



# Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) M.L. 2011 Work Plan

**Date of Status Update:**

**Date of Next Status Update:** 1/1/2012

**Date of Work Plan Approval:** 6/23/2011

**Project Completion Date:** 6/30/2014

**Is this an amendment request?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Project Title: Youth-Led Renewable Energy & Energy Conservation in West & Southwest MN**

**Project Manager:** Shelli Kae Foster

**Affiliation:** Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center

**Address:** 12718 Tenth St NE

**City:** Spicer **State:** MN **Zipcode:** 56288

**Telephone Number:** (320) 438-5111

**Email Address:** shelli-kae.foster@co.kandiyohi.mn.us

**Web Address:** <http://www.youthenergysummit.org>

**Location:**

**Counties Impacted:** Statewide

**Ecological Section Impacted:** Lake Agassiz Aspen Parklands (223N), Minnesota and Northeast Iowa Morainal (222M), North Central Glaciated Plains (251B), Northern Minnesota and Ontario Peatlands (212M), Northern Minnesota Drift and lake Plains (212N), Northern Superior Uplands (212L), Paleozoic Plateau (222L), Red River Valley (251A), Southern Superior Uplands (212J), Western Superior Uplands (212K)

<b>Total ENRTF Project Budget:</b>	<b>ENRTF Appropriation \$:</b>	246,000
	<b>Amount Spent \$:</b>	0
	<b>Balance \$:</b>	246,000

**Legal Citation:** M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art.3, Sec. 2, Subd. 08a

**Appropriation Language:**

\$123,000 the first year and \$123,000 the second year are from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center to initiate youth-led renewable energy and conservation projects in over thirty communities in west central and southwest Minnesota.

## **I. PROJECT TITLE: YES! Youth-Led Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation in West and Southwest Minnesota**

### **II. PROJECT SUMMARY:**

**WHY:** In response to urgent concern regarding climate change, energy costs and strained budgets, Youth Energy Summit (YES!) teams coordinated by Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center and Prairie Ecology Bus Center in partnership with Southwest Initiative Foundation have produced dramatic returns on investment in west central and southwestern Minnesota.

With LCCMR support of \$246,000 over two years, YES! Teams will initiate youth-led renewable energy and energy conservation projects in over 30 communities in west central and southwestern Minnesota and offer the YES! program as a strong regional model which multiplies the impact of other public and private sector renewable energy and conservation programs.

Over the past three years, YES! Teams have accomplished ambitious renewable energy and energy conservation projects and have demonstrated an impact in the greater community beyond school walls. The New London-Spicer YES! team mobilized a \$45,000+ energy efficiency upgrade of a community theater, including an innovative solar heating system which has inspired at least three other solar heating projects to date. Other YES! teams achieved equally impressive outcomes including: a winter community greenhouse heated by solar and biomass; solar electric installations for schools; community-wide electronics recycling days; composting and waste-reduction programs in schools; and many more. YES! projects have created spin-off opportunities for local contractors and raised public awareness of renewable energy and energy conservation through dozens of media articles (print, radio, and internet).

**GOALS:** To inspire widespread adoption of renewable energy technology and energy conservation practices which contribute to the environmental and economic health of rural Minnesota communities.

#### **Specific goals for YES! 2011-2013 are:**

- Implement 30+ renewable energy and energy conservation projects in west central and southwestern Minnesota and engage 15,000 school students, 45,000 community members, and 300 businesses and organizations (based on YES! 2010 results).
- Build upon the successful YES! model by adding an additional 10 to 14 teams in a broader geographic region for a total of 30-34 teams by 2013, and to prepare for statewide replication.
- Develop self-sustaining community based funding for future YES! teams from energy savings resulting from energy efficiency and conservation projects.

