

**M.L. 2014, Chp. 226, Sec. 2, Subd. 09b Project Abstract**

For the Period Ending June 30, 2016

**PROJECT TITLE:** Youth-led sustainability Initiatives in 40 greater Minnesota Communities

**PROJECT MANAGER:** Shelli-Kae Foster

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**FUNDING SOURCE:** Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

**LEGAL CITATION:** M.L. 2014, Chp. 226, Sec. 2, Subd. 09b

**APPROPRIATION AMOUNT:** \$ 350,000

**Overall Project Outcomes and Results**

The Youth Energy Summit (YES!) program is designed to mobilize teams of youth to address critical environmental issues and emerging opportunities in Minnesota.

The YES! program impacts for July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2016 include:

- 36 YES! Teams completed over 280 youth-led energy conservation projects in 52 communities
- Over 820 students in grades 6-12 participated in YES! and worked with local community leaders, businesses, schools, public utilities, waste haulers and other partners
- Over 26,000 additional students and 125,000 community members were directly impacted by these efforts to decrease waste and increase energy efficiency

Over the last 2 seasons (2014-2016), YES! teams leveraged over \$ 550,000 in local support of projects and in the form of in-kind contributions, matching funds, and volunteer hours and another \$ 110,000 in grants, fundraisers and corporate support. These collaborative, student-driven projects included: installing hydration stations, building and maintaining deep winter greenhouses, school gardens, hydroponic gardens, solar boats and vehicles, installing waste oil recycling stations, improving recycling systems, reducing school energy bills, promoting environmental stewardship through educational events and more!

During the past 2 seasons, YES! staff conducted 4 Fall Summits, 25 Winter Workshops tailored to meet the needs and interests of teams, and a Community Convening co-hosted with Climate Generation. Teams participated in spring judging events each season with award winners highlighted in the Team Accomplishments documents.

The YES! program demonstrates that young people in Minnesota are ready, willing and able to assume leadership roles and take action to address environmental issues and opportunities affecting our state and the world. Collaborating partners for this project include: Prairie Woods

ELC, Laurentian Environmental Center, Ney Nature Center, Central Minnesota Sustainability Partnership, Southwest Initiative Foundation, and Saint John's University. Of special note, the Royalton YES! team won the state-wide 2014 "Red Wagon" award from the Minnesota Alliance with Youth.

### Project Results Use and Dissemination

Information on YES! projects are regularly highlighted through the YES! website ([www.youthenergysummit.org](http://www.youthenergysummit.org)), blog posts, Facebook updates and Twitter. The YES! website received well over 25,000 page views from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2016 with 68 % of these viewers being new to the site. Local media frequently print stories on YES! team accomplishments, the Warbler, a PWELC newsletter reaching 1,400 people, goes out 3 times a year and commits a page of each publication to YES! furthermore the YES! e-newsletter goes out 4 times a year.

Several communications and outreach activities have been done in relation to this Youth-Led project including one Community Convening hosted by the YES! Albany team in collaboration with Climate Generation: A Will Steger Legacy. This event brought together community leaders, resource experts, parents and students to learn about climate mitigation strategies and to highlight local resources. A highlight of the evening was the telling of climate stories by 4 citizens, 2 of which were YES! students. Other outreach activities include tabling at local green fairs and events by student-led YES! teams.

The program's funding partners are regularly updated on projects and show their support through continued funding and volunteer time. Coordinators submit Press Releases to local and regional outlets for Spring Award winners and other important stories.

YES! staff and students presented at a 21st Century Skills workshop for the National Joint Powers Alliance in Staples, MN, (2015), Region 9 Economic Development events (2016) and the Smithsonian Water Ways exhibit at Prairie Woods ELC (2016) and plan to table at the Minnesota Community Education and Minnesota Education Association events this fall (2016). During YES! events, techniques such as S.M.A.R.T. goals have been developed and shared with the students and students have taken that information back to their Team to successfully plan and implement projects.



# Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) M.L. 2014 Work Plan Final Report

**Date of Report:** August 15, 2016  
**Final Report**  
**Date of Work Plan Approval:** May 23, 2014  
**Project Completion Date:** June 30, 2016

**PROJECT TITLE:** Youth-led Sustainability Initiatives in 40 Greater Minnesota Communities

**Project Manager:** Dave Pederson, Executive Director, Prairie Woods ELC  
Shelli-Kae Foster, YES! Project Manager

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**Web Address:** [www.prairiewoodselc.org](http://www.prairiewoodselc.org) and [www.youthenergysummit.org](http://www.youthenergysummit.org)

Location:

**Regions:** Central, Northeast, Southwest & Southeast

**Counties:** Atkin, Benton, Big Stone, Blue Earth, Brown, Carlton, Cass, Chippewa, Cook, Cottonwood, Crow Wing, Dodge, Douglas, Faribault, Fillmore, Freeborn, Goodhue, Grant, Houston, Itasca, Jackson, Kanabec, Kandiyohi, Kooshiching, Lac qui Parle, Lake, Le Suer, Lincoln, Lyon, Martin, McLeod, Meeker, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Mower, Murray, Nicollet, Nobels, Olmsted, Otter Tail, Pine, Pipestone, Pope, Redwood, Renville, Rice, Rock, Sibley, St. Louis, Stearns, Steele, Stevens, Swift, Todd, Traverse, Wabash, Wadena, Waseca, Watonwan, Wilkin, Winona & Yellow Medicine.

Total ENRTF Project Budget:	ENRTF Appropriation:	\$350,000
	Amount Spent:	\$319,782
	Balance:	\$30,218

**Legal Citation:** M.L. 2014, Chp. 226, Sec. 2, Subd. 09b

Appropriation Language:

\$350,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center in cooperation with Laurentian Environmental Learning Center to complete over 100 youth-led sustainability action projects in 40 communities in southwest, southeast, central and northeastern Minnesota.

## **I. PROJECT TITLE:** Youth-led Sustainability Initiatives in 40 Greater Minnesota Communities

## **II. PROJECT STATEMENT:**

The Youth Energy Summit (YES!) program mobilizes entire communities through youth-led sustainability action projects initiated by local teams of 8-20 youth in grades 7-12. Over the past seven years YES! has expanded from 8 teams in southwest and west central Minnesota to 32 teams in the north-central to lower half of the state. The current project is to expand a successful model to mobilize up to 40 YES! teams including 8 to 10 communities in NE Minnesota during 2014-16.

Specific goals for YES! Project 2014-16:

- Activate 40 YES! teams in Central, Northeast, Southwest and Southeast MN including the expansion of up to 10 teams in the Northeast mobilizing over 20,000 volunteer hours per year.
- Complete over 150 youth-led sustainability projects providing long-term environmental and economic benefits to local Minnesota communities.
- Engage & educate 650 students who are directly working with YES! as team members and impacting another 12,000 students (K-12) and 17,000 community members each year through YES! sustainable living projects and educational events.
- At least 5 YES! teams will incorporate middle school students to explore the benefits of including teams with students in younger grades (7th and 8th).
- Transition established YES! teams from relying on ENRTF grant funds for project seed funds to local public and private sector partnerships.

HOW:

YES! staff will reach out to new schools to recruit teams and work with existing schools to retain teams to attain the goal of 40 teams. These efforts will expand the outreach of YES! to include up to 650 students and up to 50 coaches/adult advisors each year. YES! team members will work with over 400 community members and 200 local businesses to achieve their energy-related goals each year. Through YES! energy action projects such as school gardens, improved recycling systems, composting, designing and building high mileage cars; community members, students and businesses will be engaged in sustainable living best practices.

