



The Martha's Vineyard Youth Leadership Initiative's Sustainable Vineyard Map & 2020 Vision Project: 2009-2013

YOUTH DELEGATES

Marcelle Alves
Lucas Amirians
Silas Berlin
Sivana Brown
Toron DeLuz
Lucie Dougherty
Isabella El-Deiry
Taynara Goncalves
Kristine Hopkins
Nathaniel Horwitz
Wyatt Jenkinson
Willoe Maynard
Charlotte McCarron
Lilly Neville
Anne Ollen
Mary Ollen
Isabel Smith
Oshantay Waite

GRADUATES

Class of 2013

Shavanae Anderson
Sivana Brown
Julia Cooper
Kelsey Dandenau
Isabella El-Deiry
Jacob Lawrence
Charles Pikor
Maggie Riseborough
Oscar Thompson

Class of 2012

Je' Vaughn Crooks
Warren Gowell
Eva Faber
Shelby Ferry
Cerina Gordon
Emma HallBilsback
Chris Pitt
Andrew Randall
Anna Hughes
Meagan McDonough

Class of 2011

Amoy Anderson
Shawna Brown
Evan Hall
Isaac Hurwitz
Grant Meacham
Courtney Minnehan
Kayla Johnson
Mary Vogel
Lisa Wilson

Somewhere on the planet someone has a solution to each of the world's problems. Stone Soup for the World asks each one of us to take that first step. It's time to roll up our sleeves. It's time to take action -- and chart the course for our future.

Walter Cronkite

What started out as a response to Walter Cronkite's challenge, became an annual **Youth Leadership Summit on Sustainable Development** on Martha's Vineyard. Inspired youth with an idyllic vision for their Island created a map that directs our choices today for future generations. For the last four years, MVYLI youth have strived to respond to this challenge. They've tackled big questions: *What is my dream ... for my life, my island, my world?*

They aspire to be environmental scientists, farmers, biologists, doctors, nurses, physical therapists, lawyers, politicians, public relations, international relations, artists, musicians, film makers, business executives, entrepreneurs. While they each pursue different life paths, they have one goal in common - to preserve the **Vineyard way of life** -- for the next 7 generations.

"The Green Generation"

Each year a new group of Vineyard youth join together to carry on this mission. They dedicate a week of their precious summer to learn how to keep the Island green. They start with a **Sustainable Vineyard Tour** where they explore some eco-tourism spots. During the Summit, they learn from local and global sustainability champions and seasoned youth leaders from other islands who share their vision and lessons learned. During the year they create **Sustainability-In-Action Projects** with those who care about the Island.

They've collaborated with the **Martha's Vineyard Commission** to create the **MVYLI Sustainable Vineyard Map & 2020 Vision Project** as a visual tool to express their ideas. Each summer they share it at the **Annual Walter Cronkite Awards Ceremony**. They want everyone who loves the Vineyard to see it with "green eyes". They want to attract like-minded people to the Island: from eco-tourists, to green philanthropists and investors. They want to create a multiplier effect - green jobs for Island youth for sustainable projects. They want to develop a sustainable Island economy for our collective future.

The Vineyard Way of Life, A Sustainable Vision

The Martha's Vineyard Youth Leadership Initiative is a pioneering effort to give young people the opportunity to envision and create their future. **The MVYLI Sustainable Vineyard Map & 2020 Vision Project** evolved from a concern that Vineyard youth voices needed to be heard. In 2009, the Martha's Vineyard Commission completed a 5-year community planning process resulting in **The Island Plan: a Vision for 2050**. However, Vineyard youth weren't invited. If we hope youth will contribute to the Island's future, we must engage them now.

They hope you will join with them!

The Martha's Vineyard Commission sees the Youth Leadership Summit as a unique opportunity to engage Vineyard youth in the issues addressed in the Island Plan. We are prepared to serve as a resource for Vineyard youth as they develop their Sustainability-In-Action projects in the coming years. We look forward to working together to prepare a new generation of leaders for the 21st century.

