



Vision for the Northeast Kingdom in the Year 2020

Created by participants in the Northeast Kingdom Enterprise Collaborative's
Visioning Session
March 27, 1999 in Lyndonville, Vermont

INTRODUCTION

The Northeast Kingdom Enterprise Collaborative was formed in 1996 to find ways to collaborate on economic development and community development issues in the Northeast Kingdom. Members of the Enterprise Collaborative are united in their commitment to the economic and social well being of the Northeast Kingdom and the quality of life for its people and communities. Members include regional development organizations, educators, social service and employment agencies, local government officials, business people, nonprofit organizations, health care providers and conservation organizations.

In winter of 1999, the Enterprise Collaborative identified the need to create a common vision for the future of the Northeast Kingdom as the first step in creating a long-range plan for collaborations to improve family, business, and community well being. The vision would focus on the good things in the Northeast Kingdom, what our lives could be like when the NEK is the best it can be, and how members of the Enterprise Collaborative and others can work together to get there. There was a general feeling that no matter how hard many organizations work to improve the quality of life in the Northeast Kingdom, synergy was often lacking. Individual groups often did not know what other groups were doing. Agreement on a shared vision would help all of us to work together and achieve the most possible with the limited resources available.

The visioning session was scheduled for March 27 at Lyndon Institute in Lyndonville. Invitations were sent to private business leaders, select board members, school boards, legislators, state agency personnel, educators, town administrators, health care providers, nonprofit staff and board members, and others who care deeply about the future of the Northeast Kingdom and might want to be a part. Darvin Ayre, of Ayre and Associates in Boulder Colorado was contracted to help design and facilitate the meeting, based on his experience with the Vermont Agency of Transportation visioning process in the summer of 1998. Visual artist, Karen Stratvert from San Francisco, California was also contracted with to provide a visual representation of the vision of the Northeast Kingdom. Vermont State Economist Jeffrey Carr was invited as a keynote speaker to discuss economic realities in the context of the Northeast Kingdom. The Enterprise Collaborative contracted with members of the Vermont Prevention Institute Consultation Team to provide small group facilitation.

On March 27, approximately 120 residents and others who work in or care deeply about the Northeast Kingdom met in the Lyndon Institute Cafeteria to achieve the following agreed upon outcomes:

- Begin to build working relationships amongst diverse Northeast Kingdom community members
- Begin to develop an inclusive vision for the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont
- Understand the context and history of the Northeast Kingdom and how the region has changed.

Following is a summary of their collective and individual visions for the Northeast Kingdom twenty years from now. Common themes for the vision include:

Economic Development: The workforce skills of the population will be enhanced to meet all workplace needs. Jobs at a livable wage are available for everyone willing to work. There are synergies between large and small industries, with small industries supplying larger ones. Home businesses and entrepreneurship flourishes. Agricultural niche marketing and value added forest products are important economic sectors. Information technology provides opportunities for marketing and creating other businesses. Young people have employment options to “stay.”

Education: Schools will be an important hub in the community, providing opportunities for lifelong learning. Schools will be available to the public year round, all day. All individuals will be able to acquire the skills and knowledge they need. Distance learning and other technologies will broaden educational opportunities. Education will take place in and outside of schools, and people will be empowered to be teachers and learners.

Community: Decisions are made at a local level with a high degree of citizen involvement. Leaders lead by values, and citizens are involved in a number of community activities. Families are supported and quality daycare is available. A high level of communication exists between community members, and between communities and outside government agencies. Communities are linked by goals and mutual assistance.

Environment/Landscape/Recreation: There is significant open space, access to public land, and permission to enter private land. The natural environment will be respected, and sustainable relationships between natural resources and individuals will be the norm. A sound environment will be crucial for recreation and tourism.

Health and Wellness: All people have access to physical and mental health care through local providers. Lack of transportation to health care is no longer a barrier. Prevention and personal wellness are strong areas of focus, including wellbeing of children. Domestic violence and substance abuse are not accepted.

Arts and Culture: Small towns have an excellent variety of arts and cultural opportunities.

Values: Respect for diversity and diverse opinions will be the norm. Strong interpersonal relationships pervade the community. Respect for the individual is not lost. Community responsibility and individual responsibility are important for overall wellbeing.

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS BY JEFFREY CARR, VERMONT STATE ECONOMIST

To set the context for the visioning exercise, State Economist Jeffrey Carr was invited to the meeting to discuss the realities of the future economy of the Northeast Kingdom. Carr stated that because of the globalization of the economy, economic opportunities are only limited by our thinking. The United States has perhaps the most efficient and competitive business sector in the world, in large part do to our infrastructure and information systems brought about by computers and other technology. The implication for the Northeast Kingdom is to think globally, and think out of the box. Develop a vision, analyze it, and move into an action phase. If the only tool you think you have is a hammer, then all the problems will look like nails. The explosion in information technology provides opportunities for tele-commuting to workplaces far outside the region, and to bring other expertise into the Kingdom. Businesses in the high-end sectors are now looking for high “quality of life” as a major component of deciding where to locate. We need to take advantage of what we are without becoming like everyone else. We need to look at ourselves and maintain our quality of life.