YES! staff meet directly 3 to 5 times per year with each team to: assess community assets and needs; identify and involve community partners; create action-plans; link teams with funding resources; and assist in the implementation of energy efficient and waste reduction projects involving solar, wind, biomass, recycling and composting. YES! staff provide on-going support to teams through; weekly updates, evaluating and offering relevant workshops and tours, organizing a Summit each year bringing all teams together for learning and networking and an opportunity in the spring to showcase their youth-led projects in community celebration events. This project works with our Northeast partners to bring this unique program to their region. The Northeast coordinator will be provided materials including the YES! Coordinator Guide, YES! Coach Guide, sample recruitment letters and other relevant resources to ensure success. The Northeast coordinator will join weekly coordinator meetings and have weekly contact with project leader, in addition to having access to support materials for effective

initiatives such as Black Out Day tips, composting how-to and designing and building an Electronic Vehicle (EV). Team project highlights from the Northeast cohort will be featured on the YES! website. YES! staff will gather in person for an orientation and provide continued support and guidance throughout the season.

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

#### **Project Status as of January 15, 2015:**

Recruitment and Retention of 40 teams in greater MN

Twenty-four(24) active YES! teams are currently working to develop and implement energy action projects in grades 7 to 12 in the following communities: Mountain Iron-Buhl, Northern Lights Community, Duluth East, Harbor City, International School, Northwoods High School, ACGC, BBE, DREAM/Willmar, Eden Valley -Watkins, Lac qui Parle Valley, Litchfield, New London- Spicer, Yellow Medicine East, Alexandria, Rocori, Royalton, St. Cloud Apollo, New York Mills, Glencoe-Silver Lake, Mankato West, Pine Island, Sleepy Eye, Springfield & Westbrook - Walnut Grove.

Workshops and Events

The YES! program featured 2 Fall Summits this year; one at Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center with 170 participants; and one at our partner site Laurentian Environmental Learning Center, with 43 participants.

YES! staff are organizing the following YES! Winter Workshops/Tours:

- January 28: "Design and Build a Super Mileage Car." Glencoe-Silver Lake
- February 6: "Farmer's Market Start-Up 101." Northern Lights School
- February 13: "Local Foods and Recycling." Mountain Iron-Bule  
13: "Where Waste Goes After it Goes Away." St.Cloud
- February 17: "Energy Tour; Solar and Wind." Northwoods School
- February 25: "Local Foods for Minnesota Winters." College of St. Benedict (CSB)
- March 3: "Energy Reduction, Composting & Recycling." Duluth
- March 4: "Grow Your YES! Business & Composting Program." Mankato

Complete 150 + Projects Benefiting over 40 Communities in Greater MN

Each team is developing action plans and working with local experts to accomplish a variety of projects including; installing hydration stations, building solar powered greenhouses, designing super-mileage cars to improving recycling systems and implementing organic composting of school lunch waste.

Amendment Request 1 (March 25, 2015)

Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center is requesting a redistribution of \$ 25,520 from Personnel to Profession/Technical Contracts. The DNR has approved the Sole Source Justification request for Saint John's Outdoor University (a part of St. John's University) to work as a Contractor on the project. Saint John's Outdoor University (SJOU) will provide .5 FTE coordinator @ \$ 25,520 total for 14.5 months to develop and support 8 to 10 teams in the north-central region. Saint John's University will serve as the fiscal host.

St. John's Outdoor University is uniquely positioned to fulfill the duties of a .5 FTE YES! coordinator due to its location in north - central Minnesota, access to specialized experts in the

field of climate change, environmental education, renewable energy, local food production and experiential learning, and previous experience working with YES! teams as educators and hosts of several Winter Workshop events. PWELC believes this collaborative will provide a strong foundation for the program enabling YES! to successfully serve up to 10 teams in the region. **Amendment Approved: [3/31/2014]**

### **Project Status as of July 15, 2015:**

#### Activity 1: Recruitment and Retention of 40 teams in greater MN

Twenty-two (22) YES! teams participated in the program representing 25 counties in greater Minnesota including: Mountain Iron-Buhl, Northern Lights Community, Duluth East, International School, Northwoods High School, ACGC, DREAM/Willmar, Eden Valley -Watkins, Lac qui Parle Valley, Litchfield, New London- Spicer, Yellow Medicine East, Alexandria, Rocori, Royalton, St. Cloud Apollo, New York Mills, Glencoe-Silver Lake, Mankato West, Pine Island, Sleepy Eye, Springfield & Westbrook - Walnut Grove.

The program is on task to grow to 40 teams by the fall of 2015.

