



The Stone Soup Leadership Institute's Case Studies Report

Building Sustainable Communities: The Institute's 25 Year Journey

The Stone Soup Leadership Institute is a global leader in developing climate education and sustainable workforce development educational tools, trainings, and initiatives for the transition to a sustainable economy. For over 25 years, we have worked with business, government, education and community leaders to develop strategic initiatives, public-private partnerships and build sustainable communities -- from New England to Hawaii; from inner cities of Boston, Oakland, Cincinnati; the islands of Vieques, Puerto Rico, to the British Virgin Islands and the Philippines.

As the climate crisis rages around the world, it challenges each of us to do whatever we can to help our children, our communities, and the planet. Scientists, universities, nonprofits, NGOs, as well as concerned parents, and youth environmental leaders are all working tirelessly to spread an urgent message: the next generation deserves the best educational tools to prepare them for their future.

To respond to this growing demand for the Institute's educational tools and trainings, we are gearing up to roll out the **Stone Soup Climate Education Platform** featuring lessons learned from these communities so that educators around the world can prepare their students for the challenges and opportunities facing us in the 21st century. This platform features the Institute's proprietary Learning Tools & Trainings, including our books, curricula, videos, and courses from Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI), Social Emotional Learning (SEL) and Servant Leadership to Climate Education and Sustainable Career Pathways.

Young people are hungering for solutions to the climate crisis -they are eager to learn how they can help, and they want to know how they can pursue jobs in a green economy. Business leaders of sustainability-oriented companies need a trained sustainable workforce. Educational institutions are eager to train them. The greatest challenge they find is that high school educators - as well as guidance counselors - need to expand their knowledge of the wide diversity of sustainable career pathways that will lead to good paying jobs and will help local communities transition to a sustainable economy. Imagine what millions of new jobs in emerging green energy industries could mean for our communities and our world. It's up to each one of us to respond and take action NOW.

The Institute's Case Studies Report demonstrates how these educational tools and trainings serve as a strong foundation that nurture partnerships that embrace the **Stone Soup Model** - when we all work together we can educate our young people and prepare them for the world they will inherit.

- **Children International Education: November 2023**
Awakening to the Climate Crisis: A Call to Action for Climate Education [article](#)

Highlights

➤ **Green Workforce Development: PowerCorps Boston**

Boston Mayor Michelle Wu has positioned the City as a green workforce leader and has established it as the second city in the country to adopt PowerCorps, a pilot program in conjunction with President Biden's America's Climate Corps to "mobilize the next generation of clean energy workers." PowerCorpsBOS' Green Industry Workforce Development provides young adults with training, career readiness support, and connections to employers in the green industry. An "earn and learn" program, PowerCorpsBOS pays members to participate in hands-on training that prepares them for living-wage careers. The Institute has been invited to collaborate with PowerCorpsBOS Program to train their facilitators to use the Sustainable Career Pathways with the *Stone Soup Climate Education Platform* to prepare students for the green industry. This training program has the potential to be scaled nationally.

➤ **Earth Day 2024 & The Stone Soup Climate Education Platform**

In collaboration with EarthDay.org's Planet vs. Plastics theme, The Institute developed **Earth Day 2024 Climate Education Platform** [site](#). This Platform gives educators FREE online education resources to develop activities with their students to learn about the impact of plastics on their environment and to organize sustainability projects to clean up their beaches and communities. It features stories from *Stone Soup for a Sustainable World: Life-Changing Stories of Young Heroes* about plastic-oriented heroes who are creating innovative solutions in their communities. To maximize the impact of the Institute's **Earth Day 2024 Climate Education Platform**, EarthDay.org's Climate Education Coalition shared these resources with educators around the world.

➤ **Green Job Shadow Day 2024**

For the Institute's Green Job Shadow on February 2 (Groundhog Day) we organized a free one-hour Brown Bag Lunch workshop to broaden educators and career counsellors' exposure to the increasing opportunities in the green economy and give them tools to empower their students for green jobs.