A question was posed that if Orleans County has significantly lower wage rates than the rest of the nation, then why isn't industry anxious to move here. Carr's answer was that companies are not searching for the lowest wage as their primary location criteria. Quality of life is a factor, as is the complete package of what do they get in return for their investment. Productivity is a key factor, as well as distance to markets for consumer goods. Carr stressed taking a 15 to 20-year look into the future and taking actions to move the local economy in the direction the Northeast Kingdom would like to be.

THE VISIONING PROCESS

Darvin Ayre, lead facilitator for the day, introduced the visioning process. He defined vision as:

- The dreams, aspirations, and desires of a group or community.
- An ideal future state resulting from collaborative efforts.
- The first step toward building a path to reach a destination.

The reasons to create a vision included:

- To provide a focus to give direction to the future.
- To build a foundation for determining strategies to reach an ideal state.
- To bring diverse voices and ideas together around common aspirations or values.

Darvin then gave directions for small groups to begin brainstorming their ideal vision for the Northeast Kingdom 20 years from now. Small group tasks were to describe the Northeast Kingdom and how it will be in the year 2020. Participants were asked to consider the following categories to assist them to develop their vision:

Physical Infrastructure: What does it look like, including roads, buildings, communications? How do we design our houses? How do we fund our infrastructure needs? What do transportation and communication systems look like? How have workplaces changed?

Learning: What do our learning systems look like? How do I gain access to learning in the future? What technology is used? What values does the community hold regarding education? What are the priorities for education?

Business: What does the economic base look like? Are there new companies? What types do we have? Have traditional businesses changed? What is the business climate like for new business? Who makes up our workforce? How are employees trained? What is the role of business leaders in the community, and how do they connect to the community?

Environment: How would you characterize our environment and our relationship to it? How do we deal with land use planning? How is the health of soil, water, and air? What kinds of environmental challenges have we addressed? What is the mix of developed and undeveloped land and open spaces? What kind of access to open space do we have? What are the challenges and changes that affect our lifestyles?

Arts and Culture: What kinds of facilities do communities have? What kinds of expression take place in our communities? How do we support the arts? Are there new community events? What do we honor and celebrate?

Governance and Leadership: What does leadership look like? What is the predominant style of leadership? Does leadership represent all interests? If your grand daughter is elected to a regional governance board, what kind of leader will she be? Do the public and private

sectors work together? How do different ethnic groups, races and classes of people get along?

Health and Well Being: How has the perception of health care changed? Do we go to a place to get health care? Do hospitals and clinics still exist as we know them? What are the health priorities for our communities? What about access?

Spiritual Life: How has spiritual life changed? Where do people worship? What opportunities are available?

Families and Youth: How are families and youth connected to the community? What are the opportunities to engage in the communities?

Other Questions: What is the most unique or special thing about the Northeast Kingdom? How would your grandchildren's cousins from Boston describe the Northeast Kingdom? What would tourists or out-of-staters say? If your grandchild were to thank you for some thing you did to improve the future of the Northeast Kingdom, what would it be?

Participants then broke up into twelve small groups and met for approximately ninety minutes to brainstorm their ideal vision for the Northeast Kingdom. Each small group was lead by a facilitator from the Vermont Prevention Institute Consultation Team. The small groups then gathered after lunch and reported back highlights of their findings. The report highlights are represented on a "Vision Map" drawn by Karen.

THE VISION

All of the information generated by the small group participants was later recorded and analyzed by the Northeast Kingdom Enterprise Collaborative to find common themes prevalent through all or many of the groups. A summary of the common themes for each issue area is presented below, along with all of the information generated by each small group. The information is organized according to the groups that generated the information. Each underlined subheading represents the beginning of an individual group's work.

It is important to note that *all* of the information generated at the visioning session is recorded here. In some cases, one vision may actually contradict another. For example, honoring diverse opinions and bringing an end to negativism were both mentioned as value visions. It is not the intent of this report to prioritize one vision over another. Instead, each vision is reported as part of a realm of ideas. Common themes from the visioning session are identified, but it is otherwise up to the user of this information to decide which visions they would like to move toward.

