



**The Stone Soup Leadership Institute**  
**Building Partnerships in Rhode Island for a Blue Economy**

**If we are going to build a sustainable world,  
we need to build a pipeline of youth trained for blue-green jobs.**

The Stone Soup Leadership Institute is uniquely positioned to help build a blue-green pipeline and a sustainable economy. We've inspired thousands of youth to get involved with local, national and global sustainability initiatives. We've worked with leaders from business, education, government, and communities to envision sustainable career pathways. We've matched youth with mentors in green-blue companies. We've seen green-blue companies thrive when they invest in mentoring local youth.

The Institute is honored to be invited to develop relationships with sustainability leaders in Rhode Island. We are impressed with Rhode Island's commitment to building a sustainable economy. We welcome the opportunity to develop a multi-year initiative with schools, organizations, companies, and government to build a resilient economy.

- U.S. Senator Whitehouse's **Energy, Environment and Ocean Leaders Day**.
- **Roger Williams University** hosted **The Institute's 14th Sustainability Summit**.
- RI youth delegates received citations from U.S. Senator Whitehouse and U.S. Representative David Cicilline.
- Partnered with **Sail Newport** and **Clean Ocean Access** for our Summit Sustainability Tour.
- **Rhode Island schools and environmental organizations** nominated youth to Sustainability Summit.
- Member of **Rhode Island Environmental Education Association**.
- Invited to **Volvo's Ocean Summit, Newport**.
- **SeaAhead's Bluetech Innovation World Oceans Day**, Providence and Blue Tech Night, Boston.
- EC4 with **The Governor's Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council** presentations.

For over 20 years, The Institute has worked alongside those on the front lines of resiliency and climate change, social justice and economic equity: from inner cities to rural islands. We've synthesized lessons learned and developed a grassroots model to train youth and local leaders, exchange innovative solutions and build resilient communities. We hosted **14 Sustainability Summits** to cross-fertilize best practices that address the UN Sustainable Development Goals. We organized **14 Sustainability Tours** to see first-hand the fragility of our ecosystems and discover innovative solutions. We developed eight youth and community leadership initiatives and hundreds of **Sustainability-In-Actions Projects**. We collaborate with business, state government Economic Development Departments, and Chambers of Commerce to **custom design workforce development initiatives** that address the economic, environmental and social issues of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We've developed three **Sustainable Vision for 2020 Reports**: presented at U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry's Ocean Summit (2014); The Institute's Sustainability Forum, Hawaii Governor for President Obama for Climate Preparedness & Resiliency (2014); Walter Cronkite Awards Ceremony on Martha's Vineyard (2014).

**The Institute's Sustainability Summit** is the foundation for our yearlong youth leadership initiatives that accelerate the development of "**21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills**" vital for green jobs. Through Sustainability-In-Action Projects, youth put into practice and develop leadership skills empowering them in their communities. **The Institute's mission** is to develop educational tools, trainings and initiatives to empower youth and their communities to work together to build the blue/green pipeline for a sustainable workforce & economy.

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## **The Institute's Youth Leadership Summit for Sustainable Development**

The cornerstone of the Institute's work is the **Youth Leadership Summit for Sustainable Development**. We've hosted 14 Summits in four locations in two countries from **Vieques, Puerto Rico to Virgin Gorda, British Virgin Islands to Martha's Vineyard and Rhode Island**. The Institute's focus on sustainability came about naturally. The first Summit was held in 2003 on the Island of Vieques, Puerto Rico with young people who were on the front lines of climate change. Their passion challenged the Institute's youth to become seekers, then pioneers and eventually front-runners in this urgent movement. We've inspired hundreds of multicultural, underserved youth around the world to become leaders, by taking initiative in their lives, their communities and their world. The weeklong leadership intensive inspires, educates and empowers people (ages 15-25) to envision their personal, professional, community and planetary goals and to develop unique five-year plans to keep them on track in year-round program. Sustainability is the touchstone of this weeklong intensive. The Summit begins with **Sustainability Tours**, where youth experience first-hand the fragility of our ecosystems and learn how they can preserve and protect for future generations. Youth delegates representing countries from around the world make presentations on sustainability initiatives in their communities. Summit delegates join in professional workgroups and learn about sustainable jobs and innovative projects. They learn critical thinking and decision-making skills, as well as how to troubleshoot challenges, make engaging presentations and develop strategies to recruit youth and convince local decision makers. Youth envision **Sustainability-In-Actions Projects** that address issues facing their communities. They share their visions and projects on our Summit videos. They leave the Summits empowered, lightning rods for positive change, and ready to become sustainability representatives of their communities. Their journeys are just beginning.