**HOW:** Expand the existing YES! network to include up to 450 high school students and up to 40 coaches/adult advisors in 30+ YES! teams throughout west central and southwestern Minnesota. YES! staff works intensively with teams to: assess community assets and needs; identify and involve community partners; create action-plans; link with funding resources; and implement solar, wind, biomass, recycling and composting projects which match the students' passion with a real need and opportunity in their community. YES! staff go directly into the schools and work with teams and their coaches throughout the year, which compliments efforts from other public and private programs which provide grant funds and technical expertise such as energy audits. The project and its outcomes will be reported to Minnesota's statewide environmental education community through updates to environmental learning centers and a presentation at the MAEE Conference.

### **III. PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:**

**Project Status as of January 31, 2012**

**Project Status as of June 30, 2012**

**Project Status as of January 31, 2013**

**Project Status as of June 30, 2013**

**IV. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:**

**ACTIVITY 1: Recruitment and Retention: Secure 30 YES! Teams for 2011-2013**

**Description:**

Recruit 10-14 additional YES! teams with coaches/adult advisors, and confirm participation of previous teams and coaches/adult advisors for a total of 30 teams by October 2012. "Coaches" are typically teachers or similarly trained professionals serving in an active advisory role with teams of youth. YES! Coordinators will recruit new teams as well as contact existing teams to confirm participation for 2011-2012 (target of 8-11 teams per geographical unit).

**Summary Budget Information for Activity 1:**

**ENRTF Budget: \$ 12,000**  
**Amount Spent: \$ 0**  
**Balance: \$ 12,000**

**Activity Completion Date:**

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>	<b>Budget</b>
Up to 450 youth and 35-45 local coaches/adult advisors recruited by YES! coordinators to participate in up to 30 YES! teams.  (Budget includes approximately 5% of total staff time and 16% of total travel expenses, necessary to inform and engage school and community leaders, potential coaches/adult advisors, and potential youth participants in a wide geographic area.)	Oct. 30, 2012	\$12,000

**Activity Status as of January 31, 2012**

**Activity Status as of June 30, 2012**

**Activity Status as of January 31, 2013**

**Activity Status as of June 30, 2013**

**Final Report Summary:**

**ACTIVITY 2: Organize three training and networking events each year: Fall Summit, Winter Workshop, & Spring Celebration**

**Description:** (1) Annual Fall Summit/Kickoff Event: Teams gather for orientation, networking, education, goal-setting, and action-planning. Event has been held at SMSU past two years in conjunction with the Career Expo. Locations for 2012 and 2013 to be determined. (2) Annual Winter Workshop: hands-on skills training and site tours customized depending upon team interests and projects. Workshops typically held at Prairie Woods ELC plus one location in south/southwestern unit. (3) Annual Spring Celebration: public recognition of team project outcomes and awards, plus wrap-up activities. Locations to be determined.

**Summary Budget Information for Activity 2:**

**ENRTF Budget: \$ 20,000**

**Amount Spent: \$ 0**  
**Balance: \$ 20,000**  
**Activity Completion Date:**

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>	<b>Budget</b>
250 youth and approximately 35 coaches/adult advisors participate in summits, workshops and spring events. YES! teams network directly with 75+ businesses, organizations, and entrepreneurs through event activities. During events, students gain skills in renewable energy (hands-on workshops); awareness of sites (tours) and topics (expert presenters)  (Budget includes approximately 10% of total staff time and 16% of total travel expenses.)	May 2013	
Fall Summit 2011	November 2011	\$3450
Winter Workshop 2012	February 2012	\$4250
Spring Celebration 2012	May 2012	\$2300
Fall Summit 2012	November 2012	\$3450
Winter Workshop 2013	February 2013	\$4250
Spring Celebration 2013	May 2013	\$2300

**ACTIVITY STATUS AS OF JANUARY 31, 2012:**

**ACTIVITY STATUS AS OF JUNE 30, 2012:**

**ACTIVITY STATUS AS OF JANUARY 31, 2013:**

**ACTIVITY STATUS AS OF JUNE 30, 2013:**

**FINAL REPORT SUMMARY:**

**ACTIVITY 3: COMPLETE 30+ RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY CONSERVATION PROJECTS**

**DESCRIPTION:**

YES! staff provides ongoing guidance, resources, information, networking and other assistance as teams carry out action plans. YES! provides support and information to coaches/adult advisors, team leaders (youth) and assists with identifying organizations and businesses that share an interest in energy efficiency, conservation and renewable energy. YES! coordinators maintain a website, blog, facebook, and frequent e-mail contact to help teams stay informed and in contact with each other.