Mark London, Director, Martha's Vineyard Commission



The MVYLI Sustainable Vineyard Map Project originated at the 2010 **Youth Leadership Summit for Sustainable Development**. During this week-long leadership training program, youth from Martha's Vineyard and other islands united to envision and develop their personal, professional, island and planetary goals. MVYLI is a project of the **Stone Soup Leadership Institute**, a non-profit organization founded in 1997 on Martha's Vineyard. Walter Cronkite was the Institute's honorary chair for over a decade.



Youth begin their week at the Summit by walking on **Lucy Vincent Beach**, where the original "magic stone" was found, that led to the book, curriculum and the Institute. Each youth finds their own "magic stone" -- and shares how it speaks to them. During their beach walk they are painfully aware of the effects of coastal erosion on the Island. Together they create a unique beach mural, which is dedicated to all Island youth and **Hands Across The Oceans**. Their stone becomes the foundation for creating a sustainable soup, nurtured by them, our future leaders.



During the Summit MVYLI youth take their first steps to promote sustainability throughout the Island.

What is Sustainable Development?

Development that meets the needs of the present world without compromising future generations.



At the 2010 Summit youth met the Vineyard farmer featured in the Institute's book who rallied people to rebuild the Island's beloved old Ag Hall in 1995. They've also met Island legends like **Bob Woodruff, Dave Grunden, Bob Lee, Ana Edey** as well as the new emerging leaders of sustainability including **MV Vision Fellows Noli Taylor, Emma Greenbeach, Liz Baldwin, Kaila Binney, Ana Carvalho and Signe Benjamin**. They freely shared their time, wisdom, lesson learned and challenges -- passing on this legacy to our future leaders. **Sidney Morris** facilitated an exploration for youth to define sustainable development. They then created four sustainable groups: energy, transportation, culture, and resources (farming: aquatic and agricultural, green businesses etc.). Using these sites as a guide, MV Commission's cartographer, **Chris Seidel** showed youth how to put them on the Map -- and create a legend. Each year Chris works with the new youth to update and improve the Map.

Sustainable Vineyard Tours

Each year's Summit begins with a day-long Sustainable Vineyard Tour, highlighting innovative green projects, programs and organizations as well as environmental challenges facing the Island.

2013: Cultural Sustainability & Green Business: Wampanoag entrepreneur Juli Vanderhoop at **Orange Peel Bakery**; business owner Steve Bernier, **Cronig's Market Solar Project**; **Building:** Richard Saltzberg, homeowner at **Eliakim's Way**; award winning organic groundskeeper **Jeff Carlson at Vineyard Golf Course**; and **Agriculture: Keith Wilda at Thimble Farm** whose 5-year plan is to feed the Island's school children.

2012: Agriculture & Wind: Clarissa Allen, **Allen Farm, Jim Athern, Morning Glory Farm**, and Sidney Morris, **The Farm Institute**; **Building:** Randi Baird, **Island Co-Housing** and Lilly Morris, **Eliakim's Way**, and the off-the-grid/self-sufficient home of **Winn & Leslie Self, Chappaquidick**.

2011: Agriculture: Island Grown Schools with Noli Taylor and **The Farm Institute** with Sidney Morris; **Aquaculture: Martha's Vineyard Fish Hatchery** with Emma Greenbeach; **Building:** Island Co-Housing; **Green Businesses: EcoMV, Island Alpaca** and **The Hob Nob Inn** and **Recycling: West Tisbury Dump Dot's Boutique**.

2010: Cultural Sustainability, Compost Toilets & Solar: Wampanoag Tribal Center with Chief Ryan Mallison, African American Heritage Trail; **Agriculture: Andrew Woodruff, Whippoorwill Farm**, Sidney Morris, **The Farm Institute**; **Building:** Bob Lee, **Island Co-Housing**; **Solar sites:** Steamship Authority Terminal, Vineyard Haven, MV Regional High School, YMCA Martha's Vineyard. **Tour Guides:** youth Oscar Thompson and Bob Woodruff.

Each Summit youth venture out on **Eco-Tourism Adventures** to learn about the fragile beauty of the Island's water habitat with **Captain Buddy Vanderhoop's Tomahawk Charters** sustainable fishing practices in Menemsha Harbor, with **Trustees of the Reservation at Cape Poge Wildlife Refuge** to witness the devastating effects of coastal erosion and with **Island Spirit Kayaks** and **Dave Grunden** to see the million oysters planted to reduce damaging nitrogen.

