



The Stone Soup Leadership Institute's BETA Program 2021-2022 Durfee High School CTE's Environmental Science & Tech Program Overview

It's been said that Durfee High School is the economic engine of Fall River. The transition to the blue-green economy is one of its greatest challenges and opportunities for Fall River and the Southcoast region. Over the years, the Stone Soup Leadership Institute was approached by Bristol Community College professors and the business community: "We have blue/green companies who are eager to hire students. How can we get students to pursue these sustainable careers?"

Last fall the Institute was invited to assist with Durfee High School's CTE Environmental Science & Tech Program. The Institute in partnership with CTE Teacher Tess Bradley custom tailored a **10-week BETA Program** as a dynamic, hybrid interactive learning experience. Tess used the BETA program with her students to enhance her program by creating real-life role models and opportunities in student's fields of interest, gain real-world learning and have fun! **VIDEO:** [Tess Bradley BETA Overview](#)

Each week we featured a story and lesson plans from the companion curriculum for our new book, ***Stone Soup for the Sustainable World: Life-Changing Stories of Young Everyday Heroes***. The Lesson Plans bring the stories to life with STEM Activities, Sustainability Innovations and Sustainable Career Pathways. To broaden students' awareness of real-jobs in their community, we showcased one of the 50+ one-year certificates at Bristol Community College: Clean Water Management, Solar Tech, Sustainable Agriculture, Offshore Wind, and Green Building. Throughout the program, students had the opportunity to listen to live (and virtual) speakers within different fields of sustainability and learn about the steps needed to pursue a sustainable career. The Institute's multicultural team of facilitators worked with Tess Bradley to inspire her students to pursue these new career pathways in this emerging blue-green economy. In addition to receiving the book and personalized notebooks, students received T-shirts, water bottles and certificates upon completion.

On March 4, students will graduate from the BETA Program. A Sustainability Tour will follow on May 13. On December 15, 2021, we invited Fall River Mayor and Superintendent, and business leaders to meet Durfee CTE's students, listen to them share their Sustainability Career Pathways and explore how we might work together to build a pipeline as Fall River and the Southcoast transition to the sustainable economy.

The Herald News: [How this Durfee Program is preparing students for the "Blue and Green Economy"](#)

Our relationship with the Stone Soup Leadership Institute has benefited our students immensely.

It's opened their eyes to jobs in the blue and green economies. It's helped develop ideas about students in their pathways in life.

I look forward to taking the next step with the Institute to see where this leads us.

Matthew Desmarais, Principal, BMC Durfee High School, Fall River, MA

For Science/STEM Educators: these educational tools are aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards, which are focused on helping students develop a coherent and scientifically based view of the world, convert their ideas into tangible, real-life projects. They have been adopted by 27 states across the country.

For Guidance Counselors For over 25 years, the Institute has been a leader in developing dynamic educational tools, trainings, and leadership and workforce development initiatives that empower students to help build a more sustainable world. We've developed a digital ecosystem that builds bridges between guidance counselors, students and companies to build a sustainable workforce development pipeline.

The Institute's Other BETA Sites • Southeastern New England: Blue Economy

- [Martha's Vineyard](#) (2000-2002 + 2010-2018)
- [New Bedford BETA Site: 2018-2019](#)
- [Cape Cod BETA Site: 2020](#)
- [Rhode Island: Newport: 2017-2020](#)

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