ENRTF funds provide support for YES! staff time, in-state travel, specified program-related school district/organization expenses, and project seed funds. The school district/organization expense reimbursement allowance is intended to offset expenses incurred by school districts and/or community organizations that sponsor a YES! team. This support allows them to participate in YES! in a cost-effective manner. Eligible reimbursable expenses may include: 1. compensation YES! team coaches/adult advisors (typically professional educators or other similarly-trained professionals serving as advisors/facilitators for YES! youth and YES! teams activities); 2. reimbursement to offset the cost of hiring substitute teachers in order to allow YES! coaches/adult advisors to attend YES! events during the school day; 3. Transportation expenses for buses or vans for students and coaches/adult advisors to travel to YES! events. The combination of these three items will not exceed reimbursement in excess of \$500 for any one district/organization sponsoring a YES! team.

YES! project seed funds will be used for projects that will be brainstormed and initiated by youth on YES! teams. Projects will vary depending upon school/community needs and student interest. YES! coordinators will have a good understanding of team projects around December/January of the YES! season. Eligible expenses may include:

1. Energy saving devices for installation in public buildings such as schools, city buildings, or county buildings.
2. Materials and supplies to construct energy-saving or energy-generating installations, for use in public spaces or as demonstration projects made available to the public.
3. Materials for energy education activities.
4. Energy conservation kits for community distribution.
5. Equipment for tracking/measuring energy consumption and savings, to be made available for or directly related to public use.
6. Professional or technical services with qualified individuals for consultation or labor relating to teams' energy action projects.
7. Materials and supplies for reducing and mitigating solid waste generated in schools and communities.
8. Materials and supplies for increasing consumption of locally-produced foods in school cafeterias and communities.

For specific examples of purchases, see the "Eligible Expenses for Project Seed Funds" attachment.

<b>SUMMARY BUDGET INFORMATION FOR ACTIVITY 3:</b>	<b>ENRTF</b>	<b>\$ 214,000</b>
	<b>BUDGET:</b>	
	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>
	<b>SPENT:</b>	
	<b>BALANCE:</b>	<b>\$214,000</b>

**ACTIVITY COMPLETION DATE:**

<b>OUTCOME</b>	<b>COMPLETION DATE</b>	<b>BUDGET</b>
30+ Energy Action Projects completed, such as: solar heating, photovoltaics, composting, recycling, energy efficiency upgrades, and community education initiatives regarding energy conservation and renewable energy.  (Budget includes approximately 50% of total staff time, 60% of coach allowance, 25% of total travel, project seed funds, and solar pathfinders)	End of school year: June 2013	\$136,650
Partnerships between 30 teams and 250 allies including: businesses and utilities, numerous community organizations, school administration teams, etc.  (Budget includes approximately 25% of total staff time, 30% of coach allowance, and 18% of total travel)	March 2013	\$53,500
Energy Action Project Outcomes are reported in written reports, presentations, & displays. Accomplishments are publicly recognized.  (Budget includes approximately 10% of total staff time, 10% of coach allowance, and 25% of total travel. Travel includes visiting teams for season-end presentations.)	June 2012 & 2013	\$23,850

**ACTIVITY STATUS AS OF JANUARY 31, 2012:**

**ACTIVITY STATUS AS OF JUNE 30, 2012:**

**ACTIVITY STATUS AS OF JANUARY 31, 2013:**

**ACTIVITY STATUS AS OF JUNE 30, 2013:**

**FINAL REPORT SUMMARY:**

**V. DISSEMINATION:**

**Description:** Information, updates and reports will be made available via website ([www.youthenergysummit.org](http://www.youthenergysummit.org)) on an ongoing basis, local media, annual presentations at the Minnesota Association for Environmental Education and CERTs conferences, Prairie Woods ELC newsletters and Southwest Initiative Foundation communications.