The visions are presented in the following common theme areas:

Economic Development: The workforce skills of the population will be enhanced to meet all workplace needs. Jobs at a livable wage are available for everyone willing to work. There is synergy between large and small industries, with small industries supplying larger ones. Home businesses and entrepreneurship flourishes. Agricultural niche marketing and value-added forest products are important economic sectors. Information technology provides opportunities for marketing and creating other businesses. Young people have employment options to 'stay.'

Education: Schools will be an important hub in the community, providing opportunities for lifelong learning. Schools will be available to the public year round, all day. All individuals will be able to acquire the skills and knowledge they need. Distance learning and other technologies will broaden educational opportunities. Education will take place in and outside of schools, and people will be empowered to be teachers and learners.

Community: Decisions are made at a local level with a high degree of citizen involvement. Leaders lead by values, and citizens are involved in a number of community activities. Families are supported and quality daycare is available. A high level of communication exists between community members, and between communities and outside government agencies. Communities are linked by goals and mutual assistance.

Environment/Landscape/Recreation: There is significant open space, access to public land, and permission to enter private land. The natural environment will be respected, and sustainable relationships between natural resources and individuals will be the norm. A sound environment will be crucial for recreation and tourism.

Health and Wellness: All people have access to physical and mental health care through local providers. Lack of transportation to health care is no longer a barrier. Prevention and personal

wellness are strong areas of focus, including wellbeing of children. Domestic violence and substance abuse are not accepted.

Arts and Culture: Small towns have an excellent variety of arts and cultural opportunities.

Values: Respect for diversity and diverse opinions will be the norm. Strong interpersonal relationships pervade the community. Respect for the individual is not lost. Community responsibility and individual responsibility are important for overall wellbeing.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

COMMON THEMES: **The workforce skills of the population will be enhanced to meet all workplace needs. Jobs at a livable wage are available for everyone willing to work. There is synergy between large and small industries, with small industries supplying larger ones. Home businesses and entrepreneurship flourishes. Agricultural niche marketing and value-added forest products are important economic sectors. Information technology provides opportunities for marketing and creating other businesses. Young people have employment options to “stay” in the Kingdom. Economic development will not harm the environment.**

Economic development

thriving but personal economic development
preserve and develop in town centers
planned growth and enhanced quality of the basic infrastructure
easier to start a businesses before the window of opportunity has passed
industry continues to be small
“non-traditional” businesses an integral part of economy
diversified farming/niche ag businesses
develop workforce skills of people already living here
small businesses marketing products electronically
fluid infrastructure
strong job market, sound employee base

Economy

appropriate job training
strong association between formal education and industry needs
job availability to all sections of the community

Economic Development

single payer health system
young people will find so much opportunity in NEK they will not want to leave
arts in the greatest employment sector and personal health is the largest public issue
25% of our jobs are in telecommunications
no new big boxes and smoke stacks
natural resource and tourism industry jobs which pay an attractive wage
thriving high quality wood products industry
business leaders are involved in community and understand family priorities
types of business, less traditional, more tech based

all people would be in jobs they loved but work less than 30 hours per week and make a good living
attractive wages for educators and child care providers
agriculture, logging, and big business get bigger
surplus means no bake sales for libraries and books
no new prisons—corrections is revamped.

Technologies

alternative energy sources available to all income levels
impact of technology—learning, telecommuting, involvement in governance
as much change in next 20 years as happened in the last 300 to 400 years

Technology

Information and resources are available to all
clean technology related industry
electronic communication

Business

mini businesses may be subcontractors to larger farms owned outside the area
value of the Canadian dollar is reversed
farms provide solid economic base
training youth in entrepreneurship (by developing teen mall owned and operated by youth businesses, homes, education are clean and environmentally sound)

Economics

We will have been found by the outside world but not spoiled
more quality jobs and corresponding education tied to employment opportunities
lots of home based businesses connect to the rest of the world by the Internet
individual empowerment to fulfill potential
Land-based businesses strengthened, sustainable farming, forestry, recreation businesses
people and natural resources are our greatest asset
locally owned businesses and downtown development
communities have small scale business enterprises
livable wages for all
decentralized public policy decision making
shared stewardship of our natural resources

Economics

wired businesses
economic interchange with Canada is equitable
focus on 2-3 or 5 economic themes for NEK
clan small to medium variety of manufactures
demonstration farms of diverse products

community based reliable, affordable day care
livable wage
taxes are lower on business
local newspapers and media support businesses by writing about them
business leadership encourages education and training
local businesses cooperate rather than compete
new welfare system?everyone has access to necessary money

Preserve Countryside

sustainable agriculture/forestry products
national stores are available to all Vermonters but they are confined to junk land and open
land is preserved
uninterrupted views
countryside is preserved with flexibility to consider maintenance of a healthy economy.

Business

retention of traditional industries such as farming and logging in a responsible manner
nontraditional opportunities for economic development wedded to the land
hotel recreation complex on waterfront in Newport.