"Growing this workforce to adapt to climate change requires all hands-on-deck. "Educators and career counselors are the gatekeepers and the folks who have the most power to influence high school students to pursue sustainable career pathways," said the Institute's Founding Director, Marianne Larned. Guest speakers: Galen Ho, President/CEO and co-founder of ImmersiveWorlds LLC and Illai Kenney, co-founder of the HBCU Green Fund who is featured in the *Stone Soup for the World: Life-Changing Stories of Young Heroes*. Two teams from the City of Boston joined the Green Job Shadow Day Brown Bag Lunch. The Boston Green Academy's Dave Kramer and PowerCorpsBOS: Davo Jefferson, and Joey Pellegrino joined to learn how they might strengthen their green jobs program that provides young adults with training, career readiness support, and connections to employers in the green industry.

➤ **Sustainable Workforce Development: From a Vision to Action** [Blog & video](#)

➤ **The Cronkite Awards for Climate Education: April 2023**

The Cronkite Awards for Climate Education was an official hybrid event with **Earth Week** held in Connecticut, Hawaii, Massachusetts and New Jersey. We honored these leaders who have led visionary legislation to integrate climate education into their state's schools. They represent a model for future collaboration; with the Award we highlighted their leadership and built bridges to push this important agenda forward. Widely recognized as "the most trusted man in America," Walter Cronkite believed that journalism was a higher calling. Over 50 years ago he boldly covered the first Earth Day with the same passion he had for covering the moon landing, rallying more than 20 million Americans to join the emerging green movement. Mr. Cronkite served as The Institute's honorary chairperson for over a decade. It is his wisdom, leadership, and vision of preparing youth as future leaders that inspired the Institute's [Cronkite Awards](#).

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Highlights (cont.)

➤ **Bridgewater State University: Future Teacher Training: MASS STEM Week: Fall 2023:** [Blog](#)

Bridgewater State University is the largest teachers' college in Massachusetts. BSU President Fred Clark nominated outstanding BSU students to be trained as facilitators for the Institute's 19th Sustainability Summit to work with our high school students to develop their Sustainable Career Pathways [video](#) For MASS STEM Week the Institute conducted a future teacher training program in collaboration with BSU's Student Education Association of Massachusetts (SEAM) within The Massachusetts Teachers Association (MTA) and a State Chapter of the Student National Education Association (NEA).

➤ **The Institute's 19th Global Sustainability Summit: June 2023** [videos](#)

The Institute held its 19th Global Sustainability Summit with keynote remarks by State Senate Marc Pacheco "The work that this Institute is doing, to expose young people from throughout the world, to both the crisis and the opportunity that exists to change things, in a powerful way, is truly extraordinary." This week-long intensive leadership program empowers students to envision personal, professional, community and planetary goals – provided this year's youth delegations from Massachusetts and Terceira, Azores intensive training on how to build a sustainable world. Students explored sustainable workforce development opportunities and developed their Sustainable Career Pathways on the Institute's SustainWDN™ portal to pursue meaningful good-paying jobs, while helping to rebuild our planet.

➤ **The Institute's 2023 Progress Report: The State of Climate Education in U.S.& Europe 2023**

In the U.S., New Jersey and Connecticut are the first states to have passed legislation for climate education mandates. Starting this fall, public schools in these states are now required to teach climate education. While that's a good start, European and Asian countries are light years ahead of the US when it comes to climate education. In 2015, 178 member countries pledged to use the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a benchmark to focus their initiatives and measure their progress toward improving health and education, reducing inequality, and spurring economic growth—while also tackling the challenges of climate change and working to preserve and protect our oceans and forests. Yet even in those countries, the challenge is monumental: in a survey of 36 European countries most respondents reported that the responsibility of climate education lies with schools, and 70 % stated that the current school curriculum doesn't address climate education. When teachers were asked why they weren't farther along with implementing their climate education goals, 66 % said that training is lacking, and 51% cited a lack of climate education resources.

