



*The transition to a sustainable economy is the most challenging issue of the 21st century.*  
The Institute is committed to a future where sustainability is at the heart of our economies.

### *What We've Learned*

For over 25 years, the Institute has worked alongside companies, young people and their communities who are on the front lines of climate change, social justice, and economic equity. Island people are now “the canaries in the coal mine.” Every day they see their coastlines eroding, their fish supply depleted, plastics littering their beaches, and toxic waste and environmental hazards dumped into their pristine waters. The Institute is proud to have trained, mentored, supported, and shone a light on the next generation of talented, multicultural youth leaders who are working with others to build a more sustainable world.

### *The Challenge*

Young people are keen to get jobs and careers to rebuild the planet. However too few students today are getting the STEM education they'll need to navigate that new reality, or even a basic understanding of how important sustainability issues are for their future. Ironically, at a time when we need more STEM education to help students prepare for the transition to a sustainable economy, schools are struggling to hire and keep STEM teachers. Some schools are even cutting their STEM programs to meet budget demands. In Hawaii, where they've set a goal of 100 % renewable energy by 2045, their education system is painfully unprepared to prepare its students to contribute to this ambitious goal. The rebuilding of our world in a sustainable way is urgent —one that provides opportunities for everyone.

### *The Solution: INNOVATE!*

Innovation is the key to building a more sustainable world. Young people are eager to learn how to innovate solutions for the myriad of climate change problems we are facing. We need to match their desire to innovate with the opportunities, connect them with green entrepreneurs and inventors who are working on creating tomorrow's solutions. The stories in the new book *Stone Soup for a Sustainable World: Life-Changing Stories of Young Heroes* show how this combination is a win-win. Stories of 100 green inventors and entrepreneurs, climate change trailblazers, environmental justice changemakers, sustainable business leaders from 38 countries inspire us all to join with young people to build a more just, equitable, and sustainable world.

### *Building Sustainable Career Pathways*

**SustainWDN™** is our cutting-edge digital workforce development platform that connects youth with Sustainable Career Pathways. **SustainWDN™** builds bridges with business, schools, and community leaders to ensure that their communities are ready for this transition to a sustainable economy. Our forward-thinking partners include companies across the green-blue sectors, environmental organizations, educational institutions, technical and vocational programs, and most importantly, motivated and dedicated youth across the country who are eager to unite for a more equitable and sustainable future.

The Institute is eager to scale this platform to reach schools and companies nationwide. It is urgent that we encourage our young people to pursue these sustainable careers – and give our schools the resources to adjust their academic and career counseling programs to this sustainable economy. As you envision your company's future, we hope you will partner with us for your community and for our world.