#### Activity 2: Workshops and Events

Staff organized and implemented 10 Winter Workshops (listed in January 15, 2015 update with the addition of 2). In addition, Spring Awards with a panel of judges were hosted at each of the 4 cohort locations with award winners being determined. Award certificates and large checks were presented to each award winner.

Plans are underway for the 2015 YES! Fall Summit at Saint John's Outdoor University on September 30, 2015.

#### Activity 3: Complete 150 + Projects Benefiting over 40 Communities in Greater MN

In the 2014-2015 season of YES!, 344 YES! students from 22 YES! teams worked with 250 community members, 1,600 non-YES! students, 90 local businesses and organizations, and to impact an additional 9,000 students and 8,000 community members. YES! teams collected and recycled over 2,000 pounds of holiday lights, 1,700 pounds of shoes, 8,000 plastic bags, and 181 cell phones. These teams implemented 5 YES!/Earth Weeks and installed 8 hydration stations for a total of over 120 completed action projects!

### **Project Status as of January 15, 2016:**

Overall YES! is on target to meet outcomes for each activity.

For Activity 1 (Recruitment and Retention of 40 teams in greater MN) YES! has supported 36 youth-led energy action teams and served over 52 Minnesota communities since July 1, 2014 in this second of three phases of the program. The program added a cohort in the north-central region because of potential interest and support in this region. We are expecting that region to grow to 6 teams by the fall of 2017.

For Activity 2 (Workshops and Events) YES! staff hosted 2 Fall Summit events in the fall of 2015. One Fall Summit was held at St. John's University and the other was at Laurentian Environmental Center. With support from the McKnight Foundation, YES! secured Climate

Generation: A Will Steger legacy (CG) as the keynote for each event. The partnership with CG continues throughout the season with 4 Winter Workshops focused on improving climate literacy along with additional information on climate adaptation strategies throughout the year.

For Activity 3 (Complete 150 + Projects Benefiting over 40 Communities in Greater MN) teams are on task to complete over 100 this season and well over 200 for the 2 years of the grant. Completed projects will be recognized in local and statewide media, conferences and presentations. YES! staff are working on a Funding Development Plan to strategically position YES! for viability into the future. The Northeast YES! team is well established with 8 teams and 15 communities served since July 1, 2014.

### **Overall Project Outcomes and Results:**

The Youth Energy Summit (YES!) program is designed to mobilize teams of youth to address critical environmental issues and emerging opportunities in Minnesota.

The YES! program impacts for July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2016 include:

- 36 YES! Teams completed over 280 youth-led energy conservation projects in 52 communities
- Over 820 students in grades 6-12 participated in YES! and worked with local community leaders, businesses, schools, public utilities, waste haulers and other partners
- Over 26,000 additional students and 125,000 community members were directly impacted by these efforts to decrease waste and increase energy efficiency

Over the last 2 seasons (2014-2016), YES! teams leveraged over \$ 550,000 in local support of projects and in the form of in-kind contributions, matching funds, and volunteer hours and another \$ 110,000 in grants, fundraisers and corporate support. These collaborative, student-driven projects included: installing hydration stations, building and maintaining deep winter greenhouses, school gardens, hydroponic gardens, solar boats and vehicles, installing waste oil recycling stations, improving recycling systems, reducing school energy bills, promoting environmental stewardship through educational events and more!

During the past 2 seasons, YES! staff conducted 4 Fall Summits, 25 Winter Workshops tailored to meet the needs and interests of teams, and a Community Convening co-hosted with Climate Generation. Teams participated in spring judging events each season with award winners highlighted in the Team Accomplishments documents.

The YES! program demonstrates that young people in Minnesota are ready, willing and able to assume leadership roles and take action to address environmental issues and opportunities affecting our state and the world. Collaborating partners for this project include: Prairie Woods ELC, Laurentian Environmental Center, Ney Nature Center, Central Minnesota Sustainability Partnership, Southwest Initiative Foundation, and Saint John's University. Of special note, the Royalton YES! team won the state-wide 2014 "Red Wagon" award from the Minnesota Alliance with Youth.

