementation success – thank you Grays Harbor 2020 partners!

Grays Harbor Paper Named Distinguished Leader

In February, Grays Harbor Paper was recognized by the Thurston County Chamber Leadership Thurston County program as the 2011 Distinguished Leader of statewide significance. The mill's leadership team was singled out for their efforts to save jobs when the original mill closed, develop a nationally-recognized "green" product and reinvest in the community as a Grays Harbor 2020 sponsor. To top it off, President Obama's 2011 Budget was printed on Harbor 100 green paper. Congratulations Grays Harbor Paper!



The Vision Comes to Life

Grays Harbor 2020 is a road map to the future; a vision for and by the people who call Grays Harbor home. Over a two-year planning effort, thousands of residents from every corner of the county shared their ideas for making this a better place to live, work, play and learn. Community priorities include 25 strategies and 120 actions for:

- Developing state-of-the-art infrastructure and governance systems
- Improving and connecting signature spaces and places
- Preserving and promoting environmental assets
- Fostering and nurturing a diverse and prosperous local economy
- Expanding and enhancing social networks and cultural opportunities

Nearly three dozen community partners have stepped up to lead implementation of those actions. Good News Grays Harbor is issued periodically to help share our partners' success stories and let Grays Harbor residents the Vision Action Plan is moving full steam ahead.



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Be a part of Grays Harbor's future. Learn about events and activities via website and Facebook.

Improving and Connecting Signature Spaces and Places



Paint the Corridor - June 2010

- Grays Harbor 2020 and over 300 friends painted nearly 30 homes located in the Hoquiam-Aberdeen corridor. *Paint the Corridor* was made possible by generous donations from the Stritmatter family and Kelly-Moore Paints. Logistics were managed by NeighborWorks Grays Harbor. A follow-up 2011 paint project is in the planning stages – stay tuned! (7.3)
- The City of Hoquiam, Hoquiam Downtown Business Association and Grays Harbor Council of Governments co-hosted a "downtown redevelopment tools" forum which highlighted a variety of finance mechanisms available to local jurisdictions interested in improving downtown areas or preserving historic structures. (3.1)
- Grays Harbor COG worked with the Port of Grays Harbor to upgrade Port Industrial Road. The \$4.8 million project is now complete. (4.1)
- The Grays Harbor Historical Seaport recently surveyed 11 miles of Aberdeen's shoreline as part of an "Our Aberdeen" planning effort. The group identified 5 waterfront areas with unique characteristics, and established planning teams for each. (8.5)
- GH Tourism has developed a new "comprehensive walking guide" to direct visitors and residents to our special destinations. Dozens of interested parties have secured sponsorship in the brochure. (13.2)

Port of Grays Harbor: moving freight and goods

At Bowerman Airport, the Port of Grays Harbor signed a long-term lease with FedEx Shipping. Over time, the Port hopes to continue adding tenants and corporate users at area imports to help move passengers, freight and other goods. (5.2)

After completing a variety of infrastructure enhancement including dredging, terminal expansion and rail improvements, the Port of Grays Harbor saw 2010 import and export levels soar. More than 100 ships and barges called on the Port and Grays Harbor actually handled a full third of all

West Coast auto exports. Dry bulk, logs and fish products all increased as well, putting a wide variety of workers back on the job. (5.1, 5.3)



Developing State-of-the-Art Infrastructure and Governance Systems



- Grays Harbor Transit reconfigured and expanded Aberdeen Station. This project was completed in the spring of 2010 and has improved safety for the riding public as well as the driving public by rerouting buses into Market Street when leaving the station. It also features a 35 car park-and-ride which is used for patrons who ride the bus as well as vanpools riders. Bike lockers are available for those who like to bike and ride. (4.4)
- Grays Harbor COG helped secure funding for sidewalk reconstruction projects in Hoquiam (\$195,000), Aberdeen (\$730,000) and McCleary (\$234,309) through American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) stimulus funds. (7.5)
- Grays Harbor Emergency Services is building a network of citizen groups to ensure strong communications and readiness for a variety of emergency scenarios. The goal is to ensure citizens understand their role and resources available during crisis. (2.4)
- The Grays Harbor EDC is actively working with private property owners, municipalities and development interests to facilitate redevelopment of key properties throughout the Harbor. In addition, the EDC is helping local jurisdictions update zoning and land use codes, identify appropriate development incentives and market available properties. (6.1-6.4)

Grays Harbor 2020 Executive Board:

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Fostering and Nurturing a Diverse and Prosperous Local Economy

Quinault Nation performs at Seabrook



- Grays Harbor College completed construction of the new Childcare Center, and qualified for LEED Gold Certification from the U.S. Green Building Council. The project utilized locally-produced and recycled building materials, limited development impacts at the construction site and incorporated technologies that reduce energy and water use. More than 95% of construction waste generated was recycled for future use. (21.3)
- Grays Harbor College also updated its Carpentry Program and curriculum to include a variety of green-building content and activities. Coursework includes presentations from green building professionals, hands-on training in green building and deconstruction practices, lessons on green building rating systems and codes and, last but not least, employment opportunities. These improvements will help create a highly-trained local workforce in the years ahead. (21.4)