[Report](#)

➤ **Green Job Shadow Day: February-March 2023**

The Institute launched its first Green Job Shadow Day and its [Sustainable Career Mentor Initiative](#), a disruptive model designed to fast-track this emerging industry by connecting sustainability-oriented professionals as virtual mentors with young people in marginalized communities so they can pursue green jobs. This model will catalyze a regionally focused sustainable workforce development pipeline. We are seeking sustainability professionals to serve as mentors to help inspire and guide the next generation to create a greener, healthier, more productive world for all of us.

➤ [Sustainable Career Video Series](#)

➤ [Job Shadow Day](#)

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Building Sustainable Communities: The Institute's 25 Year Journey

Case Studies

For over 25 years, Massachusetts has been the Stone Soup Leadership Institute's learning laboratory for our sustainable workforce initiatives. Our educational tools and trainings empower young people to become leaders of a more sustainable world. Founded on the island of Martha's Vineyard in 1997, we've expanded our activities to communities across the state and around the world.

- [Boston](#)
- [Bristol County Agricultural High School](#)
- [Bristol Community College](#)
- [Cape Cod](#)
- [Fall River](#)
- [Holyoke](#)
- [Martha's Vineyard](#)
- [New Bedford](#)

- **Martha's Vineyard Youth Leadership Initiative:** [Martha's Vineyard Commission: 2010-2018](#)

The Martha's Vineyard Commission conducted an extensive 5-year community-wide planning process to determine the Island's needs and develop a vision for its future. The comprehensive Island Plan didn't include young people. Martha's Vineyard youth were trained by Vieques youth leaders to develop their **2020 Sustainable Vision Reports: Challenging Leaders to Create Sustainable Policies.**

MVYLI youth leaders worked for one year to research, understand this plan and then worked with the MV Commission's top cartographer to create a Sustainable Vineyard Map as a visible way to share their vision for how to create a sustainable Martha's Vineyard for future generations. During the Institute's Sustainability Summits and year-round youth-community leadership initiatives, these young people developed the skills, training, and experience they need to speak truth to power, and to challenge their leaders to create policies for adapting to climate change realities. They have represented their island communities at state, national, and global events like U.S. Secretary Kerry's Ocean Summit, along with leaders like Dr. Sylvia Earle, Leonardo DiCaprio, and Monaco's Prince Albert. In 2014, youth leaders presented the report to the Island's seasonal residents at The Institute's Walter Cronkite Awards.

- **Hawaii: Support Governor Ige's Vision of 100% Renewable Energy by 2045**
When he was just 16 years old, Trevor Tanaka secured champions in Hawaii's House of Representatives and Senate, made presentations, solicited testimonials from community leaders—and in just six months got his Sustainability Resolution passed in both houses of government. During the following nine years, he's been working on getting it implemented. Through this process, he—and all of our youth leaders—have learned a lot. We call this Policy-In- Action. It started with President Obama's speech at the 2011 APEC Summit in Honolulu, and led to the Institute's Sustainability Forums with youth, business, community, and government leaders and the Hawaii Department of Education. There, Trevor proudly presented a report on strategic recommendations from the Hawaii Governor's Report on Climate Preparedness Resiliency to President Obama. Then secured a grant from Hawaii's Department of Tourism, Business, and Economic Development to create an online system, the Sustainable Hawaii Toolkit. All this was to ensure that all of Hawaii's young people would learn about sustainability in school. Trevor achieved this by standing on the shoulders of youth leaders from Puerto Rico and Martha's Vineyard, who had championed Policy-In- Action projects.

