

Vision

The following broad vision reflects both research and consideration by the Planning Commission and many eloquent comments by residents attending public meetings. This statement, which will continue to evolve, expresses our highest aspirations for the community we love.

Bristol's citizens will have a deep sense of community yet remain independent and self-reliant. The town will be economically, environmentally and culturally diverse. It will have access to appropriate transportation and communication options. Affordable energy and efficient housing opportunities will be available close to the village area and within walking distance of its businesses. Other support services, such as childcare, health centers, and a wide variety of retail facilities will operate in the village of Bristol. The village area will remain the heart and core of Bristol.

The natural environment in both the rural and village sections of the town will be clean and healthy. Local merchants and businesses will benefit from tourism that fits into and reinforces the healthy, working landscape.

The town will have a healthy, local economy. The local economy will include businesses that are diverse, energy efficient, and compact. The economic climate will foster locally- owned and entrepreneurial enterprises. Employment opportunities will be stable and will provide competitive wages. These businesses will place minimum demands on municipal services, emphasize recycling and conservation, and provide meaningful work without limits to career growth.

There will be competitive returns on investment for employers and businesses. Businesses will often provide a type of economic growth that conserves or even restores environmental quality. These businesses will be attracted to the economic opportunities and quality of life in Bristol. They will rarely require local tax credits or incentives. Many businesses will add value to locally produced renewable natural resources.

There will be a cooperative relationship between local government and local businesses leading to good communication and coordinated changes where needed. Local government and local business will work together closely, effectively and efficiently. The local permit process will be clear, consistent, efficient, and predictable.

Bristol will maintain its quality of life by committing itself to changes for its energy future. This is a critical time for encouraging and supporting renewable energy sources and promoting energy efficiency. Energy prices are expected to rise and consume a larger part of household, business and municipal budgets. To keep Bristol an affordable place to live, the town will ask the Energy Committee to take the lead in researching and reporting back to the Selectboard about energy-saving possibilities.