



Grassroots group wants to hear from you

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

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When Lisa Marthe graduated from Aberdeen High School a few short years ago, she never thought she'd be able to get a good paying job on the Harbor.

The economy was on a downtick and more people were being laid off than being hired. And when she graduated from Central Washington University in Ellensburg a few years later, she resigned herself to start looking for a job in the Puget Sound area.

Then last year she saw that the nation's largest biodiesel refinery would be built in Hoquiam — and they were hiring.

Today, she's employed as the office manager for Imperium Renewables Grays Harbor and is planning to get married.

"I want these 'next generation' Harborites to know they don't have to look off the Harbor for jobs," Marthe said recently. "That voice needs to be heard."

And that voice — and everyone else on the Harbor — are invited to attend a number of forums being presented starting next week by the business and community leaders who want to reimagine the Harbor by 2020.

Called Grays Harbor Vision 2020, Marthe joins a number of other "next generation" Harborites including Ron Pinnick and David Quigg, both of Grays Harbor Paper L.P., who are part of a 25-member volunteer task force that has oversight of the process.

Pinnick is the son of Port Commissioner Stan Pinnick and Diane Pinnick and Quigg is the son of Grays Harbor Paper President Bill Quigg and Carol Quigg.

They're asking folks to consider the question "What would I do if I was in charge around here?"

The Vision 2020 organizers have been working on getting the public involved for months now. They've been going from community group to community group, but

also want to get ideas from everyone during a number of public forums.

They're asking residents what their vision for the future is and how to get there.

Forums are scheduled for 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. as follows:

- * Ocean Shores, April 15, Ocean Shores Convention Center
- * Aberdeen, April 16, Aberdeen High School
- * Westport, April 23, Ocosta High School
- * Elma, April 24, Elma High School
- * Oakville, May 1, Oakville Library

They'll take the ideas and prioritize them based on the level of public interest. All of this should happen over the next nine months or so.

"Grays Harbor 2020 is a grassroots effort to involve the community in shaping its own future and creating a sustainable Grays Harbor through targeted, coordinated investments in infrastructure and economic development, arts and culture, youth and education, environmental preservation and other areas," Pinnick said.

The project has its own Web site, www.graysharbor2020.com, where residents can submit comments and photos, take a mini-survey and even watch a project video including special messages from Gov. Chris Gregoire, U.S. Sens. Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell and Congressman Norm Dicks.

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