**IV. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:**

**ACTIVITY 1:** Recruitment and retention of up to 40 YES! teams in Central, Northeast, Southwest and Southeast Minnesota communities.

**Description:** YES! coordinators secure coaches, confirm participation of existing teams for 2014-16 seasons and recruit new teams as needed to fill vacancies in four regions of the state. “Coaches” are typically teachers or similarly trained professionals serving in an active advisory role with teams of youth. YES! staff will work to train and mentor the Northeast Cohort Coordinator to ensure success in development of a cohort in that region. Each cohort, comprised of approximately 8 to 10 teams, will be served by a YES! Coordinator.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 1:	ENRTF Budget:	\$32,470
	Amount Spent:	\$29,279
	Balance:	\$3,191

**Activity Completion Date:** June 30, 2016

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
1. Recruit and retain up to 10 teams in Northeast regional cohort.	Nov. 2014 & 2015 & on-going	\$6,900
2. Recruit and retain up to 30 teams in Central, West Central, Southwest & Southeast regions for grades 7 - 12.	Nov. 2014 & 2015 & on-going	\$22,323
3. Five (5) teams of approx. 10 students will incorporate students from grades 7 and 8.	June, 2015 & 2016 & on-going	\$3,247

**Activity 1 Status as of January 15, 2015:**

Twenty-four(24) active YES! teams are currently working to develop and implement energy action projects in their schools and communities. Coordinators are working with the coaches and students to connect them with resources and allies to successfully complete their action plans.

Outcome #1 Update: Five (5) teams in the **Northeast** region including; Mountain Iron-Buhl, Northern Lights Community, Duluth East, Harbor City International School, & Northwoods High School

Outcome # 2 Update: Nineteen (19) teams in Central, West Central, Southwest & Southeast regions including;

West Central; Atwater-cosmos-Grove City (ACGC), Brooten-Belgrade-Elrosa (BBE) , DREAM Academy/Willmar, Eden Valley -Watkins, Lac qui Parle Valley, Litchfield, New London- Spicer & Yellow Medicine East



North Central; Alexandria, Cold Spring-Rocori, Royalton, St. Cloud Apollo & New York Mills

Southeast & Southwest: Glencoe-Silver Lake, Mankato West, Pine Island, Sleepy Eye, Springfield & Westbrook - Walnut Grove

Outcome # 3 Update:

Five (5) YES! teams have 7th and 8th grade participants including; New London - Spicer, Royalton, Northwoods, DREAM Academy/Willmar & Eden Valley- Watkins.

**Activity 1 Status as of July 15, 2015:**

Twenty-two (22) YES! Teams completed the 2014-15 season with over 120 energy action projects completed. YES! staff are busy recruiting for the fall of 2015 and it looks promising that the program will meet its goal of having 40 teams in 4 major regions of the state.

Outcome #1 "Recruit and retain up to 10 teams in Northeast regional cohort" Update:

Five (4) 2014-15 teams in the Northeast region participated including: Mountain Iron-Buhl, Northern Lights Community, Duluth East & Northwoods High School

- New teams for 2015-16 season: Carlton & Cherry
- Prospective teams for 2015-16 season: Mesabi East, Big Fork, Two Harbors, Silver Bay & Grand Marais

Outcome # 2 "Recruit and retain up to 30 teams in Central, West Central, Southwest & Southeast regions for grades 7 - 12" Update:

Eighteen (18) 2014-15 teams participated from the Central, West Central, Southwest & Southeast regions including:

**West Central** (7); Atwater-Cosmos-Grove City (ACGC), DREAM Academy/Willmar, Eden Valley -Watkins, Lac qui Parle Valley, Litchfield, New London- Spicer & Yellow Medicine East

- New teams for 2015-16 season: Redwood Falls Alternative Learning Center
- Prospective teams for 2015-16 season: Brooten-Belgrade-Elrosa (BBE), Kimball, Litchfield, BOLD

