
In 1993, at age 25, Halstead founded Redefining Progress, a green economic think tank based in San Francisco, with a $15,000 seed grant from Echoing Green. Halstead served as Executive Director from 1993 to 1997. Redefining Progress closed its doors in 2008.

Halstead was selected as a Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum in Switzerland. From 2008 to 2012, he and his wife Veronique Bardach sailed around the world, with only their dog as crew.