Economy

business advancement in technical and finance areas
locally based economies that take the best advantage of the regions assets (natural and
cultural)
art festivals every month

Economic Development

all services (public or private) need to be made available to those who need it
when they need it
who pays is a key
how to use data
emphasis on downtowns instead of building malls in the suburbs
use of financial resources decided by consumers at local level
town plans
business be in partnership with community in which it is performing its work.
cluster commercial/industrial sites that do not impact environment
convert low wage jobs to high wage jobs through high tech production
rail network in and out of region
diploma must mean something—standards

Economic Development

more telecommuters
continued logging and farming

more value added wood/craft companies to use forest products here
workplace—open communication between labor and management
people will barter more
a liveable wage will become the norm for the NEK
AX Act 250
provide economic tax incentives to draw a home-based workforce (like Ireland)
welfare works

Economics and Environment

how we take advantage of the larger economy
how to keep tourists coming as dairy farms disappear
tourism is a major employer in the NEK. We can work on it immediately, while other
sectors will take time to develop
employment beyond entrepreneurship
local utilization of forest resources.
Well-managed resource base
combine profession with quality of life
preserve land, community, rural character
change the character of employment opportunities for people here—import opportunities,
export services.
utilize mountains for tourism/economic development
stay option—provide opportunities for local people first
livable wage
full employment
we must plan our land uses. identify sites for appropriate activities and utilize them to the
fullest
infrastructure—small scale, appropriate, well maintained.
sustainable relationships in environment, rooted in cultural values
leadership and governance on a town meeting model.

Information Technology.

utilize Internet
telecommuting
ability to work out of homes.

EDUCATION

COMMON THEMES: **Schools will be an important hub in the community, providing opportunities for life-long learning. Schools will be available to the public year round, all day. All individuals will be able to acquire the skills and knowledge they need. Distance learning and other technologies will broaden educational opportunities. Education will take place in and outside of schools, and people will be empowered to be teachers and learners.**

Education

schools open all day and evening
multiple learning options
universal accessibility to higher education
a world where everyone knows where their food is coming from and takes a hand in creating it
school without bells
all people see themselves as teachers and learners
tearing down walls—education does not just happen in schools
strengthened knowledge of natural resources and processes
schools and cultural centers are community foci
schools open to all ages, all day and year
all children are supported educationally
continuing learning options for all ages

Education

all children are prepared to enter school
families value education
high level of education for as many members of the community as possible
k-12 lifelong learning fluid and seamless
education meeting needs of community
high quality, challenging educational offerings
quality keeps improving
schools become community learning centers
education about enormously diverse areas available in classrooms, video centers, over Internet

Education

retain benefits of individual attention from motivated/interested skilled local teachers
find financial efficiencies without sacrificing individual attention. Perhaps through distance learning.
vast change in teacher education needed

broad educational skills, world view, links to world, multi-method education
focus on life skills

Education

greater emphasis on education and training beyond book learning
life long learning for the post modern age
pre-education (parenting)
acknowledge differing learning styles
skills training emphasized and broad education on how to think ahead
open to what path youth are on to be prepared, i.e., school to work preparation
beyond central control model
“prepared for the unexpected” controllable with instability and change, critical thinking skills
education is fun
economic incentives for education
goals are encouraged and developed with many opportunities
use perceived weakness as our strength (strength in “being at the end of no where,” mud
season is okay)
education reflects our values

Education

education and learning is life long
people of all socio-economic levels are motivated to improve themselves
education would last through 16 years
excellent education reputation—best schools in union
math and science focus required

Education

secondary and higher education are linked to jobs in the Kingdom
village schools
increased college options
distance learning for post Bachelors degree
adult education opportunities to stay current with technology
active involvement in video and radio production that raises awareness of issues
commitment focused on academic achievement
teaching that values what NEK offers, not what it lacks
a process, not a product
students highly skilled in new basics and specific basics

Education

home school groups
community schools
all individuals complete high school, opportunities for secondary education

learning systems—career tracking and specialized education used for more effective training for our areas businesses.