**North Central** (5); Alexandria, Cold Spring-ROCORI, Royalton, St. Cloud Apollo & New York Mills

- New teams for 2015-16 season: Brainerd Montessori
- Prospective teams: Kennedy Community, Sauk Rapids Rice Middle School, Foley High School, Little Falls High School, North Jr. High/St. Cloud

**Southeast & Southwest** (6); Glencoe-Silver Lake, Mankato West, Pine Island, Sleepy Eye, Springfield & Westbrook - Walnut Grove

- New teams for 2015-16 season: Red Wing High School & Minnesota New Country School
- Prospective teams for 2015-16 season: La Crescent

Outcome 3 “Five (5) teams of approx. 10 students will incorporate students from grades 7 and 8” Update:

Five (5) participating YES! teams have 7th and 8th grade including; New London - Spicer, Royalton, North Woods, DREAM Academy/Willmar & Eden Valley- Watkins.

- New teams for 2015-16 season with 7th and 8th grade or younger participants: Brainerd Montessori will have 5th and 6th graders
- Prospective teams: Sartell-St. Stephen Jr. High

**Activity 1 Status as of January 15, 2016:**

YES! has supported 36 youth-led energy action teams and served over 52 Minnesota communities since July 1, 2014 in this second of three phases of the program. The program added a cohort in the north-central region because of potential interest and support in this region. We are expecting that region to grow to 6 teams by the fall of 2017.

Outcome 1 results:

The Northeast region has supported 8 YES! teams in over 15 communities since July 1, 2014. Several others have expressed interest with the intent to increase the region to 10 by late spring of 2016 or fall of 2017.

- Participating teams include: Carlton High School, Cherry High School, Duluth-East, Mountain Iron-Buhl, Northern Lights Community School, Northwoods High School, Mesabi East High School and Northeast High School.

Outcome 2 results:

The Central, North-Central, West Central, Southwest and Southeast cohorts have supported 27 YES! teams serving 37 communities. Participating schools include:

- West Central teams (8); Atwater-Cosmos-Grove City (ACGC) High School, DREAM Academy High School/Willmar, Eden Valley -Watkins High School, Lac qui Parle Valley High School, Litchfield High School, New London- Spicer Middle School & Yellow Medicine East High School
- Central teams (9); Alexandria Area High School, Albany High School, Cold Spring-ROCORI High School, Melrose High School, New York Mills High School, Royalton Middle and High Schools, Sartell-St. Stephen Middle School, St. Cloud Apollo High School & St. Cloud North Junior High
- North-Central teams (2): Discovery Woods Montessori/Brainerd & Little Falls Middle School
- Southeast & Southwest teams (9); Glencoe-Silver Lake High School, Mankato West High School, Minnesota New Country School (High School), Pine Island High School, Redwing High School/ELC, Sleepy Eye High School, Springfield High School, West Brook - Walnut Grove High School & Hutchinson High School

Outcome 3 results:

YES! has met and exceeded this outcome with 8 teams having 6th (Discovery Woods), 7th and 8th grade students participating in the YES! program including:

- New London - Spicer Middle School, Royalton Middle School, Minnesota New Country Day School, Sartell-St. Stephens Middle School, St. Cloud North Junior High, Discovery Woods Montessori, Little Falls Middle School & DREAM Academy

### **Activity 1 Overall Project Outcomes and Results:**

#### **Activity 1 (Recruitment and Retention) Status as of June 30, 2016, 2016:**

YES! has supported 35 youth-led energy action teams and served over 52 Minnesota communities since July 1, 2014 in this second of three phases of the program. The north-central region merged with the central cohort due to staffing changes. However, interest remains strong in this region and we have dedicated partners in Region 5. Staff developed a brochure for marketing the program. One thing we have found effective for recruiting new teams is to offer a scholarship for the participation fee. This incentive has worked well across all regions. Once teams work with the program for a year, statistics show they return. We have several teams that have been with the program for 9 years!

#### **Outcome 1 results**

The Northeast region has supported 8 YES! teams in over 15 communities from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2016.

- Participating teams include: Carlton High School, Cherry High School, Duluth-East High School, Mountain Iron-Buhl High School, Northern Lights Community School, Northwoods High School, Mesabi East High School and Northeast Range High School.

