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eTown Initiative

A SeaKay Project

eTown

SeaKay is a nonprofit 501(c)3 California Public Benefit Corporation with a mission to improve the efficiencies and effectiveness of the not for profit and public sectors. This mission will be demonstrated in improved service delivery to larger and larger populations. Our vision is to use broadband access to create of new resources that support public benefit services to underserved communities.

SeaKay's Broadband Connect is a national initiative which is generated from finding common ground between business and social /public benefit objectives. eTown is being developed as a collaborative effort between small municipalities and major high-tech industry companies that have a common business objective of lowering barriers to broadband access using a combination of wireless and fiberopitic technologies. Wider access will benefit industry by opening up new markets for equipment, applications, and services. Industry sees an expansion of access to the internet as an opportunity to achieve business objectives and give back to the community. The fundamental objective of eTown is to enable ubiquitous internet access throughout the municipality. This serves a Public Benefit by enabling high speed internet access to a wide range of underserved communities within the municipality who for reasons of economic, geographic location or disability have not been able to put the internet to work to improve their situation.

The eTown model offers a solution for implementing and operating municipal public broadband networks. These projects have public benefit at their core. The network seeks to provide ubiquitous public access, a free public access tier when economically possible, municipal services at low rates, public safety prioritization, and assurances to public entities of competitive pricing and financial viability. Network decisions can then be based on transparent financial controls and governance mandated by the not for profit public benefit regulations.

The network is directed towards serving the public at a grassroots and neighborhood level. eTown implementations include local governance, targeted content and tools to enable efficiencies by local entities consistent with SeaKay's mission.