Life long learning, distance learning to UVM.

youth engaged in community service and involved

Youth and Adult Education

everyone has access to distance learning

outstanding educational practices, facilities

trains students in teamwork, conflict resolution, skills needed for leadership

training and education is a big industry for the area

Workforce

everyone who wants to work can work

training through high school, technical schools, college

local workforce needs will be determined and training given

closer knit workforce

higher education for all persons who want it

schools without walls

Education

all schools will spend considerable time utilizing their community, heritage, environment and people as a resource

all schools will contribute to their community's sustainability

Lyndon State College will be a center for educational advancement in the NEK

education system changed to be computer and communication advanced

a seamless connection will exist between school and community

Education

choice in education

educating the whole person.

less consolidation. back to community schools, (as opposed to supervisory union schools)

educate outside of four walls of school.

educate adults

strong need for special education and education for the gifted

Education

education at all levels is student oriented, respectful, dialogue

children's theater opportunity

education serving all needs, technology driven

another college or research institution, perhaps scientific or arts based

learning, not teaching, will be the norm. It will be focused on what the individual needs, rather than pure content

additional workforce development to serve needs of workers, workplace

COMMUNITY

COMMON THEMES: **Decisions are made at a local level with a high degree of citizen involvement. Leaders lead by values, and citizens are involved in a number of community activities. Families are supported and quality daycare is available. A high level of communication exists between community members, and between communities and outside government agencies. Communities are linked by goals and mutual assistance.**

Strong Community

rich in spirit

society provides a higher level of care for everyone, health, nutrition

active openness and welcoming of people of color

safe communities, free from fear and violence

parents are proud to be parents—don't want to hear "I'm just a parent."

globalization from below, benefitting all countries and people equally

maintain sense of childhood. Wonder and humor

leaders lead by values

universal health care, focus on values and prevention

keep youth and elders in the community

adequate recreation opportunities for youth

all people care for others in the community and have a sense of responsibility from others

quality of life for elders: Independence, adequate health care, access to resources, nutrition

celebration of different spirituality, social values

restorative model of justice as opposed to Retribution model.

non-categorical programs and services, community based vs. program specific requirements

ownership—citizens feel empowered to be a part of the community

people get together to work on projects for the good of the community

communities become decision making bodies by way of going through a process similar to what we did today

young people will want to stay and live in the NEK with a quality of life

justice system that involves the community, holds the offender accountable, and is victim driven

integrated community—everyone participates

Community/public service

community services provides glue for young people and all community members

high level of communication among community members and between communities

state of the art communications and face to face interaction

awareness of assets

participation in local governance continues strong

human scale

Community

introspective spirituality

community events celebrate uniqueness, legacies and successes, strengthen families

collaborative leadership, all know what each other is doing, diverse, inclusive,
communication

respect of diversity

flourishing visual arts, writing, and music community

integrating art with educational priorities—critical thinking

expanded cooperative use of religious facilities

establish ways to promote interaction between ethnic groups--Irish and French

be sure children thrive and are safe in families, schools, and communities

daycare and preschool activities available to all

feeling that we are politically connected and understood by all Vermont

road to Montpelier

grow and change without becoming like the rest of Vermont

Community, Culture, Education, Health, Arts

arts and culture—build on what we have

early childhood and elderly health care

improving educational opportunities (through tax structure?)

preserve/strengthen town meeting as a symbol of community involvement and individuality
of each community

increase self confidence of the members of our communities

expose folks to other experiences so they will appreciate what they have.

encourage individual uniqueness—avoid tendency to encourage and reward total conformity

move away from centralized power, back to local control

more acceptance of diversity

Heritage

get youth interested in their communities through town meeting day, youth day

make citizenry well informed regarding their background

Community Trust

visual esthetics in every main street business

lots of communication between community members and community agencies

strong, small communities, based in historical, democratic, and environmental tradition, with
great education

understanding and acceptance of diversity in communities

communities that support each individual

trust and people working together

substance free communities who aren't into destructive activities

Community

transportation for everyone to all places

multi-generational care facility

multi-generational facility for family and youth opportunities.

Community

young adult interaction opportunities

greater independence—not isolation

all people are accepted and provided for and participate in community

more leisure time than work time

the barrier of Sheffield heights has fallen. It is no longer Newport v. St. Johnsbury, and

Essex county does not feel isolated

a united region with respect for each area within the Kingdom.

think locally while acting globally

creative diversified community

traditional religious congregations

Quality of Life

change perception of the kingdom being backward. change our self esteem problem

look at social problems as being some of cause for economic problems

grandchildren will thank us for preserving quality of life

affordable and open access to public facilities

develop task force to promote Vermont as a place to live for a skilled workforce

legislate clean environment

many, frequent community dances, dinners, summer picnics

Spirituality

spiritual freedom remains

citizens will have an enhanced self image

pooling of spiritual resources

Spirit

individuals, family and community all figure out their sense of self. Find time to spend with self, find tranquility

religious diversity if accepted and welcomed

Families and Youth

there are local programs for youth

everyone in the community supports and acknowledges children as though they were their own.

youth engaged in community activities with adults

children will be and feel cared for

Family

community support systems
dispersed families have greater holiday travel to their roots

Government leadership

open discussions—all views are heard
nurturing existing community volunteer activities
civil community open to different ideas that found common ground for overall good