#### **Outcome 2 results:**

The Central, West Central and Southwest and Southeast cohorts have supported 27 YES! teams serving over 40 communities. Participating schools include:

- West Central teams (7); Atwater-Cosmos-Grove City High School, DREAM Academy High School (Willmar), Eden Valley-Watkins High School, Lac qui Parle Valley High School, Litchfield High School, New London-Spicer Middle School & Yellow Medicine East High School
- Central teams (11); Alexandria Area High School, Albany High School, Cold Spring High School (ROCORI), Melrose High School, New York Mills High School, Royalton Middle and High Schools, Sartell-St. Stephen Middle School, St. Cloud Apollo High School, St. Cloud North Junior High, Discovery Woods Montessori (Brainerd) and Little Falls Middle School.
- Southeast & Southwest teams (9); Glencoe-Silver Lake High School, Mankato West High School, Minnesota New Country School (High School), Pine Island High School, Red Wing High School/Alternative Learning Center, Sleepy Eye High School Springfield High School, Westbrook-Walnut Grove High School and Hutchinson High School

**Outcome 3 results:**

YES! has met and exceeded this outcome with 8 teams having 6th, 7th and 8th grade students participating in the YES! program including:

- New London-Spicer Middle School, Royalton Middle School, Minnesota New Country Day School, Sartell-St. Stephens Middle School, St. Cloud North Junior High, Discovery Woods Montessori (6th Grade), Little Falls Middle School & DREAM Academy.

**ACTIVITY 2:** Workshops, Tours & Educational events to connect students & coaches with local experts, network with each other and connect with sustainability project partners.

**Description:**

(1) Annual Summit Event: Teams gather for orientation, networking, education, goal-setting, and project planning. The event has been held at SMSU, Gustavus Adolphus College, Prairie Woods ELC & Redwood Falls.

(2) Annual Workshops and Industry Tours: YES! coordinators organize 6-10 tours and workshops, per year, specific to team project goals. Topics have included: composting, recycling, renewable energy, lunch room waste reduction, energy efficiency strategies for schools and communities, visits to solar and wind farms and local food initiatives. Each team participates in 1 or 2 workshops or tours per year. Workshops are typically held at Prairie Woods ELC, College of St. Benedict/St. John’s University, schools, community centers or regional businesses and organizations. Many organizations have participated in the past including: power cooperatives, county waste facility managers, waste haulers, Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs), renewable energy businesses, University of MN/Extension educators and other relevant organizations.

(3) Annual Spring Celebration and Judging: public recognition of team project outcomes and prize awards (prizes from local foundations such as SWIF & Initiative Foundation), plus wrap-up activities.

<b>Summary Budget Information for Activity 2:</b>	ENRTF Budget:	\$75,425
	Amount Spent:	\$70,507
	Balance:	\$4,918

**Activity 2 Completion Date:** June 30, 2016

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>	<b>Budget</b>
1. Over 600 (total for 2 years) team members attend YES! Summits, Workshops & tours, and participate in Spring Celebration/Awards (annually)	May, 2015 & 2016	\$37,713
2. Each team demonstrates connections with over 5 experts and allies who can assist them with completing sustainability projects in their communities	June, 2015 & 2016	\$18,856
3. Each team identifies at least one regional partner for project support per year.	on-going	\$18,856

## Activity Status as of January 15, 2015:

The YES! program featured 2 Fall Summits this year; one at Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center in Spicer, MN; and one at our partner site Laurentian Environmental Learning Center, in Britt, MN. We were pleased with the turn out and great participation by the coaches, students and resource experts.

## 2014 YES! Fall Summit

(Excerpt from E-Newsletter. Written by Aleta Kolan, YES! Data/Communications Specialist)

*To the right, students explored various aspects of energy issues and opportunities during the YES! Fall Summit 2014 at Prairie Woods ELC including this student from DREAM Academy in Willmar*

Over 170 students and teachers from 15 schools throughout southwest, west-central and central Minnesota gathered at Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center on October 22nd for the eighth annual YES! Fall Summit. This year's Summit provided a variety of energy-related experiences around the theme *Explore. Excite. Engage.*

Throughout the day, students were able to connect with their peers, resource experts, and information to position themselves for success as they prepare to engage in team-based projects that not only lead to dramatic demonstrations of renewable energy technology and conservation practices, but also build student skills like problem-solving, communication, teamwork, and project management.