**The Institute's Methodology:** The Institute's Summit is based on three essential questions for each youth: ***What is your dream for your life? What is your dream for your community? What is your dream for your world?*** During the Summit, they learn tools and strategies so they can achieve these dreams.

**Summit Faculty: The Institute's Train-The-Trainer Empowerment Model** features youth graduates from previous Summits. They are invested in passing along Dr. King's legacy of Each One Teach One that creates a powerful multiplier effect. Young people, who are trained, become Emerging Leaders who train other youth. If scaled up, this model has significant long-term impact on marginalized communities around the world, especially to reverse the "brain drain" and inspire a whole new generation. “

**Nomination Process:** Young people are nominated by their communities to serve as Summit delegates. This approach encourages people to look for youth with promise, and encourages them to see youth as a new generation of leaders. The Institute invites outstanding youth from other communities to make presentations.

**The Institute's Performance Metrics** measures adaptability, communication, critical-thinking, conflict-resolution, teamwork, project management, and problem solving. These essential skills are indicative of success as leaders and of individual's potential for success in life in the 21st century job market.

### **Young People As Champions Of Sustainability Youth Led Digital Sustainability-In-Action Projects**

➤ **Sustainability is Fun**

**[www.sustainabilityisfun.com](http://www.sustainabilityisfun.com)**

This youth-designed site inspires young people to become champions of a sustainability world. It connects them with educational and cool interactive opportunities and prepares them for blue-green jobs and career pathways.

➤ **Sustainable Hawaii Toolkit APP**

**[www.sustainablehawaii toolkit.org](http://www.sustainablehawaii toolkit.org)**

This online toolkit provides free resources, learning tools, videos and green jobs sustainable workforce and contribute to Hawaii's goal of 100% Renewable Energy by 2045. Based on the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals, it serves as a global model

➤ **Sustainable Virtual Field Station: Martha's Vineyard**

**[www.virtualfieldstation.org](http://www.virtualfieldstation.org)**

Designed as a web-based education and research tool with maps, tools and sites, this is an invaluable resource connecting young people with real-life science applications; increased youth success with local/state Science Fairs; blue-green field trips, internships, and jobs.

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***Sustainability Is Our Touchstone --  
Building A Sustainable Future From The Ground Up.***

**The Institute's Sustainability Summit** serves as the foundation for our yearlong youth leadership initiatives that accelerates the development of "21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills" vital for green jobs. Through Sustainability-In-Action Projects, youth put into practice and develop leadership skills empowering them in their communities.

The Institute's book and bi-lingual educational curriculum, ***Stone Soup for the World: Life-Changing Stories of Everyday Heroes*** have been used by over 120 communities around the world to inspire people to overcome challenges and take initiative to improve their lives and their communities. This values-oriented, multidisciplinary approach teaches empathy and process-oriented critical thinking skills; makes learning meaningful to multicultural students; enhances language arts, civics & social studies, engages students in citizenship and leadership. These culturally inclusive educational tools inspire youth to stay in school, make something of themselves, give back to the world and become leaders for future generations.

**The Institute's Career Mentor & Job Shadow Day Program** is personalized workforce development training youth in "soft skills" and real-world situations to be powerful communicators, able to lead and work on teams, adaptable to the demands of various settings, able to problem solve, to think critically about issues, to resolve conflicts and utilize project management skills to get work done. Taking initiative in ones' life is especially critical for systemically disenfranchised communities in inner cities, rural areas and in island communities. The Institute is committed to bridging the cultural and economic divide so all people can succeed. With the Institute's guidance marginalized youth overcome seemingly insurmountable obstacles to achieve their goals of graduating from college, landing dream jobs and bettering their communities. The Institute's graduates are now successful entrepreneurs, educators, engineers, doctors and health care professionals, and immigration lawyers. A small nonprofit, the Institute has leveraged its resources to impact state and national policy.  
<http://www.touchstoneleaders.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/SSLI-workforce-development-2018.pdf>

**Our world is in urgent need of new leadership, innovative thinking, and action-oriented people who can work together to effectively build a sustainable world.**

**The Institute's TouchStone Leaders Platform**

The Institute's **TouchStone Leaders Platform** connects people around the world who are building a more sustainable world. Based on The Institute's twenty years of real-world experience, The Platform's content and methodologies train facilitators to be sustainable leaders. The TouchStone Leader's offerings are bottom-up lessons learned, working directly with community-based programs. They are action oriented making it possible for learning and social change to happen simultaneously and effectively.

**The Institute's TouchStone Leaders Platform's Life Planning Tools: Dream Map™** is an online framework for individualized learning, self-directed careers for 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce development, especially blue/green jobs. It is the window where global users access our educational tools, courses, trainings, mentors, resources so they can transform their lives, communities and world.

***Lighting the Way for a Sustainable Tomorrow***

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