



## The Stone Soup Leadership Institute's Annual Report 2024

Our call to action: we are all part of this journey to building a better, more sustainable world.  
And, together, we have the power to make it happen.

### Highlights

- **The Institute's Response to the World Bank Report**
- **Green Jobs Teacher Training Program for PowerCorps Boston**
- **Green Job Shadow Day** featuring the **HBCU Green Fund**.
- For **Earth Week**, produced a **one-stop online source** in partnership with **EarthDay.org**
- **Stone Soup Climate Education Teacher Training** in partnership with **Salem State University**
- **Cronkite Awards for Ocean Champions** in conjunction with **Climate Week New York City**

In 2024, the Stone Soup Leadership Institute reached major milestones in our commitment to education, sustainability, and climate action. Our work is a catalyst for change, inspiring young people to take bold steps in addressing the climate crisis. From pioneering climate education initiatives that integrate seamlessly into classrooms, to empowering students with hands-on training for green jobs, we have laid the groundwork for a sustainable future. With a focus on real-world solutions, education, and technology, we've cultivated the next generation of leaders ready to tackle the challenges of a changing world. This year we announced the Cronkite Ocean Initiative and marked the completion of several ambitious programs that are shaping the leaders of tomorrow. Every project, from our teacher training programs to global climate initiatives, is a reminder that the actions we take today will determine the world we leave behind for future generations.



The Institute's [Cronkite Awards for Ocean Champions](#) was held in conjunction with **Climate Week New York City** to spotlight The U.N. Goal #14 • Life Below Water and the U.N. Ocean Decade – The Science We Need for the Ocean We Want. (2021-2030). This year's recipient Henk Rogers was selected for his visionary leadership and philanthropy with the Blue Planet Alliance, the Global Ambassadors Program and the Blue Planet Climate Agreements with islands around the world. The other ocean champions featured in the book *Stone Soup for a Sustainable World: Life Changing Stories of Young Heroes* are Hawaii's Hokule'a Nainoa Thompson; Jasper Ralph, Plastic Free MV of Martha's Vineyard; Daniela Fernandez, Sustainable Ocean Alliance; Perry Raso, Matunouk Oyster Farm, Rhode Island; Angelique Pouponneau, SYAH-Seychelles; Gary Benchehib, Bali; Cruz Erdman, New Zealand; James Ellsmoor, Island Innovation; and François van den Abeele, Sea2See.



This prestigious event was hosted by Classic Harbor Line for the official christening of their newest schooner, the 90-foot Adirondack IV. **Walter Cronkite** christened their schooner Adirondack in 2008. We launched the **Institute's Cronkite Oceans Initiative** to honor Walter Cronkite's legacy and call on global leaders to support the proliferation of climate education to develop the next generation of climate leaders.

[Press](#) • [Video](#)





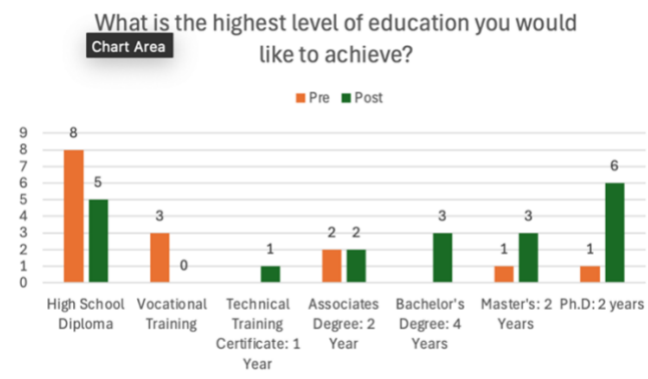
## PowerCorps Boston

The Institute was honored to be invited to develop a pilot program with **PowerCorps Boston**. As Mayor Michelle Wu is positioning Boston as a green workforce leader, she established PowerCorps Boston to adopt this innovative sustainability workforce program helping underserved communities. Growing the green workforce to adapt to increasing climate change requires all hands-on deck – especially in cities like Boston, where local companies are struggling to replenish their workforce pipeline as employees are aging-out. These young adults represent the new generation ready to rebuild the pipeline - and our cities and our planet. [Watch video](#)

*Building a Green Workforce: Celebrating the Second Anniversary of America's Climate Corps* [link](#)