- Nearly 600 students from five counties visited Satsop Development Park in May and treated to hands-on demonstrations of work done in construction careers. Try-A-Trade in Construction covered painters, ironworkers, electrical workers, cement masons, roofers, sheet metal workers, laborers, plumbers, steam fitters, pipe fitters, refrigeration workers, power line clearance workers, sprinkler fitters and operating engineers. The day was made possible by U.S. Department of Labor. (20.4)

Expanding and Enhancing Social Networks and Cultural Opportunities

- Seabrook continues to play a pivotal role in bringing people together on the north coast through Quinault Indian Nation cultural presentations and other events. The Foundation has donated thousands of dollars to community groups including Pacific Beach Firemen, Pacific Beach Elementary School, Need Children Fund, Pacific Beach Food Bank and Christmas for Kids. (23.5)
- Local high schools expanded their summer programming to include digital animation, industrial engineering, automotive mechanics and cosmetology. The programs are open to any student in grades 9-12 living within the 8 member district, and offer students a direct path to industry certification. (24.3)
- School Districts across Grays Harbor and Pacific County have entered into an eight-district cooperative to open the first "Twin Harbors Skill Center," a branch campus of New Market Skills Center located in Thurston County. (24.6)
- Grays Harbor Public Health, in cooperation with local hospitals, launched a Healthy Communities effort to combat chronic diseases caused by obesity, smoking and other lifestyle decisions. www.healthygh.org provides ideas for making healthy choices and provides links to information including a guide to area walking trails. The project will also inventory community health needs to identify gaps and mobilize resources to address priorities (22.2 and 22.4)
- This past year, Grays Harbor area hospitals held their first mutual meeting and, as a result, decided to leverage resources. As a first step, area hospitals joined the Choice Health Network. Through this partnership, area hospitals will gain access to critical services and also solve one of the primary challenges faced by area hospitals: chronic ER visits by a small number of repeat patients. A recent statistical analysis revealed that a group of 125 patients accounted for 2,800 ER visits. Through the Choice Network, we will be able to put these individuals on a specific plan for recovery, freeing up much needed resources at area hospitals. (22.1)
- Harbor Minister's Fellowship hosted the Convoy of Hope at Olympic Stadium. Nearly 3,000 people attended the event which provided free haircuts, shoes, groceries, family portraits, lunch and medical services. One thousand volunteers chipped in. (23.3)
- Through an innovative partnership with Grays Harbor College, the Grays Harbor Public Development Authority provides 1,200 acres of forestland as a "living classroom" to support Forestry program at the College. This program focuses on training individuals in sustainable forestry, offers certificate programs, an Associate of Science and soon, a 2+2 program leading to a B.S. from an accredited four-year institution. (20.2)
- With the goal of increasing visitor spending, this year Grays Harbor hosted numerous large-scale sporting events, including the state little league tournament (Elma) regional basketball tournament (North Beach) girls fast-pitch tournament (Hoquiam) and Special Olympics basketball tournament (Aberdeen). (17.1)
- WSU Extension held the 11th Annual Harvest Celebration to showcase the diversity, quality and economic impact of agriculture in Grays Harbor. Co-sponsored by the Grays Harbor Chamber, Grays Harbor Tourism and Columbia Pacific Resource Conservation and Economic Development District, the event focused on the forest, fish and farms in the Humptulips area. In recognition of the event, County Commissioners issued a proclamation declaring September 20-26th "Harvest Celebration Week". Over 100 business owners, agricultural producers and community leaders attended the Montesano Chamber of Commerce's Farm City Dinner to kick off the Harvest Celebration. (18.1)

Preserving and Promoting Our Unparalleled Environmental Assets



- Grays Harbor COG worked with GHPUD to assist with leveraging energy rebate program dollars with an ARRA Energy Efficiency Conservation grant program. COG prepared grant applications for Aberdeen, Elma, Hoquiam and Montesano to fund energy efficiency retrofits to city buildings, fire stations, and library. (16.1)
- Grays Harbor College established a scholarship program and student recognition ceremony to reward students who advance local sustainability locally. (16.4)
- The Grays Harbor Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) has been actively promoting increased recycling through articles in the Daily World and Community Cybernews, as well as on a regular Coffee Talk radio slot called Talkin' Trash. (15.2)
- The Stafford Creek Correctional Center (pop. 2,400) has increased its already-robust recycling program. Working with Prison Industries, they now divert about 65% (about 200 tons/year) of their solid waste. One way they've been able to achieve this high rate is by recycling old mattresses through Sleep Country USA. The mattresses are torn apart and the materials are used for other purposes. Stafford Creek also recycles used fats, oils and grease and composts food waste. (15.3-15.4)
- SWAC is also working with local high school students to participate in the Nike shoe recycling program. Students collect old shoes and deliver them in bulk to a Nike store drop center. Nike, in turn recycles the shoes for use in other products. (15.1)



Seabrook attracts visitors to Pacific Beach



- Seabrook has put Grays Harbor on the national map. In addition to being recognized by Coastal Living Magazine for having the "Ultimate Beach House," Seabrook continues to attract thousands of visitors to the Pacific Beach area by creating memorable spaces and places and facilitating access to them. (12.4)



Get Involved!

To learn more about Grays Harbor 2020, visit ...

1. www.graysharbor2020.com
2. Grays Harbor 2020 on Facebook
3. Grays Harbor 2020 Community Coordinator ron@graysharbor2020.com