- [Hawaii Governor Ige: 2014-2018](#)

- **Puerto Rico: Support Governor to Implement Healthy Communities Model**
Puerto Rico's Governor Sila Calderon was an ardent supporter of the Healthy Communities movement. She was pleased to learn that The Institute's founding director was one of its co-founders in the early 90's. She was intrigued that the book and curriculum, *Stone Soup for the World: Life-Changing Stories of Everyday*

Heroes (Pan Y Vino Para El Camino in Spanish) integrates the principles of healthy communities. She was impressed that there were ten Latin heroes in the book to showcase how people from Latin countries were re/building their communities. She invited The Institute to use this bi-lingual curriculum to realize her goal of empowering local communities to work together to address social, economic inequities in Puerto Rico. The Institute developed the Vieques Youth Leadership Initiative as a showcase for the Healthy Communities model.

➤ [Puerto Rico Demonstration Project: 2004-2007](#)

➤ [Puerto Rico Tourism Authority: 2007](#)

➤ **Sustainable Vision Reports for 2020: Challenges Leaders to Create Sustainable Policies**

As part of The Institute's youth leadership initiatives, we invite youth leaders to envision a sustainable future for their communities. Youth leaders from these communities created a 2020 Report for Sustainable Development, challenging their leaders to develop policies that protect their communities' fragile ecosystems, provide for their families, create opportunities for their children, and build a just, equitable, and sustainable future. Through our annual Sustainability Summits, Career Mentor & Job Shadow Day Program, College Prep & Community Service Programs and year-round youth community leadership initiatives we've inspired multicultural young people to become effective leaders of a more just, equitable and sustainable world. Through an intensive four-year visioning and community engagement process, participating youth prepared well-researched, well- documented presentations that challenged their leaders to develop policies that balance protecting their communities' fragile ecosystems, providing for their families, creating opportunities for their children, and building a prosperous future. They attracted like-minded people to join them in preserving their communities by attracting philanthropists, socially responsible investors, and venture capitalists to help them develop green projects. The report was presented to the Governor and Mayor of Vieques, who gifted 300 acres to build a green community for landless families.

➤ **British Virgin Islands: Sustainable Economic Development Mission: 2008-2010.**

The Institute organized an Economic Development Mission with Vieques Mayor and his Economic Development Council to the British Virgin Islands (BVI) to study sustainable island economic models. There Vieques youth presented their 2020 Sustainable Vision Report. The BVI Prime Minister was so impressed with their presentation he asked the Institute to develop the Virgin Gorda Youth Leadership Initiative.

➤ [Premier Orlando Smith, British Virgin Islands](#)

➤ **The Philippines**

Soon after the People Power movement in 1986, The Institute's founding director began a 30-year relationship with the Philippines. For the first assignment, she worked with President Cory Aquino's Ministry of Trade & Economic Development to develop a multi-national campaign to engage companies and individuals to support the new government. The theme of Bayanihan built on their cultural theme of inspiring people to work together for the good of their country. The inspiring story of People Power is a powerful story in the book, *Stone Soup for the World: Life-Changing Stories of Everyday Heroes*. The story spotlights the pioneering work of Marietta Primicias Goco who was a champion for women rights and economic development. In 2003 Mrs. Goco traveled from the Philippines to New York City to receive The Institute's Eleanor Roosevelt Award at a prestigious event attended by Walter Cronkite, Dr. Muhammad Yunus, and other dignitaries. That same year, the Franklin & Eleanor Roosevelt Institute sponsored a fact-finding mission on how Mrs. Goco embodied Eleanor Roosevelt as a champion for women's rights with microcredit/microfinance programs. She spearheaded the Social Reform Act, the first legislation of its kind in the country, and then served as the President's Commission to Fight Poverty, the first such commission in the world.

Thanks to the global press Mrs. Goco received from the Eleanor Roosevelt Award, she experienced a newly-achieved celebrity status, which she used to champion the arduous process of changing the Constitution of the Philippines. One of the significant outcomes of this historic initiative was that previously marginalized indigenous fisherfolk could now be equally represented, and her country could have a more equitable economy. The resulting microcredit/microfinance programs for indigenous fisherfolk have had a far-reaching

effect on this vulnerable island nation, leading to a reduction in the exploitive and destructive practices of detonating the seas to catch precious endangered fish for Chinese "delicacies." The 22-year-old Mitzi Jonelle Tan, who stands with and amplifies the voices of indigenous fisherfolk in the Philippines, is featured in the new book, *Stone Soup for a Sustainable World: Life-Changing Stories of Young Heroes*.

