

ATTACHMENT A

**A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE NC POWERDOWN
PRESENTATION ON CARRBORO VISION2020**

Resolution No. 26/2009-10

WHEREAS, the Carrboro Board of Aldermen seeks to ensure that its existing and proposed policies and actions are appropriate and beneficial; and

WHEREAS, NC Powerdown Triangle Peak Oil is a meet up group that hopes to raise awareness about the imminent peak in worldwide oil production, influence policy decisions that concern fossil energy use, and be a resource to members as they convert to lower energy lifestyles; and

WHEREAS, NC Powerdown Triangle Peak Oil has reviewed the Town's Carrboro Vision2020 document and requested an opportunity to make a presentation to the Board of Aldermen; and

WHEREAS, NC Powerdown Triangle Peak Oil made a presentation to the Board of Aldermen.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Carrboro Board of Aldermen that the Aldermen accept the presentation.

Vision 2020 Analysis

NC Powerdown
meetup.com/ncpowerdown

Our Method

- ▶ We rated each item on Vision 2020 1-5.
- ▶ We compiled the strongest and weakest items into a summary document with commentary (3p).
- ▶ We created a website where residents can rate and comment on Vision 2020:
<http://sites.google.com/site/vision2020carrboro/>

2020 Successes

- ▲ Greenways and parklands development
- ▲ Watershed protection
- ▲ Minimizing waste
- ▲ Downtown development
- ▲ Walkability
- ▲ Water conservation

2020 Weaknesses

- Lack of well-defined principles and values
- Fragmentary development vision
- Renewable energy, "green buildings", and energy conservation all need attention
- Lack of high-density, mixed-use, mixed income development
- Regional and local rail development

Our Vision

- Walkable
- Bikeable
- Mixed income
- Mixed use
- High density

Where do we go now?

- Ordinance revisions?
- Vision 2020: 10th anniversary update?
- Programs for individuals to retrofit their homes?
- How can NC Powerdown assist?

10 VISION 2020 SUCCESSES

Overview:

In the ten years since Vision2020 was adopted many of its objectives have been accomplished, or are well under way. In the meantime much has changed to compel a re-appraisal and update of the original work.

The citizens of Carrboro have for a long time shared a desire that the community remain viable, resilient, healthy and livable, not only for the duration of our own lives but also for the generations that will follow us here. The magnitude of the challenges we face requires an evolutionary response. This update is intended to help bring about a sustaining and sustainable path for our community

As Carrboro functions, grows and changes some of our key goals are to

- address the challenges of global warming and declining resource availability to ensure energy and food security
- to support the transition to renewable energy sources
- to conserve energy, fuel, water and other essential resources
- to prevent or mitigate adverse impacts of human activity on the healthy quality of our air, water and soils
- to conserve wildlife habitat, farmland and sensitive environmental areas
- to continue and enhance the diversity and affordability of our community
- to preserve and enhance the livability of the community – the beauty, human scale, walkability, comfort, safety and quiet.

1.11 The town should encourage and support the development of greenways and parklands dedicated to public use along streams and easements. There should be a network of connected greenways throughout the town. These greenways should serve as nature trails, biking and walking trails, wildlife corridors. All should protect our natural environment.

1.21 The town should plan and support regular music events and festivals in our parks and the Century Center. Additionally, the town should complete the bandstand at the Town Commons for regular concerts and artistic events.

1.28 The town should encourage year-round use of its nationally acclaimed Farmer's Market. While seasonal use will vary, the town should also encourage additional, compatible uses, such as a regular crafts and arts market.

1.41 Carrboro should encourage paperless transactions to minimize solid waste disposal. All town services should be made available on-line, including information, town forms, ordinances, and payments.

2.12 The town should limit development in sensitive areas such as the watershed, wetlands, and other areas the development of which could adversely affect water supplies and habitat. The town's restrictions on development within the University Lake Watershed should be retained and enforced.

2.21 The Town should continue to require the preservation and maintenance of open space

when land is developed, to enforce restraints on clear-cutting, and to require adequate buffers.

3.21 The town should develop a plan to govern the continuing development of downtown. Toward this end, the town should adopt the following goals:

- To double commercial square footage in the downtown from that existing in the year 2000.
- To accommodate additional square footage by building up, not out.
- To increase the density of commercial property in the downtown area.
- To improve the downtown infrastructure (e.g. parking facilities, sidewalks, lighting, shading) to meet the needs of the community.

3.25 Walkability should be encouraged downtown and pedestrian safety and comfort should be a goal. The town should improve lighting and shading, and create auto barriers.

5.21 Carrboro should work with OWASA to develop the policies and infrastructure necessary for water conservation (e.g. encourage the re-use of grey water, replacing fixtures with low-flow models, and collecting stormwater for watering gardens).

5.22 Carrboro should adopt a strategy and set of policies to protect all of our creeks, streams, ponds, and lakes.

10 VISION 2020 WEAKNESSES

Overview:

- Vision2020 needs an expression of principles, values, and overarching goals. The current document consists primarily of “objective-type” statements. It lacks a coherent vision statement of how we want Carrboro to look in 10 or 20 years.
- In addition Vision2020 lacks reference to important contexts and challenges, both local and global, to which the Town would intend to respond as it changes and grows.
- Throughout Vision 2020 there appear terms (“small town character”) & concepts (“carrying capacity”) that are not defined or explained, making the document vague and subject to misinterpretation.
- Section “overview” statements in the document need to be updated, especially #2 Development, #3 Economic development, #4 Transportation, & #6 Housing, to address current global context.
- Six of the most important land use & transportation objectives appear below (2.22, 2.52, 3.311, 4.15, 6.11 & 6.15). Appearing separately this way results in a fragmentary expression of the kind of built environment Carrboro desires. Vision2020 would prescribe a much stronger call for walkable, transit-supportive, carbon-reducing urban form if these objectives were pulled together in section #2 Development, as well as being reiterated where appropriate in related sections (“Transportation,” “Housing,” etc.).

2.22 Where development is deemed acceptable, there should be well defined dense, mixed-use development with areas of well preserved open space.

2.52 The town should continue to require the construction of a diverse housing stock.

3.311 Before creating new shopping centers, the town should encourage those that exist to

maximize their potential by adding stories when and where practical.

4.14 Carrboro should support a passenger rail connection between the Horace Williams' property, through Carrboro's downtown, and the main campus of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

4.15 As public transit routes are identified, the town should Locate new high-density development along such routes through changes to the zoning ordinance and map.

5.12 Carrboro should develop and encourage a network of neighborhood composting facilities. The town should also explore the creation of a town compost heap

5.50 Energy

[In addition to not achieving success in sections 5.51 and 5.51 (below), which narrowly pertain to municipal buildings and operations, the original energy section lacks any reference to possible local energy production using renewables and to ordinance standards that would bring about construction of high performance "green buildings – NC Powerdown]

5.51 The town should publicly promote every available means of energy conservation. The town's own alternative and renewable energy targets should include passive and active solar, and composted waste co-generation to fuel public vehicles and the heating of town facilities

5.52 The town should set a goal of reduced energy costs in all town buildings and increased fleet mileage for all town vehicles.

6.11 Town policy should accommodate a variety of housing styles, sizes and pricing. It should also address issues of density, funding and rezoning to allow for more non-detached housing, mixed-use development, and communal living options.

6.15 The town should pursue the development of density bonus provisions for projects incorporating environmentally sensitive development and building practices.