**Status as of January 31, 2012**

**Status as of June 30, 2012**

**Status as of January 31, 2013**

**Status as of June 30, 2013**

**Final Report Summary:**

**VI. PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY:**

**A. ENRTF Budget:**

<b>Budget Category</b>	<b>\$ Amount</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
Personnel:	\$124,800	1.0 FTE Project Leader & Central unit coordinator, Salary 75%, Benefits 25% 0.5 FTE Coordinator for North unit 75% salary, 25% Benefits. All positions 24 months.
Professional/Technical Contracts:	\$41,600	0.5FTE Coordinator for South unit 75% salary, 25% Benefits, to be contracted through Southwest Initiative Foundation (SWIF) to cover southwestern Minnesota region. All positions 24 months.
Equipment/Tools/Supplies:	\$1,000	Solar Pathfinders and tripods, 3 @ \$300 plus shipping. (Solar site analysis tools to be shared by teams)
Travel Expenses in MN:	\$18,600	Project Leader and unit coordinator's travel-1500 miles per month for three sites combined for approximate total of 36,000 x \$.50/mile over two years (required for serving widely dispersed rural communities). \$600 meal allowance (\$100 per coordinator per season). All travel expense reimbursements as per Minnesota State Commissioner plan. Additional requirements to be covered by non-ENRTF funds.
Other:	\$30,000	School district/organization expense reimbursement allowance - (30 teams x \$500/team=\$15,000 per year) x 2 years. Allowance

		of up to \$500 per team is intended to offset expenses incurred by the districts thereby allowing them to participate in YES! in a cost-effective manner. Eligible reimbursable expenses may include: 1. compensation YES! team coaches/adult advisors (typically professional educators or other similarly-trained professionals serving as advisors/facilitators for YES! youth and YES! teams activities); 2. reimbursement to offset the cost of hiring a substitute teacher in order to allow the YES! coach/adult advisor to attend YES! events during the school day; 3. Transportation expenses for buses or vans for students and coach/adult advisor to travel to YES! events.
Other:	\$30,000	YES! project seed funds-(30 teams x \$500/team = \$15,000 per year) x 2 years. See "Eligible Expenses for Project Seed Funds" attachment for guidelines. If fewer teams are recruited in year one, funds will be apportioned to participating teams based on their project need.
<b>TOTAL ENRTF BUDGET: \$246,000</b>		

**Explanation of Use of Classified Staff:** n/a

**Explanation of Capital Expenditures Greater Than \$3,500:** n/a

**Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) funded with this ENRTF appropriation:**

Total of 2 .0 FTE for the project.

1 FTE Project Leader & Central Unit Coordinator and (2).5FTE Coordinators for North and South Units

**B. Other Funds:**

Source of Funds	\$ Amount Proposed	\$ Amount Spent	Use of Other Funds
<b>Non-state</b> 1) Southwest Initiative Foundation \$91,500 budgeted by SWIF for 2011-2012. 2012-2013 Tentative \$60,000	\$91,500		<i>1) SWIF Staffing to support current LCCMR project plus further development and expansion of YES! within Minnesota (\$40,000); Additional grants/awards to teams (\$30,000); support to events for costs not allowed by LCCMR (\$6,000); Travel/phone/office support (\$8,000); Communications and Marketing including web site support (\$5,000); Evaluation and Planning (\$2,500)</i>
2) Past award sponsors- Kandiyohi Power Co-op, Otter Tail Power Company, Lake Region Bank, Great River Energy & others-\$5,000/year	\$10,000		<i>2) Awards for annual team recognition/competition (award funds support team projects).</i>