The Institute's Inner-City Initiatives

➤ **Oakland, California: 2002-2003**

The Institute developed a year-long program culminating with the Oakland Celebration of Heroes Awards Ceremony honoring young people for doing good deeds in their community. Captain Ray Gatchalian received the Institute's Community Hero Award from Oakland Mayor Jerry Brown. The Institute worked with the school's CNN Media Center to produce award winning *In Search of Oakland Heroes*, which was premiered at the event. [Video](#) The event was featured on all Bay Area TV stations to spotlight Oakland youth. During this program we organized Beautify Fremont High Day as a community service event to spruce up Fremont High School. The school's auditorium hadn't been used in many years – so we painted it and solicited new sound equipment for the event. We planted trees and flowers. Oakland Fire Department, East Bay Conservation Corps, parents, students, teachers and alumni participated. [Report](#)

➤ **Cincinnati, Ohio: 1999**

After racially sparked riots challenged this urban city, the Institute was invited to provide technical assistance and training of innovative solutions to youth and community leaders. The four-month initiative was launched with a **Leadership Breakfast** for corporate and community leaders at the prestigious **Metropolitan Club**. The Institute custom-designed a **Leadership Institute** for youth and community leaders who had the unique opportunity of working side-by-side these real-life heroes from the book *Stone Soup for the World: Life-Changing Stories of Everyday Heroes* who've overcome similar challenges facing their communities – from Boston to East St. Louis, Detroit to Oakland. The Institute was organized by Big Brothers Big Sisters of Cincinnati and sponsored by the Smith Family Foundation and the Meier Corporation. Teams of youth and community leaders from 25 different organizations were trained to build bridges and increase collaboration among diverse races, political, economic backgrounds. Organizations included Big Brothers Big Sisters of Cincinnati, American Red Cross, Cincinnati Enquirer, Miami University, Teen Response, the Urban League, Xavier High School, Ursuline Academy and other public, private and charter schools.

Outcomes

- Influenced Mayor to revise punitive "3 Strikes" policy by creating youth-police partnerships;
- Engaged State Congresswoman to lobby to reinstate funding for youth apprenticeships.
- Engaged entrepreneur to become a philanthropist, create a foundation and invest in a community center.

➤ **Baltimore, Maryland: 1998**

The Stone Soup Leadership Institute was invited to work with the Baltimore community for a year-long initiative. Our goals:

- Provide leadership training opportunity for the citywide campaign to improve children's health and safety.
- Connect [LEADERship Baltimore](#) alumni with teens and community workers.
- Develop a feeder system for **LEADERship Baltimore** with future and emerging leaders.

➤ **Boston: 2010**

The Institute developed an internship program with [Tech Boston Academy](#) for students: [Deandra Coleman](#) and Rolando Rhynie at the University of Massachusetts Boston. The Institute's program with Tech Boston Academy students was enriched by field trip to [DSNI](#) - Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative with Will Morales and a lunch at Faneuil Hall thanks to Brown Williams.

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The Institute's 25 Year Journey

Overview

California

- [Oakland Youth Leadership Program: 2003](#)
- [West Valley College Regenerative Agriculture Program, Saratoga, CA](#)
- [Redwood High School, Environmental Science Program, Redwood City, CA](#)

Hawaii: Hawaii: Governor's Goal: 100% Renewable Energy by 2045

- [Hawaii Governor Ige: 2014-2018](#)
- [Hawaii Island Mayor Billy Kenoi: 2011-2016](#)