The Institute customized a program using the *Stone Soup Climate Education Curriculum* to train facilitators to use **SustainWDN™ Career Pathways** to broaden awareness of well-paying green jobs. These young adults showed tremendous progress following the training program as shown in the **Institute's Pre-Post SustainWDN™ Survey** results. This training program has the potential to be scaled nationally to expand curriculum for President Biden's Climate Corps. [Read more >](#)

- **Education:** Once they saw the direct connection from higher education to higher salaries, they increased their aspirations to 300%;



**INNOVATE!**

**Illai Kenney**  
HBCU Green Fund.

**Galem Ho**  
CEO, Immersive Worlds

**Sustainable Workforce Development: From a Vision to Action**  
**Green Job Shadow Day 2024**  
**Educator & Guidance Counselors**

[Read More →](#)

### Green Job Shadow Day: 2024

On February 2, the Institute hosted its second annual **Green Job Shadow Day**. This free one-hour **Brown Bag Lunch** workshop broadened educators and career counsellors' exposure to the increasing opportunities in the green economy and give them tools to empower their students for green jobs. "Educators and guidance 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**. She welcomed our guest speakers: **Galen Ho**, President/CEO and co-founder of ImmersiveWorlds LLC and **Illai Kenney**, co-founder of the **HBCU Green Fund** featured in *Stone Soup for the World: Life-Changing Stories of Young Heroes*.

**Nina Potsiadlo**, Education Outreach Manager, featured Illai's story and video on the *Stone Soup Climate Education Curriculum* as she presented the soft launch of the **Innovate! Portal**. "Our goal is to make it a one-stop-shop to access resources for climate education, sustainable career pathways with stories, lesson plans, videos, social media and really to build bridges from education to green careers." The *Stone Soup Climate Education Curriculum* is here to help teachers and guidance counselors explore sustainable career pathways. As Chief Hoffer said, it's "Turnkey, ready to go!"

**Albert Perez**, STEM Teacher Trainer, then drilled down into *Stone Soup Climate Education Curriculum's* Lesson Plan to show educators how can guide students with the **Sustainable Career Pathways**. Each of the 100 digital and printable Lesson Plans seamlessly incorporate innovative solutions and sustainable career pathways. He spoke about the exciting opportunities for students with sustainability-oriented certificates – like green building. "If a student might not necessarily plan to go to college" he said. "Or might want to try something out while they're in high school – as a dual enrollment. They could start looking into what it means to pursue this green building technology certificate."

*Sustainable Workforce Development: From a Vision to Action* [link](#)



For Earth Day 2024, The Institute created a **one-stop online source** where educators can find digital and printable curriculum to teach climate change solutions, including inspiring stories, lesson plans, videos, and social media from the book, *Stone Soup for a Sustainable World: Life-Changing Stories of Young Heroes* and the *Stone Soup Climate Education Curriculum*. This portal features seven champions who are committed to stopping plastics from destroying the planet- by investing in education, engaging their communities, becoming social entrepreneurs, creating start-ups and green companies.



[Lilly Platt, Lilly's Plastic Pickup, The Netherlands](#)

Educators at the **Institute's Teacher Training Program** and year-long **Sustainability Initiative** were thrilled to have 13-year-old Lilly Platt speak to their students about plastic mitigation and share why she created Lilly's Plastic Pickup. She challenged them to think about all the ways that they use plastic - from fast food to grocery shopping, to their clothes. She lit a fire under them about the urgent challenge to reduce plastics in their lives-and pick up plastics everywhere!

*For This Earth Day Let's Commit to Doing Whatever We Can to STOP Using Plastic!* [link](#)



**Stone Soup Climate Education  
Teacher Training  
For MASS STEM Week • Oct. 19, 2024**



**Chairperson Keith Ratner, Marianne Larned,  
Kathryn Rodgers & Dr. Stephen Young**



**The Institute's Response to World Bank's Report  
*CHOOSING OUR FUTURE: Education for Climate Action***

The Institute launched its **Climate Education Teacher Training** in response to the World Bank's report, "*CHOOSING OUR FUTURE: Education for Climate Action*." This report's findings emphasize the crucial role of educators to address climate change, empower young people, and build a sustainable workforce.

"Education is the single strongest predictor of climate change awareness. It can play a catalytic role in climate change mitigation and adaptation by reshaping mindsets, behaviors, skills, and innovation." (*CHOOSING OUR FUTURE: Education for Climate Action*, p.5).