Leadership

governance by consensus

Leadership and Governance

still only one rep in US Congress
larger meeting places required for town meeting
engagement in town government
elevated national political scene
return to civility for our public leaders
everybody votes
new state of the Great North (VT, NH, ME, Upper NY)
more positive professional leadership on the municipal level

Governance

collaboration between communities
broad minded, open-minded leaders
training provided to community leaders
use technology to share ideas and work together
strong connection with community.
planning for land use that maintains current but isn't bureaucratic or loses individual
flexible "boundaries" so problems can be resolved without turf battles
operating regionally while providing ownership and identity on a human scale

Governance

voter participation increased
increased competition for local offices
greater output on the part of local government—less meetings, more direct action.
improved communication facilitated through e-mail, web technology

Governance

planning with teeth behind it
local and regional
thoughtfulness on environment
thoughtfulness on local governments

Leadership

leadership needs to listen (communities, state government)
government where average community person can get into a leadership position
more community people involved in community issues (i.e., building a food shelf)
government needs to actively seek community participation

Preservation of Downtowns

downtowns are healthy
towns with vibrant, accessible centers

Planning /Growth/ Development

data collection for unmet human service needs
prevent urban sprawl.
public spaces in neighborhoods
zoning

Physical Infrastructure

village centers are thriving
still more dirt roads than paved roads
fewer roads, no new roads
Burke Mountain will be a viable four season recreation resource center with collaboration
with Lyndon State College
protected land, similar looking landscape, green belt
adequate, safe, affordable housing for seniors
public transit available to whole area, electric!
integrated multi-use trail system
one side of I-91 is a rail line.
bike path to the Canadian border
open and positive workplaces (no more cubicles)
fewer cars/alternative transport

ENVIRONMENT/LANDSCAPE/RECREATION

COMMON THEMES: **There is significant open space, access to public land, and permission to enter private land. The natural environment will be respected, and sustainable relationships between natural resources and individuals will be the norm. A sound environment will be crucial for recreation and tourism.**

Resource Management

help local businesses and entrepreneurs to grow rather than bring in outside businesses
develop value added wood products manufacturing
sustainable natural resource economy
consider and maintain connection to larger ecosystem outside the NEK
preserved open space
acknowledge the economics of waste and environmental degradation
diversity of business
jobs available for everyone that pay a livable wage and provide meaningful work.
ecosystem scale land use planning
Self-sustaining homes, alternative power
reduce consumerism
local production for local use.

Environment

recreational destination
open space
access to public lands
support continued for farming/ stop loss of farmland and farming way of life
balanced land use between development, access, recreation
planned preservation of environment with growth of economic base
people to share their land as in the past

Environment

a vision for a healthy environment will exist.
people will have information about the health of our environment
protect the natural environment

Environment

salmon fishing through the whole length of the Connecticut
more trails
environmental recreation controlled
youth as stewards of open land, fresh air, clean water
NEK a model for sustainable forestry

Environment

sustainable use of land economically and aesthetically
open space
farms
country roads, clean rivers
posted land discouraged
forestry and logging are planned practices
population stays the same

Recreation

transportation to and from recreation areas

Recreation/landscape

increased 4 season recreation
a true destination recreational hot spot
pay attention to beauty and aesthetics—homes and roads should grace and not disgrace the land (FLW)
small, concentrated communities, thriving downtowns
opens spaces are still visible
access to land, fewer “no trespassing signs,” yet awareness of respect for private property
keep environment pristine
don’t change the “God’s country” concept
environmental stewardship consistent with historical context
fragile environment needs our care
pollution-free environment

Environment

pastoral landscape
environment has thriving ecosystem, humans integrated in a sustainable way
the land and resources are important assets

Environment

beautiful landscapes that support human needs
maintain and sustain rural spaces woodlands and nonhuman invasion
mentally wholesome townfolks, ruralfolks
support agricultural heritage
stewardship—intimate and sustainable interaction between people and the environment

Environment

spiritually linked.
Close to the Earth
value of every living thing
environment needs to be available

natural world—freedom, like going to church
sprawl—no!

Environment

more rainforests for no green house effect
homes more efficient, keyed into technology
clean water, organic only farms and gardens
more public or otherwise protected land, especially along lakes and rivers
more open access to natural resource lands
90% of people recycling

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

COMMON THEMES: All people have access to physical and mental health care through local providers. Lack of transportation to health care is no longer a barrier. Prevention and personal wellness are strong areas of focus, including wellbeing of children. Domestic violence and substance abuse are not accepted.

