



The Stone Soup Leadership Institute's  
East Coast Sustainability Tour  
with  
Durfee High School's CTE's  
Environmental Science & Tech Program  
May 2022



Stone Soup Leadership Institute  
[www.stonesoupleadership.org](http://www.stonesoupleadership.org)  
<https://sustainwdn.com/durfee-high-school-beta/>



**The Stone Soup Leadership Institute's  
Durfee High School CTE's Program  
Sustainability Tour 2022**

The Stone Soup Leadership Institute completed its East Coast BETA program with a Sustainability Tour with Durfee High School CTE's Program. Young people and educators were inspired and impressed to discover the exciting resources in their community - from companies, organizations and educational institutions that focus on building a Blue-Green Economy on the Southcoast.

During the BETA program, students gained valuable knowledge about sustainability-oriented certificates and sustainable career pathways. The Sustainability Tour gave students first-hand experience the impact that sustainable projects have on improving their local community.



**Fall River & Southcoast Leadership**

The transition to a sustainable economy is the greatest challenge in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Creating a workforce development pipeline and an ecosystem for building a sustainable economy depends on a strong partnership between local education systems and companies and their communities. The Southcoast and Massachusetts has been an early leader in the nation's transition to the sustainable economy. Fall River students will benefit by pursuing sustainable career pathways for high-paying jobs in the emerging Blue & Green economy.

**The Institute's Sustainability Tour: May 13**



In the BETA program, we have focused on five major sustainability certificates offered at Bristol Community College. We then matched them with locations that would best exemplify careers in these fields: Offshore Wind, Solar Energy, Green Building, Sustainable Agriculture, and Clean Water Management.

**Sustainability Tour 2022**

- Offshore Wind & Green Building**
- Massachusetts Maritime Academy

- Sustainable Agriculture**
- Southcoast YMCA's Sharing the Harvest Farm

- Marine Biology & Blue Tech**
- UMass Dartmouth: SMAST Fisheries
  - Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution

- Clean Water Management**
- Bristol Community College

**Sustainability Tour VIDEO**

During this day-long adventure, students shared highlights of their experience on the Sustainability Tour. We produced a short video to share with the community about the lessons they've learned in the BETA program and how the Sustainability Tour gave them a hands-on experience to apply towards their future career pathways. The video will be featured on the **Fall River Community Television**.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HNr2ZvF\\_pvI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HNr2ZvF_pvI)



Our first stop on the tour was the Massachusetts Maritime Academy. Thanks to Kathy Driscoll, we toured their campus and got to learn about the seven different degree programs offered on campus and the career-focused projects and courses that students take. Our tour included observations of aquaculture experiments, understanding their work with vessels and transport, examining and wind turbine and reviewing their class structure and hands-on tools.



During his interview, **Benjamin Tierney** shared this thoughtful insight about his experience at the Massachusetts Maritime Academy: “My favorite part of the day was learning about the inside of a wind turbine. Ever since I was a child, I wanted to learn about turbines and their effect on renewable energy.”



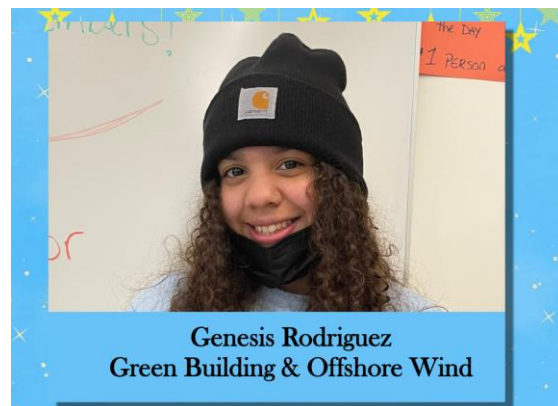
**Benjamin Tierney**  
Clean Water Management



Other students visited the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI). Derek Buffit led the Tour gave students to learn about the active projects at the [AVAST Building](#) (Quissett Research Facility). Everyone agreed that they would like to spend a whole day at WHOI with their amazing learning opportunities for all age groups from K-12 and graduates. Special thanks to Paul Matthias and John. Reine for their support for the Tour.



On the tour, **Genesis Rodriguez** shared her excitement about the Tour “This experience is great and I really liked meeting with all of the different people and learning about how to create our own experiences.”