<p>x 2 years=\$10,000 pending;</p> <p>3)Team Participant fees \$300/team -30 x \$30=\$9,000 x 2 years=\$18000</p>	<p>\$18,000</p>		<p>3) Teams fees help cover event food, t-shirts and other expenses.</p>
<p><b>In-Kind Services During Project Period 1)</b>Donated consultant time for team projects-based on average of previous years \$2-3000 per team x 30 teams =\$60-90,000; In-kind travel donated \$4000;Other volunteer and student time additional. University of MN Morris - Green Corps workers</p>	<p>\$90,000</p>		<p>1) Donated consultant and mentor time provides technical expertise and support for YES! Projects. 2) In-kind donation of travel funds provided by volunteers. 3) UM Morris will provide five part-time Green Corps workers to assist teams with special events and workshops.</p>
<p><b>State</b> Past state funds have included CERTs grants and support from WC Sustainable Development Partnership awarded to YES! teams and Schools Cutting Carbon grants awards to YES! projects (pending-no amount listed at this time).</p>			
<p><b>Funding History:</b></p> <p><b>1)Southwest Initiative Foundation 2007-2011</b></p> <p><b>2)Mn Renewable Energy Marketplace – WIRED grant 2009-2010</b></p> <p><b>3) Other Supporters – 2010-2011</b></p>		<p><b>1) \$180,000</b></p> <p><b>2) \$202,000</b></p> <p><b>3) \$100,000</b></p>	<p><b>1)</b> In years 2007-2011: \$105,000 in personnel, \$9,000 in travel; \$33,500 in team project grants/awards; \$25,000 for event-related costs; \$3,000 in office/other supplies; \$2,000 for phone; \$2,500 communications/marketing</p> <p><b>2)</b> In 2009-2010: \$128,800 in personnel and travel; \$52,000 in team project grants/awards; \$13,000 for event-related costs; \$3,000 in office/other supplies; \$1,500 for phone; \$3,700 for communications/marketing</p> <p><b>3)</b> 2010-2011: \$75,000 - McKnight Foundation for YES! Strategic Planning/Evaluation project; \$10,000 Southern MN Initiative Foundation for team projects and partial personnel for southern unit; \$10,000 AgStar for team projects/awards; \$5,000</p>



4) In-kind from other supporters 2007-2011		4) \$ 150,000	misc other supporters 4) In-kind by businesses and other supporters in travel, consultant time, etc. from 2007-2011
<b>TOTAL OTHER FUNDS:</b>	<b>\$209,500</b>	<b>\$632,000</b>	<b>(includes in-kind)</b>

**VII. PROJECT STRATEGY:**

**A. Project Partners:** Southwest Initiative Foundation, Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center and 30 YES! communities in west central and southwestern Minnesota will receive funding from this project. Southwest Initiative Foundation contact: Cheryl Glaeser, Program Officer, SWIF, 15 Third Ave NW, Hutchinson, MN 55350, ph. 1-800-594-9480. Contact information for all participating teams will be provided upon confirmation of intent to participate in the 2011-2012 project year. SWIF will receive funding for a 0.5 FTE unit coordinator. Each team (sponsored by a school district or community organization) will be able to submit for reimbursement of up to \$500 per year in eligible project-related expenses and up to \$500 per year for program participation expenses such as transportation, substitute teacher costs and coach/adult advisor compensation.

**B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy:** This project will expand a successful model and initiate youth-led renewable energy and energy conservation projects in over 30 communities in west central and southwestern Minnesota. The project will mobilize public and private partnerships to raise awareness of issues and opportunities related to renewable energy for rural Minnesota; and produce lasting economic benefits for schools, businesses and communities through energy conservation and efficiency. Students participating in YES! will gain valuable hands-on learning experiences which will expose them to employment and training opportunities in our region and encourage them to contribute to the environmental and economic health of our state.

