

The Gosnold-Cuttyhunk Action Network (Cuttyhunk-CAN!) launched in fall 2021 in collaboration with the Martha's Vineyard Commission to develop a long-term climate action plan that addresses the challenges of sea level rise, sea warming and global climate change, while developing short- and medium-term initiatives to address environmental issues in everyday life on the Island and the Elizabeth islands that make up the Town of Gosnold. The action plan is featured on our website - [www.cuttyhunk-can.net/climate-action-plan](http://www.cuttyhunk-can.net/climate-action-plan).

Note that this program was developed for a grant to the Gosnold Cultural Council via the Massachusetts Cultural Council A request for \$1,000. was fully funded.

### **Program Overview**

Cuttyhunk CAN! proposes a series of four well-publicized bi-weekly public programs during July and August 2023. Each program will include information resources on a dedicated page on the Network's [website](#).

Below are thumbnail descriptions of the four programs, with biographical information on the presenters.

#### **"Views from the Buzzards Bay Coalition"** (working title)

In a walk 'n talk, a member of the Coalition will provide an overview of the [BBC's](#) work on Cuttyhunk and present related thoughts on climate change and its future impact on the island. The walk 'n talk format is inspired a format inspired by Interpretive Naturalist and longtime Cuttyhunker Allie Thurston, whose August 17, 2021 event, "[Nature Rules: Responsible Plant Choices](#)," inaugurated our public programs. [See note on page 3 of this proposal.]

Note that golf carts will be provided for attendees requiring accommodation.

#### **"Cuttyhunk Can! Composting 101"**

An informative overview of how to start a home composting effort. Techniques and materials will be presented, as well as tips on best practices and what to avoid.

#### **"WHOI and You: Microplastics in the Ocean – The Wood's Hole Oceanographic Institution's Microplastics Initiative"** (working title)

As noted in on WHOI's Microplastics Initiative [website](#): "Microplastics—tiny plastic fragments less than five millimeters in size—are ubiquitous in the global ocean. In fact, an estimated eight million



tons of plastics enter our oceans each year, yet only one percent can be seen floating at the surface. Where the rest ends up is not well understood.

“The presence of microplastics and nanoplastics in the oceans is a worldwide concern. To help address this pressing problem, WHOI has launched an interdisciplinary research program to understand the fate and impacts of plastics in the marine environment. Our research ... involves a diverse group of scientists, engineers, students, postdoctoral researchers, and science communicators.”

In their presentation, a WHOI scientist will present the initiative’s research and identify opportunities to become involved in and support their efforts.

### **Wood’s Hole Oceanographic Institution: [WHOI] overview**

As noted on the Institution’s [“What We Do”](#) web page: “The ocean is a vast and challenging place to work, but knowledge about the ocean is crucial to life on a changing planet.

“WHOI scientists and engineers travel the globe from land and the coasts to the deepest depths to tackle questions ranging from climate change to oil spills to ocean acidification.

“If there is no tool to do what needs to be done, we invent one; if there is no experimental method, we devise it. Because now more than ever, the ocean matters to us all.”

### **“Cuttyunk CAN! Summer 2023 Island Clean-up!”**

Note: In development.

This hand-on, educational and fun event will feature a m Island Clean-up event. Cuttyhunk dignitaries from the Town Hall to the Fish Dock will act as judges, awarding prizes in a number of categories, (most items, largest item, heaviest harvest, most cigarette butts collected, etc.)

Biodegradable bags and gloves will be provided

A craft table will encourage artists of all ages to create works with the collected materials.

A concert with some of the gifted local talent will conclude what promises to be a festive, community event.

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