



## Other Community Priorities

**T**his section of the Vision contains directions on home-based work, several environmental issues, and community identity and involvement.

## 17. Home-based Work

City zoning currently permits people to work at a wide range of jobs in any residential unit, including apartments. The work has to have no employees, no on-site product sales, and generate no offensive noise, odours, vibration, smoke, etc. The work has to be carried on in the dwelling unit, not in the garage.



Home-based work

Zoning also permits “artist live/work studios” in the mixed use zones in Dunbar. Live/work studios may have no more than two residents (no other employees); they also have limits on the type of process and materials that can be used, and are limited to production rather than sales.

### Approved Vision Direction

#### 17.1 Supports for Home-based Work

Supports to make home-based work more viable should be pursued, in order to encourage local job creation, reduce commuting needs, and add to community safety by having people at home during the day.

Support %: 68/23/9

People’s ideas...

- networking among home-based workers;
- local support services like workshop spaces, copying/fax centres, night time coffee shops, daycare, links to the University

### Other Vision Direction considered but not approved

#### 17.2 More Flexibility for Home-Based Work

Home-based work should be further encouraged through loosening some of the current regulations.

Uncertain %: 54/19/27

*Comment: This direction did not receive majority agreement in both surveys. However, it received a high number of agree votes. It was especially favoured by younger adults. Any further work to increase flexibility for home-based work across the city would include consideration in Dunbar.*

People’s ideas...

- allowing employees
- allowing work activities in garages
- requiring neighbour consent, with easy avenues to address inconsiderate behaviour

## 18. Recycling, Conservation, Water Quality, and Noise Control

This Vision identifies a number of environmental issues and actions. Some are in this section; others are in **Greening, Parks, Streets, and Lanes** and **Traffic and Transportation**. Most of the proposals in this section would be additions to current City programs, which have expanded as environmental issues have assumed more importance to the public.

### Approved Vision Directions

#### 18.1 Local Recycling

There should be more programs and information at the neighbourhood level to encourage recycling, such as:

- neighbourhood compost demonstration
  - shared community chipper/mulcher for yard wastes and leaves
  - promotion and education, including handouts at the library, displays at community events, and information about packaging at local stores
- Support %: 76/18/6

People’s ideas...

- promote/educate at community events (Dunbar Days, Stong’s plant sale, etc.); neighbourhood clean-up days; in-store awareness about packaging; permanent handouts at library and other locations; “buy recycled” campaign with grocery stores



Community composting

### **18.2 Collection of Household Hazardous Wastes**

There should be a Dunbar location for collection of household wastes (e.g., paints and solvents), that are otherwise stored in people's garages, basements, and sheds, or disposed of improperly.  
Support %: 86/8/6

### **18.3 Energy and Water Conservation and Water Quality**

There should be community action and education in Dunbar to promote energy and water conservation and improved water quality, and to support these goals at all levels of government.  
Support %: 75/17/8

People's ideas:

- encourage use of passive solar energy; put energy ratings on products; use waste heat from commercial for residential; raise City building standards to Power Smart levels; build demonstration housing; encourage retrofitting of existing buildings to improve conservation instead of tearing buildings down; report neighbourhood electric and gas usage and then set targets and hold competitions
- plant native plants; monitor water consumption; reduce consumption through metering
- discourage use of herbicides and pesticides in Dunbar; speed up City's storm sewer separation program, which separates household sewage from storm water

### **18.4 Noise Control**

Urban noise should be reduced, particularly by dealing with traffic noise.  
Support %: 80/14/6

People's ideas...

- enforce truck routes; reduce speed of traffic on residential and arterial streets; print cards and put on cars and trucks to tell drivers about noise and other pollution; set noise standards for outdoor gardening equipment

### **18.5 Airport Noise**

The Airport Authority should be held to its noise control commitments. Residents should keep the Airport and City alerted whenever there are aircraft noise problems.  
Support %: 75/18/7

People's ideas...

- keep a log when personally bothered; phone the Airport and the City with all complaints documented

## **19. Community Identity and Community Building**

This Vision recognizes the high level of community spirit and volunteerism in Dunbar. Community projects, such as the Chaldecott water park, illustrate the energy and commitment of residents. Many residents believe there is great untapped potential to do more to strengthen and build a community feeling.



Measuring noise

### **Approved Vision Direction**

#### **19.1 Community Identity and Community Building**

Opportunities to strengthen community spirit and build community should be pursued. The main focus should be on developing a recognizable community identity through collaborative community projects that involve as many residents as possible.

Support %: 69/25/6

People's ideas...

- focus on Dunbar's history and heritage for its identity; solicit ideas from residents; create a Dunbar "logo" to use in improvements in the shopping areas and other locations; use public art to create identity

## 20. Community Involvement In Decision Making

Currently the City provides information to, and consults with, residents and groups for many different types of decisions. Examples include local improvement petitions for street improvement; Capital Plan referenda; public hearings for rezonings; public task forces like the Urban Landscape Task Force; public and working group meetings for local planning; ads and surveys; notification letters about development proposals; and the City's homepage on the Internet. Many people often felt that consultation is ineffective for a number of reasons, including the following: people don't know the opportunity exists or how to use it; input is not timed to be useful; or input does not appear to have had any influence on the decision made.



Community resident involvement



Community Vision Workshop participants

## Approved Vision Direction

### 20.1 Community Involvement in Decision Making

Community residents should have more input, and more timely input, into decision making about changes in their community, such as development projects, transit planning, street and traffic changes, park design, etc.  
Support %: 91/7/2

People's ideas...

- a City-recognized community association with status to review planning and engineering policy issues in Dunbar
- a process for communities to have direct involvement in transit planning
- a neighbourhood design panel