**Genesis Rodriguez**  
Green Building & Offshore Wind



As students prepared for lunch, we stopped at the Sharing the Harvest Community Farm at the Dartmouth YMCA. At the farm, Ashley Brister took the students on a tour of the farm and techniques that they have developed to find more success year-round. As classroom gardeners themselves, the students got to learn traditional farming and greenhouse farming techniques to take back with them to their classroom.



After the Tour, **Laniya Comas** shared her thoughts on the farm tour and her plans for the summer: “My favorite part of the tour was the YMCA Farm. I loved learning about the plants and greenhouse techniques they are using. My summer goal is to apply to work at a greenhouse in my local community.”



**Laniya Comas**  
Green Building



Our final Tour destination was the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth’s School for Marine Science and Technology. UMD SMAST was a unique opportunity for the students to learn about the different types of graduate programs that are available within marine research or marine trade. Our guide, Christopher Rillahan, included highlights of fish population research, assessing marine organisms within controlled environments and learning about marine trade techniques.



As the Tour concluded, **Gavin Pacheco** had these thoughts: “I really enjoyed viewing the farm and seeing the way everything was run here. My favorite part of program was meeting people within different sustainability fields and hearing about their personal story that got them to this point.”



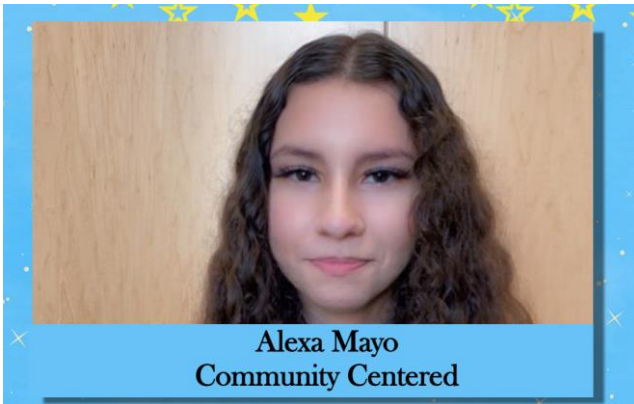
**Gavin Pacheco**  
Offshore Wind & Solar Tech

Throughout the tour, each of the students were given the opportunity to answer questions about their experience in the program and on the tour. As an organization, we love to have the students’ voices remain at the forefront of the conversation so that we can work together to create a more sustainable future for us and them! Here are some of the students we have not heard from yet!



**Angelee Sok**  
Sustainable Agriculture & Entrepreneurship

**Angelee Sok:** “My favorite part of the Stone Soup program was coming on this Tour and meeting all of the guests. I have learned a lot from both the weekly speakers and the leaders of our tours today.”



**Alexa Mayo**  
Community Centered

**Alexya Mayo:** “My favorite part of the program was seeing the connection between all of the speakers’ stories to careers that can help us become more sustainable.”



**Naziya Taillon**  
Design

**Naziya Taillon:** “My favorite part of this experience was connecting with people who had the same interests as me and watching them turn those things into a similar future that I would like to pursue.”

The students were able to have this unique experience thanks to their educators and members of the Stone Soup Team. Here are some of reflections from the adults who were able to make this trip possible:



*I am very grateful for the Stone Soup program and being able to participate in this Sustainability Tour. It was a great opportunity for my students who are deciding between pursuing a career, 2- and 4-year college or graduate level programs. We are thankful to all of our hosts who took time out of their day to show us all of the amazing projects available for students.*

**Tess Bradley: Durfee High School CTE Environmental & Tech Program Educator**

*The goal of the program was to introduce students to new aspects of the blue and green economy. They started off as shy students but grew into engaged participants who had a genuine interest in all that the program had to offer. We had an amazing ending with the Sustainability Tour! It would be great if all students could have this opportunity so they can help the world become a better place.*

**Berta Perez**  
BETA Site Facilitator & Event Coordinator

*As a Stone Soup educator for the past 5 years, the Sustainability Tour is always one of my favorite events. The value of learning from hard-working professionals who prioritize the environment is hard to put into words. Our team and the Durfee High School students are thankful to all of our host organizations, companies and educational institutions for welcoming us to visit their amazing business and organizations.*

**Trevor Tanaka**  
Sustainability Coordinator

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