Over the next two years YES! staff and participating organizations will make a concerted effort to identify regional allies in the private, public and non-profit sectors which have a shared interest in supporting the continuation and expansion of YES! Teams. Entities that derive financial benefit resulting from YES! projects will be asked to contribute a percentage of their energy savings to support future YES! projects.

**C. Spending History:**

Funding Source	M.L. 2005 or FY 2006-07	M.L. 2007 or FY 2008	M.L. 2008 or FY 2009	M.L. 2009 or FY 2010	M.L. 2010 or FY 2011
No prior ENRTF funding					
Southwest Initiative Foundation		\$ 30,000	\$50,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 60,000
Minnesota Renewable Energy Marketplace			\$66,500	\$135,500	
McKnight Foundation					\$ 75,000

Southern MN Initiative Foundation				\$ 5,000	\$ 10,000
Other Supporters		\$5,000	\$10,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 11,500

**VIII. ACQUISITION/RESTORATION LIST: N/A**

**IX. MAP(S): N/A**

**X. RESEARCH ADDENDUM: N/A**

**XI. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:**

Periodic work plan status update reports will be submitted not later than \_January 31, 2012, June 30, 2012, and January 31, 2013. A final report and associated products will be submitted between June 30 and August 1, 2013 as requested by the LCCMR.

**Attachment A: Budget Detail for M.L. 2011 (FY 2012-13) Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Projects**

**Project Title: Youth-led Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation in West and Southwest Minnesota**

**Legal Citation: Not available as of 5/12/11**

**Project Managers: Anne Dybsetter, David Pederson**

**M.L. 2011 (FY 2012-13) ENRTF Appropriation: \$246,000**

**Project Length and Completion Date: 2 years, July 2011-June 2013**

**Date of Update: May 24, 2011**

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET	Activity 1 Budget	Amount Spent	Balance	Activity 2 Budget	Amount Spent	Balance	Activity 3 Budget	Amount Spent	Balance	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL BALANCE
<b>BUDGET ITEM</b>	<i>Team Recruitment &amp; Retention</i>			<i>Workshops and Events</i>			<i>Team Action Projects</i>				
<b>Personnel (Wages and Benefits)</b>	6,750	0	6,750	12,750	0	12,750	105,300	0	105,300	124,800	124,800
1.0 FTE Project Leader & Central Unit Coordinator, 75% Salary, 25% Benefits, 2 years ( \$83,200)											
0.5 FTE Coordinator for North unit 75%Salary, 25%Benefits for 2 year period (\$41,600)											
<b>Professional/Technical contracts:</b> Southwest Initiative Foundation will provide 0.5 FTE YES! unit coordinator to service 9-12 teams in the south and southwest unit. 75%Salary, 25%Benefits for 2 year period (\$41,600)	2,250	0	2,250	4,250	0	4,250	35,100	0	35,100	41,600	41,600
<b>Equipment/Tools/Supplies</b> Solar Pathfinders and tripods, 3 @ \$300 plus shipping. (Solar site analysis tools to be shared by teams)							1,000	0	1,000	1,000	1,000
<b>Travel expenses in Minnesota:</b> Project Leader and Unit Coordinator's Travel-1500 miles per month for three sites combined for approx total of 36,000 x \$.50/mile over two years (required for serving widely dispersed rural communities). \$600 meal allowance-no overnight travel expected.	3,000	0	3,000	3,000	0	3,000	12,600	0	12,600	18,600	18,600
<b>Other: Coach allowance</b> (30 teams x \$500/team x 2 years)							30,000	0	30,000	30,000	30,000
<b>Other: YES! Team project seed funds-</b> reimbursement. 30 teams x avg. \$500/team x 2years							30,000	0	30,000	30,000	30,000
<b>COLUMN TOTAL</b>	<b>\$12,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$12,000</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>	<b>\$214,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$214,000</b>	<b>\$246,000</b>	<b>\$246,000</b>