Island Youth Inspiring Each Other

At each Summit, Vineyard youth learn from other young people who are striving to build sustainable islands. Islanders are unique people. By design, they must adopt sustainable lifestyles -- they must learn how to live with less, to reuse and recycle, to buy local, to reduce their carbon footprint and adjust to changing weather. Just to survive on islands, people must help each other out here, be good neighbors and work together. They must work together just to survive. And like the "canary in the coal mine" they are the first to see the impact of climate change. After a hurricane, they might be without water for days, even longer. At the Institute's first Summit on another island, youth lived without water for a whole month - and gave a workshop on "how to take a bath with a gallon of water."

The cross fertilization of ideas from island youth strengthens their combined resolve to work towards realizing their dreams of sustainable islands. **Nantucket** youth shared their renewable energy project; **Caribbean** youth, their environmental stewardship and geo-thermal projects; **Hawaiian** youth, their hydroponics, aquaponics, bio-deisel dairy farm projects; Hawaiian cultural sustainability charter schools and NELHA's incubator for renewable energy start-ups. At the 2012 Summit, Hawaii youth delegate Trevor Tanaka was inspired to champion a **Sustainable Education Resolution**, dedicating his Senior Project to learn how to navigate and pass a law by The House and The Senate requiring ALL public schools in Hawaii to offer one course on sustainability. At the 2013 Summit, **Lana'i, Hawaii** youth shared how their ancient Ahupu'ua system balanced the land, its species and its peoples while preserving its cultural traditions.

Sustainability-In-Action Projects From a Map to a 2020 Vision Report: 2009-2012

Vineyard youth were inspired at the 2011 Summit by the **Vieques Youth Leadership Initiative's 2020 Report on Sustainable Development**. Josue Cruz and college youth from the Institute's four-year demonstration project (2003-2007) created the VYLI Report. They presented it to their Island community, government officials, to ministers of neighboring Caribbean islands. They received 300 acres of land to build a Green Community for landless families. At the **APEC (Asian Pacific Economic Council) Youth Summit in Peru** youth leaders from 21 countries were invited to develop their country's own vision for their future. **MVYLI youth Emma HallBilsback** championed the **MVYLI 2020 Vision Report**. Her team researched best practices and innovative approaches on agriculture, building, transportation and energy. They expanded their research at the **Bioneers-By-the Bay Conference** and then presented the MVYLI 2020 Report at the 2012 Summit. As Emma aspires to be a farmer, she was matched with The Farm Institute's Executive Director for **MVYLI's Job Shadow Day 2011** and then with the director of the **Massachusetts Small Farm Lobby** in 2012. For her Senior Project she served as an intern to TFI where she developed a **MV Farmers' Roundtable** to bring together the Island's farmers to share concerns with the Lobby. When the Institute sponsored the Vineyard's first **AmeriCorps** team who planted blue-ribbon winning tomatoes at **Norton Farm** and 8,000 leeks at **Whippoorwill Farm**, MVYLI youth joined to clear a mile of beach on **Cape Pogue**.

MVYLI Cultural Sustainability Project: 2012-2014

Martha's Vineyard prides itself for its abundant diversity of species - flora, fauna and fish. Its people are equally diverse. In addition to the Europeans, prominent African Americans and federally registered Wampanoag Tribe, the Island is home to 2,000 Brazilians, 800 Jamaicans and Caribbean nations and people from ten other nationalities. One of the Summit highlights is the **Institute Board member Nane Alejandre** conducting an Opening Ceremony that honors all the cultural traditions of island youth delegates. Over the years, Nane was joined by Wampanoag tribal members, African American civil rights leaders, Hawaiian elders who share their prayers, chants, music, dances and tasty foods. In 2012, Isabella El-Deiry represented MVYLI at the Superintendent's "Minorities in the MV Public Schools: Panel & Public Forum" held at the MV Hebrew Center. At the Summit, she then led a team of youth to create an action plan for a Multicultural Assembly at the high school that would give voice to the Island's diversity. Keynote speaker **Charlayne Hunter-Gault** described her life-changing, history-making journey as a high school senior who was the first African American to attend the University of Georgia. MVYLI youth recipient of the 2012 Walter Cronkite Award, **Shavanae Anderson** produced a video -- **Vineyard Multicultural Youth Voices**. **Emma HallBilsback**, spoke of how the Anti-Bullying Campaign improved MVRHS' culture. Tufts University graduate **Ana Carvalho** shared her painful experiences as a MVRHS student. MVYLI youth then reached out to engage Brazilian students. With Brazilian 9th grader **Marcelle Alves**, they organized a luncheon to invite Brazilian youth to MVYLI's Summit. The first three helped envision MVYLI's Cultural Sustainability Project for 2014 with **Institute Board member Marsha Reeves-Jews**. An aspiring lawyer, Marcelle is now translating for Island lawyer **Rebecca McCarthy**. For Bella's first week as a Howard University freshman, she participated in the 50th Anniversary of Dr. King's ***I Have a Dream*** speech in Washington D.C.