Health and Welfare

disabled and elderly have transportation
community provides support for all young families
people live in adequate housing
disabled people have supportive employment opportunities
cycle of poverty broken by addressing education, jobs, health, transportation in an integrated way
view health as a concept that includes mental and emotional well being

Personal Health and Well Being

mental health care will be integrated into other aspects of the health care system
autonomy of health care consumers
we will honor and celebrate people
family opportunities for well being
workplaces will develop innovative ways to support families
we will be a community that consistently supports non-substance abuse
we will be a community with existing strategies to prevent substance abuse
quality childcare will be a priority
role of the Judicial system and SRS to include identifying needs of families and youth and assuming accountability for engaging families in order to have their needs met

Recreation/health

that I'm wearing same sized pants
universal health and dental care
care for mental illness

Health care

strong focus on taking personal responsibility for personal health
incentives for living healthful lives
community empowerment and decision making in face of larger, regional and statewide systems
healthier living habits, leaner frames, wellness
greater social pressure for irresponsible habits

Health Care

affordable, flexible health care
health care provided via tv and phone and high tech hook up to patient
abuse of alcohol becomes socially unacceptable

Health

focus on prevention in mental and physical health
excellent, accessible, and affordable health facilities
clean air and water
open access, not for profit system

Healthcare

having a choice
need to have access to everyone
preserve and grow community health centers (hospice and home health care)
transportation for aged—be creative with railroads--bus links for non drivers to get around
better health care for elderly
flexibility in delivery of health care
commitment to non-institutionalized health care
cost—help the elderly more
keep homes vs. giving money to Medicare
families with children have access to dental care/health care
effective prenatal health care
care of child—educate mothers, before child is born
preventive health care for everyone
if I'm delivering health care in the community, I need to say how dollars are spent, not a
bureaucracy

Health and Well Being

people understand prevention of many diseases
alternative health care will be a common practice

ARTS AND CULUTRE

COMMON THEME: Small towns have an excellent variety of arts and cultural opportunities

Arts and Culture

preservation of skills, crafts from whence we came
the arts grow as a means to connect varied communities
provide constructive choices for young people outside school hours

Social/cultural

Vermont is only 60% white
everybody is moving inland, disparagingly called “coasters”
It still takes an hour to buy a loaf of bread at the white market because you get to chat with friends and neighbors.
support for the arts

Arts

arts centers

Recreation and Culture

Create a focus of sports in the Northeast Kingdom for four season adventure
excellent variety of cultural resources
small towns have various plants and museums, publicize them as tourist attractions
infrastructure

Arts

Present to community: affordability of music/arts
Help in designing living quarters and community environment. (global)

Arts and Culture

celebrating diversity
bringing diversity to region

VALUES

COMMON THEMES: **Respect for diversity and diverse opinions will be the norm. Strong interpersonal relationships pervade the community. Respect for the individual is not lost. Community responsibility and individual responsibility are important for overall wellbeing.**

Values

social justice

Core Values

individuals are healthy, strong and centered
respect for diversity, caring, supportive community
trust
respect of person and environment
community involvement/civic responsibility
connectedness
collective responsibility
education, life long learning
environment, natural, wilderness, moose and catamounts, agrarian)
creativity, including the arts
continuity—preserve what we have and build on it
people earn a livable wage
access to natural landscape

Values

respect for the ruralness and individuality of the area and the people is preserved
connected with the 21st Century in all areas of education, infrastructure, and economy
all are working together for a larger purpose without losing individuality
better quality of life, fulfilled individuals, health and well being, friends, family, system

Values

less selfish thinking
respect for diverse opinions
greater appreciation of natural environment
climate that truly nurtures families
we don't have all the answers
good stewards in general, care, preservation, children, environment
good life not all about dollars and possessions
curiosity and enthusiasm for life
good life is good life

neighborliness/responsibility for each other
progress is not necessarily more
providing ideals for youth to look up to.
parental involvement and all in whole community
no stress (negative)
humor/lightness
change seen as dynamic and positive
flexibility
candidness—self critical, honesty
involvement/engagement
no “nattering nabobs of negativism”
pro active v. reactive
confidence in self, hopeful attitude—problem seen as opportunity.

Values

strong work ethic
balance community and the individual
respect for health of environment
inclusion, allowing for diversity, confidence, safety, independent thinking
family
survival/improvement based on creating health rather than servicing disease
strengths of the individual—gifts, abilities

Observations

optimistic
choose to solve problems
ways to preserve that which already exists
recognition of need/desire to manage change
desire to promote the assets of NEK
see ourselves in positive light
quality of life focus is high
challenge of how to negotiate the wider world as participant. . .to achieve our desires
change occurs unpredictably
global/environmental impacts on NEK
scale
acknowledge what our capacity is to manage change and interact with it
some things we want to remain stable. . .how can we do that and interact with change
collaboratives...shared satisfaction in a variety of venues