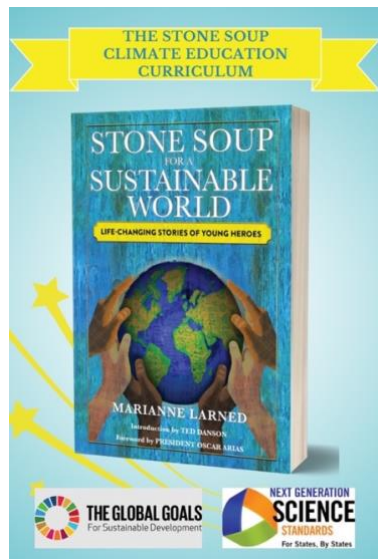
The Institute's *Stone Soup Climate Education Curriculum* and Teacher Training Modules, empower educators to seamlessly integrate climate education into all subjects. This training is aligned with NGSS and U.N. SDGs, making it a key resource for teachers who want to build their capacity to teach climate topics.

Held in conjunction with **MASS STEM Week**, the Institute's training was developed in partnership with Salem State University. "On behalf of our faculty and staff members, we're honored to host the Stone Soup Leadership Institute for this powerful professional development opportunity. Our STEM educators today are critical to the state's future as they build up a new generation of leaders. It's this generation who will join us in confronting the challenges unearthed by the climate crisis tomorrow," said the **University's President John Keenan**.

[Read More](#)

## About the Stone Soup Leadership Institute

For 28 years, The Institute has boldly pioneered a disruptive education initiative to empower the next generation with the tools they need – from climate education to sustainable career pathways – to become leaders of a more sustainable world. The *Stone Soup Climate Education Curriculum* equips them to empower the next generation to tackle the climate challenges ahead—for free.



The *Stone Soup Climate Education Curriculum* is the only comprehensive platform dedicated to climate education *and* sustainable career pathways, to prepare *all* young people for well-paying blue and green jobs. Based on the real-life stories of young people from 38 countries, the 100 easy-to-use lesson plans feature: Language Arts & STEM activities; Sustainability Innovations and Sustainable Career Pathways to green jobs. Endorsed by education, business, government leaders; Tested by educators and students in high schools; Developed with young people from the Institute’s climate education initiatives, it is aligned with MA State Standards and NGSS (20 states) and UN’s Sustainable Development Goal (SDG).

### *Stone Soup Climate Education Platform*

The Institute’s *Stone Soup Climate Education Platform* takes a broad, interdisciplinary approach to climate education, offering students from all backgrounds the opportunity to develop the skills they need to contribute to the green economy. [Read More](#)

The Institute is a Massachusetts non-profit education organization founded on Martha’s Vineyard in 1997. The Institute has worked with high school students and teachers in a variety of disciplines in Massachusetts – and around the world. The Institute’s [Case Studies](#) spotlights how the Stone Soup Model – with our educational tools and trainings – serves as a roadmap: when we all work together, we can build a more sustainable world.

As we look ahead to 2025 and beyond, the Stone Soup Leadership Institute stands resolute in our mission to empower and inspire the next generation of climate leaders. With the official launch of our national and global programs on the horizon, we are excited to broaden our reach through technology and continue collaborating with passionate individuals, educators, and organizations who share our vision for a more sustainable planet. This is a pivotal moment in history, and the opportunity to create lasting, positive change has never been greater. Our work is far from finished - in fact, it is just beginning. Through every initiative, from climate education to sustainable career pathways in the blue/green economy, we are sowing the seeds of a brighter future. As we continue to build bridges from education to action, we will see the seeds we plant today grow into the leaders who will drive change tomorrow. Together, we are not just educating about climate change - we are actively shaping the solutions needed to ensure a healthy, sustainable world. The future is ours to shape, and with every step we take, we are building a world that future generations will be proud to inherit. By working together, there is no limit to what we can achieve.

**Strategic partners and funders are invited to join with us** for first our national, then our global launch in 2025. We’re in this together, and everyone’s help is needed. In this way, we will honor Mr. Cronkite and his insurmountable spirit, creating a future that the next generation will be proud to inherit.

Stone Soup Leadership Institute  
[www.stonesoupleadership.org](http://www.stonesoupleadership.org)



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