Massachusetts: 1997-2023

- [Bristol County Agricultural High School: 2022-2023](#)
- [State Senator Marc Pacheco: 2022-2023](#)
- [Fall River Mayor Coogan: 2021-2022](#)
- [New Bedford Mayor Mitchell: 2018-2020](#)
- [Cape Cod Academy: 2020](#)
- [Boston Commissioner Morales Youth & Families: 2018](#)
- [Holyoke Mayor Morse: 2017-2019](#)
- [Martha's Vineyard Commission: 2010-2018](#)
 - [MVYLI 5 Year Report](#)
 - [MVYLI: Ocean Sustainability](#)

Puerto Rico: 2003-2007

- [Puerto Rico Governor Acaveda: 2005-2007](#)
- [Puerto Rico Governor Calderone: 2003-2005](#)
- [Puerto Rico Tourism Authority: 2007](#)
- [Mayor Damaso Economic Development Exchange: 2006](#)

Rhode Island

- [U.S. Senator Whitehouse: 2018+2019](#)
- [Newport Mayor Bova](#)

Philippines: 1987-2004

- President Cory Aquino's Ministry of Trade & Economic Development
- [President's Commissioner to Fight Poverty: Marietta Primicias Goco](#)

Virgin Gorda, British Virgin Islands: 2007-2010

- [Premier Orlando Smith](#)
- [Ministry of Education & Culture](#)
- [Caribbean Media Exchange](#)

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About the Stone Soup Leadership Institute

The Stone Soup Leadership Institute is a 5013c non-profit organization founded in 1997 on Martha's Vineyard. For over 25 years has been a leader in developing climate education and sustainable workforce development tools, trainings, and initiatives that empower young people to become leaders of a more just, equitable and sustainable world. The Institute's tools have been used by educators from the islands of Martha's Vineyard to Vieques, Puerto Rico, Hawaii, Philippines, Sri Lanka and British Virgin Islands to inner cities of Baltimore, Boston, Cincinnati, Holyoke, Fall River, New Bedford and Oakland. The Institute's Curriculum *Stone Soup for the World: Life-Changing Stories of Everyday Heroes* has been used in 120 communities around the world to teach Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI), Social Emotional Learning (SEL) and Service Learning. The Institute's [Stone Soup Climate Education Curriculum](#) features 100 Lesson Plans that bring to life the stories in the book, *Stone Soup for a Sustainable World: Life-Changing Stories of Young Heroes*. It is aligned with NGSS (Next Generation State Standards), California and Massachusetts state standards, and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG).

The Stone Soup Climate Education Platform is a comprehensive library of dynamic educational tools for teachers to educate their students using our books, videos and curricula, *Stone Soup for a Sustainable World: Life-Changing Stories of Young Heroes*. We incorporate best practices and sustainability innovations from 38 countries. It is aligned with U.N. Sustainable Development Goals; NGIS and state standards that fulfill state mandates.

Sustainable Workforce Development Network ([Sustain WDN™](#))

SustainWDN™ is a cutting-edge online platform that connects green companies with educators and guidance counselors to guide students towards sustainable career pathways. The SustainWDN™ Surveys collect data on green job projections so local communities can build a sustainable regional economy. This proprietary program takes climate and sustainability curriculum and pairs it with education on present and future sustainable career pathways, while connecting these communities with businesses and mentors to complete a full cycle professional development program. This community-based workforce development pipeline actively increases public private partnerships to help communities keep up with the burgeoning blue-green economy and the associated 10 million jobs that are going to be created in the next decade.

The Institute's Stone Soup Model integrates Design Thinking, Systems Change, and Healthy Communities to build bridges and maximizes public-private partnerships with business, government, and educational institutions to train the next generation of youth to create a sustainable economy.

Measurable, Actionable Results

Along with the Institute's educational programs, training, and career pipeline network in each of our partner sites, we offer carefully crafted surveys at various stages of our process to produce actionable metrics that allow community leaders to track progress, identify gaps and career tracks, and more (youth surveys, organizational surveys, business surveys, performance metrics). [MVYLI 5 Year Report](#)



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