

Blue Economy Case Study: 2010-2019

Martha's Vineyard Youth Leadership Initiative

SustainWDN™ Pathway: Sustainable Planning



Our Partners

- Martha's Vineyard Commission
- Martha's Vineyard Regional High School
- Martha's Vineyard Sustainability Organizations
- AmeriCorps
- Governor's Statewide Youth Council
- Cape & Islands Youth Congress
- Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup Initiative
- Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute
- YMCA of Martha's Vineyard

Impact

- 100's of youth empowered to become leaders and challenge leaders for actionable policies for climate change.
- Engaged 100's of mentors for Martha's Vineyard youth.
- Presented **Sustainable Vineyard 2020** report to the Island's seasonal residents at the **Institute's Walter Cronkite Awards**

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The Institute worked with education, community and business leaders to develop year-round youth leadership programs that empowered youth to become leaders & create partnerships to envision a Sustainable Martha's Vineyard.

The Challenges

- The Martha's Vineyard Commission conducted a 5-year community-wide planning process to determine the Island's needs and develop a vision for its future. However, this comprehensive Island Plan didn't include its future leaders: young people's voices.

Strategic Implementation

- MVYLI youth were trained to work with the MV Commission's top cartographer to create a **Sustainable Vineyard Map** as a visible way to share their vision for a sustainable Martha's Vineyard, empowering them to push for meaningful change.
- Youth represented U.S. Secretary Kerry's Ocean Summit with Dr. Sylvia Earle, Leonardo DiCaprio, Monaco's Prince Albert.
- **Youth Leadership Summits** with global island youth
- Vieques youth leaders trained MVYLI youth to develop Sustainable 2020 Vision Report.
- Sustainability-in-Action Projects
- Farmer's Roundtable led to sustainable initiatives
- Multicultural Leadership Projects
- Career Mentor & Job Shadow Day
- Conferences: Bioneers by the Bay, NAACP Juneteenth

Community Engagement Process

- Gandhi Youth Forum with Gandhi's grandson
- Walter Cronkite Awards Ceremony
- Scholarships presented to all alumni as graduating seniors.

*The Institute's Martha's Vineyard Youth Leadership Initiative mission is to train young people to become leaders in the 21st century. MVYLI is very much aligned with my 5-year plan for Martha's Vineyard Public Schools. Our students have greatly benefited from MVYLI's emphasis on critical thinking, problem solving, expanding their horizons and helping them think about their future. Over the years they have helped catalyze significant financial support for our Vineyard youth. **Matthew D'Andrea** Superintendent, Martha's Vineyard Regional Schools*