Values

NEK has an identity
innovations fit within or enhance this identify

quality educational opportunities for all—integrated to the NEK identity
environment and natural resources are of paramount importance and are part of the NEK
identity—“maximize it”
strong caring communities and safe and healthy families
meaningful community involvement for all
the whole is only as strong as the sum of its parts
diversity and cultural heritage is evident, celebrated, and respected

Values

people who understand their influence on the environment and other living beings
family environments which value learning
enlightened business political leadership
all types of work are valued
transportation is available to everyone
politically connected and influential to the rest of state
money is available—no need to spend time on grant writing
differences are valued
relationships, quality of life, collaboration, respect, environmental beauty

Values

taking care of each other
taking care of the environment
equity of access for education, recreation, jobs
choice and availability
community based economic development respecting individuals
life long educational learning
sense of community/family awareness
no divisions!
human interaction open and respected
handicapped accessible in all places
close between haves and have nots

Values

common sense government
strong sense of community
interdependence of relationships
building trusting relationships
interdependence of natural world
interdependence of nature and man
“active learning”
educational opportunity
seamless connections will exist between school and community

Global

respect for diversity
recognize diversity (race, religion, economics)

Additional Thoughts

unique to NEK: people, environment, communities
people like living here
family and community

Values

open meetings
non-legislative changes
decentralized government
more regional collaboration and cooperation.
preserve open spaces
thoughtful local control
we need to be flexible—not too rigid
no more voter apathy
have to educate voters to participate in government
voters need more control

Values

quality of life—support of traditional community
protection of the natural world
economic prosperity
embracing families
work ethic
freedom
open mindedness
safety
coping skills
education—broadbased
respect for others and the law

Values

Vermont as a special place—preserve our uniqueness
acknowledge tension between “economic growth” and preservation of Vermont as unique
local control and use of resources—move away from centralized power
DNA
build on relationships
civic involvement and responsibility
public processes must be people friendly
integrated thinking and planning—it is all interconnected
maintain our heritage

PARTICIPANTS

Participants in the March 27 Visioning Event included:

GROUP 1

Greg MacDonald, Nancy Warren, Charlie Browne, Ann Creaven, Karen Ducharme, Al Stevens, Sara Gregoire, Janet Nunziata, Christopher Kaufman. Deb Brown, Facilitator.

GROUP 2

Barbara Postman, Lucy Hickey, Joseph Gresser, Carol Moore, Sigurd Andersen, Jack Davis, Larry Donna, Jim Erwin, E. Anne Allen. Sas Cary, Facilitator.

GROUP 3

Barbara Null, Warren Null, Irene Dela Bruerre, John Warren, Richard Dabirri, Jane Price, Howard Reed, Jim Gallagher. Facilitator, Barbara Christie Garvin.

GROUP 4 and 6

David Tucker, Mary Lee Blais, Eunice Richards, Kevin Geiger, Mel Richardson, Teresa Oughton, Fred Kenney, Ellie Primeau, Dorothy Weinstein. Forrest Green, Judy Clark, facilitators.

GROUP 5

Rob Ide, Mary Paull, Bill Eddy, Lois Wolfe, Dave Reynolds, Spike Wellman, Mary Ann Riggie, Berbie Henault. Barb Gassner, Facilitator.

GROUP 7

Ed Levy, Heidi Barker, Margaret Trautz, Jim Fearon, Thomas Adams, Daniel Leahy, Mary Brenner, Marc Dixon, Brent Beck, Anne Mercer. Jean Hall-Bouffard, facilitator.

GROUP 8

Jennifer Davis, Rene Rose, Sherry Belknap, Chuck Kezar, Marilyn Pastore, Ben Harris, Paul Bengtson Terri Hurlbert. Linda Dean, Facilitator.

GROUP 9

Cher Smith, Micky Smith, Sharon Fournier, Ernie Merson, Tony Leger, Fred Schmidt, Anne Dennison, Marie Waring, Reynold Choiniere. Peter Perkins, Facilitator

GROUP 10

Tom Pristow, Mike Wilson, Sandy Raynor, Doug Spates, Margaret Trautz, Eileen Maher. Brian Ward, Facilitator.

GROUP 11

Jim Newell, Al Drown, Joel Schwartz, Rosalie Harris, Beverly Priest, Tony Tribul, Dana Leavitt, Thelma White. Cynthia Tokos, Facilitator.

GROUP 12

Rod Zwick, Bonnie Nash, Darcie McCann, Harv Gregoire, Jon Margolis, Kate Steward (age 9).
Diana Webster, Facilitator.

GROUP 13

Dale Meehan, Bill Davies, Gail Fabrizio, Steve Parker, Laura Dolgin, Cathy Swain, Cedric Pierce,
James Wood, Irene McDermott, K.C. Whitely, Facilitator.