



TAG: MA State Senator Pacheco Opens the Stone Soup Leadership Institute's 19th Sustainability Summit.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 8, 2023

Contact: Trevor@StoneSoupLeadership.org
Scott.Young@MASenate.gov

BOSTON- The **Stone Soup Leadership Institute** opened its 19th Global Sustainability Summit at Bristol County Agricultural High School in Massachusetts on Monday, kicking-off a week-long program for student participants from Massachusetts and Terceira, Azores with keynote remarks by **Dean of the Massachusetts Senate Marc R. Pacheco (D-Taunton)**.

The 2023 Global Sustainability Summit – a hybrid event designed to empower students to envision personal, professional, community and planetary goals – will provide this year’s youth delegation intensive training on how to build a sustainable world.

“I am honored to have been invited to deliver keynote remarks at this week’s Global Sustainability Summit hosted by the Stone Soup Leadership Institute at Bristol County Agricultural High,” said **Dean of the Massachusetts Senate Marc R. Pacheco**. “Providing students accurate facts and information relative to our ongoing climate crisis has consistently proven to yield significant benefits and I am very pleased to support opportunities for climate education and international collaboration for local students in the district I represent.”

The Summit also features a variety of prominent sustainability experts and professionals including: **Ana Sophia Mifsud (Rocky Mountain Institute)**; **Kersey Sturdivant PhD. (INSPIRE Environmental)**; **Sena Wazer (The Climate Reality Project)**; **Professor Robert Rak (The Blue Center, Bristol Community College)**; and a number of emerging leaders featured in *Stone Soup for a Sustainable World: Life-Changing Stories of Young Heroes*.

“The Stone Soup Leadership Institute would like to thank Keynote Speaker Senator Marc Pacheco for his leadership on the issue of climate change, and for being a champion for climate education,” said **Stone Soup Leadership Institute Founding Director Marianne Larned**. “We were extremely pleased to have recently awarded the Senator our organization’s *Cronkite Award for Climate Education* for his support for climate education opportunities, such as the ‘Climate Corps’ initiative recently approved by the Senate.”

Senator Pacheco sponsored a legislative amendment adopted unanimously by the Massachusetts Senate in its FY2024 State Budget supporting the implementation of curriculum-based service learning initiatives throughout the Commonwealth. **Amendment 701** specifically authorizes the Secretary of Education to establish “a Climate Corps” in order to provide students a practical understanding of the overall topic and help Massachusetts maintain a robust clean energy economy.

“Beyond establishing new pipelines for our modern workforce, climate-based curriculum opportunities also ensure future generations understand the existential challenges affecting our planet,” added **Senator Pacheco**. “Many thanks to the Institute’s Founding Director Marianne Larned, her seasoned global team, and all the impressive students participating in this 19th Global Sustainability Summit.”

At the Sustainability Summit, The Institute announced their new progress report on Climate Education in the U.S. Europe and Asia.

Progress Report: Climate Education in the U.S. New Jersey and Connecticut are the first two states to legislate a mandate to require schools to teach climate education – which will be implemented in all schools in the fall, 2023. Other states are following in their footsteps and others are pursuing alternatives to mandates.

Progress Report: Climate Education in Europe and Asia

European and Asian countries are years ahead of the U.S. In 2015 at the Paris Agreement, the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change was developed to encourage everyone to develop climate education initiatives. EU and Asian countries took this challenge very seriously and use the UNESCO framework: The Education for Sustainable Development: Towards Achieving the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDG).

Survey results of 36 European countries on climate education by Erasmus, School Education Gateway (2020):

- The responsibility of climate education lies with schools.
- 70% respondents stated that the current school curriculum doesn't address climate education.

It been 8 years since the Paris Agreement – how are they doing?

- **Portugal** has the best track record in Europe. In Terceira, Azores, they even have the UNSDG goals prominently featured in their school lobby.

Given their track record, why are more EU countries not farther along with implementing climate education goals. The survey identified the main reasons why teachers might not incorporate climate education into their lessons.

- 66% respondents: a lack of expertise or training.
- 51%: a shortage of climate education resources.

At the Institute's Sustainability Summit this week, youth delegates made presentations on six of the 17 U.N. SDG goals on how climate change affects this issue in their communities as well as the sustainability innovations being developed – Sustainable Agriculture (2); Clean Water & Sanitation (6), Renewable Energy (7); Sustainable Cities/Communities (11); Responsible Consumption (12), Climate Change (13), Life Below Water (14). Each afternoon, students explored sustainable workforce development opportunities and developed their Sustainable Career Pathways and 5-year plans to pursue meaningful good-paying jobs, while helping to rebuild our planet.

“The transition to a sustainable economy is the most challenging issue of the 21st century,” says **Marianne Larned**. “Young people deserve the best educational tools to prepare them for their future. They are eager to learn about climate education and how to pursue their sustainable career pathways. It's up to each one of us to respond and to take action with the urgency of NOW.”

About the Stone Soup Leadership Institute: The Institute is a Massachusetts non-profit organization founded in 1997 on Martha's Vineyard. For over 25 years has been a leader in developing climate education and sustainable workforce development tools, trainings, and initiatives ([Case Studies](#)). The Institute's [Stone Soup Climate Education Curriculum](#) features 100 Lesson Plans that bring to life the stories in the book, ***Stone Soup for a Sustainable World: Life-Changing Stories of Young Heroes***. It is aligned with Massachusetts state standards, NGSS (Next Generation State Standards), as well as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG).

Stone Soup Leadership Institute
www.stonesoupleadership.org