MVYLI Presentations

- 2013** Mary Ollen, Walter Cronkite Awards Ceremony
2012 Isabella El-Deiry, Multicultural Assembly
2011 Emma HallBilsback, Walter Cronkite Awards
2010 Kelsey Dandeneau, Walter Cronkite Awards
Anna Hughes and Kelsey Dandeneau, ABC-TV
Emma HallBilsback, Governor's Statewide Youth Council
Senator John Kerry's Communications Director
Summit Graduation to Island Leaders including Mark London, MV Commission



Emma HallBilsback, Sustainable Vineyard - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kbD9dU4XiCo>

We hope the MVYLI Map will encourage "green tourism" and promote Martha's Vineyard as a model for sustainable living, encouraging tourists and Islanders alike to support their growth and development.

Mary Ollen

As our Island develops scattered individual demonstrations of sustainability in energy, agriculture etc. it is the Institute that seeks to knit them together in a meaningful, unique and educational way through the MVYLI Sustainable Vineyard Map Project. Sharing what they learn will have a magnifier effect on future collaborations and inspire others to become more engaged in sustainable living on the Vineyard.

Melinda Loberg, Dukes County Commission

The young folks who responded to this opportunity for envisioning their dreams are a powerful bunch. They have energy for meeting the challenges our society is facing, now and in the years to come. If we give them some real responsibility for creating the future, support for their process, and access to the tools of our new century, there's no telling what they will come up with, thinking outside of more containers than just "the box"!

Sidney Morris

MVYLI's Sustainable Vineyard Map Goals for 2013-2014

MVYLI youth **Mary Ollen, Isabel Smith, Nathaniel Horwitz, Charlotte McCarron** with are now championing the Sustainable Vineyard Map & 2020 Project with **Project Coordinator Adrienne Forgette**. They will spotlight sustainable businesses on the Island -- restaurants that buy local, green hotels, farms, renewable energy sources, and culturally sustainable sites. This project aims to:

- Partner with the **Martha's Vineyard Chamber of Commerce** to promote the Vineyard as an eco-tourism destination
- Develop a **Sustainability Blog with short videos** to feature on the Chamber's website.
- Produce a **3D Map on Google Earth** to spotlight those featured on the Blog and videos.
- Inspire like-minded people to travel to the Island and invite **philanthropists** to support green projects and **green investors** and in turn stimulate sustainable economic development while preserving the Vineyard way of life.

These **green projects**, in turn, will create a **multiplier effect**—creating green jobs for Island youth. They will then be able to implement and oversee these projects, ensuring the development of a sustainable economy. It starts with their life, then their Island, to ensure sustainability for our world.

Walter Cronkite loved Martha's Vineyard. He could have been the first \$1 million TV reporter. Instead he chose to spend his summers here, sailing on his beloved Wyntje. When he produced the first TV series on the environment to promote the first Earth Day in 1970, he asked an important question: **Can We Save the Earth?** He would be proud of these young people who are determined to do whatever they can to respond with a resounding: YES!

Now is the time for a bold vision that honors local legends and carries on the Vineyard way of life, and welcomes the energy of emerging sustainable leaders and celebrates the Island's rich diversity and history. Someone on the planet... maybe it's right here!

MVYLI youth thank all of our sponsors, volunteers, mentors and supporters.



**Many thanks to you we are helping to build a more sustainable world.
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