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The Living Labs: Nantucket Island

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The LivingLabs: Nantucket Island

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Summary

The LivingLabs are a practical response to growing environmental challenges, including habitat degradation, loss of biodiversity, and global climate change. Nantucket LivingLabs develops and implements holistic solutions to environmental challenges right here and now. The School for the Environment (SFE) established this concept in conjunction with the Nantucket Field Station, Nantucket Conservation Foundation and ReMain Nantucket, a nonprofit dedicated to supporting a year-round community in the town center.



Impacts

The first semester cohort of 18 students developed independent projects grouped in five capstone themes addressing current and emerging island's issues:

- Nantucket Water System
- Nantucket Shellfish System
- Nantucket Salt Marsh System
- Nantucket Coastal System
- Nantucket Human System



Next Steps

- Establish year-round academic programs on Nantucket.
- Serve a broader array of undergraduate and graduate degree programs based on local community needs and supporting island's resilience.



Goals and Objectives

The main goal is to provide graduate and undergraduate students with opportunities for hands-on transdisciplinary applied research experience, addressing local community needs and providing solutions. In addition, the goal is for students to develop professional networks through internships at NGOs, business and government agencies, as well as with their LivingLabs advisors, mentors and peers.



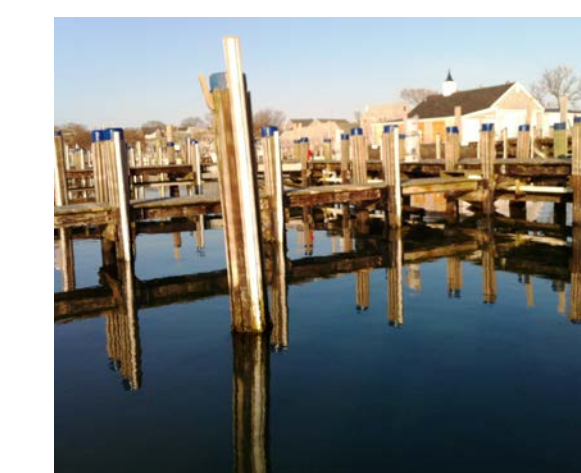
Approaches and Methods

The LivingLabs customized curriculum for the semester on Nantucket includes five classes for 16 credits. The curriculum is focused on ecology, environmental sciences, and Nantucket history and culture; it also includes training in cutting-edge fields such as biomimicry.



References and Resources

- LivingLabs Nantucket
- Facebook
- Twitter
- Blog



Community Partnership

<http://www.ack.net/>