Rotating through two morning breakout sessions, students participated in a Projects, Posters, and Planning activity and a session on Community Connections and Communications. The Projects, Posters and Planning session happened quickly but produced cool results. The teams created posters in 15 minutes that depicted their past projects. Teams then had the opportunity to explore the posters made by each of the other teams and ask questions. Using sticky notes posted directly on other team's past project posters students identified questions, suggestions, and potential collaborations with other team projects. It was great to see the students become the experts on their own projects while presenting to other teams. In the end teams left the session with their own future project poster and connections that will make accomplishing that project fun!

During the Community Connections & Communications session students explored and mapped their existing community networks to develop a better understanding of the assets and resources available to them. Teams then got a chance to hone their communications skills by identifying media and outreach opportunities and practicing an "elevator speech". The session finished with a riveting round of the Game of Sustainable Futures, in which teams authored and shared creative stories of successful projects in the face of outrageous, random scenarios.



After the morning sessions, students had lunch with local resource experts and spent time outside on the challenge courses. During their lunch with experts, students munched on foods produced primarily by local farmers. After they ate they had the chance to speak to experts from around the state on topics related to their projects. Students were completely engaged while listening to these professionals and brainstorming how to make their projects better. Meanwhile, outside, students worked on team building skills while participating in the Flying Squirrel, the climbing wall, and playing initiative games. The laughs and squeals of joy could be heard all around as students helped each other reach new heights while learning to communicate successfully. It was great to see so many students try new things and build strong bonds with their fellow teammates.

Teams left filled with energy, inspiration, and ideas for energy-related projects to tackle in their schools and communities this school year!

## First Annual Northeastern MN Fall Summit

(Written by Jim Devries, YES! Coordinator/Northeast MN)

*On right, members of four NE YES! Teams gathered November 19th at Laurentian Environmental Center for the 1st annual NE YES! Fall Summit*

On November 19 four brand new YES! teams assembled at Laurentian Environmental Center for the first ever NE MN YES! Fall Summit. As often happens in the northern climates, the day was snowy and the roads were icy, but teams traveled over 80 miles in these winter conditions to participate.

38 students and 5 coaches participated in a day of learning, brainstorming, and networking. The day started off with an ice breaker during which students found out interesting facts about the other teams and their individual members. This was followed by a chance for teams to challenge their creativity and engineering skills by creating solar ovens to cook marshmallows, creating a seed dispersal device that would float in the wind or designing a vehicle that is powered solely by air. Many imaginative designs emerged.



Late morning we had three experts come to talk about their respective areas of interest. Bill Mittlefehldt of Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs) started off with a discussion on energy consumption and how teams could work to reduce their impact on their communities. Next was Allison Sawyer from St. Louis County Environmental Services who shared how teams could help to reduce the waste streams in their lunchrooms and classrooms. The third speaker was Janna Goerdts – owner of Fat Chicken Farm who brought the local foods discussion to a practical level with three teams bringing home a flat of lettuce and other salad greens to start their winter gardens. These three experts also stayed through lunch to serve as a resource as teams began the discussion of their energy action projects for the year.

It was good to hear the enthusiasm for teams' new project ideas. Teams were discussing everything from milk carton recycling and composting food waste in their cafeteria to building a winter green house for growing winter greens and even ramping up the production at their school garden to sell at farmers markets to help fund future projects.

## WORKSHOP and TOUR UPDATE:

YES! Workshops are tailored to meet the needs of the students to provide learning about a particular topic they are interested in and to connect students to local resources and experts.

YES! staff are organizing and hosting the following YES! Winter Workshops and tours:

- January 28: "Design and Build a Super Mileage Car." Glencoe-Silver Lake
- February 6: "Farmer's Market Start-Up 101." Northern Lights School
- February 13: "Local Foods and Recycling." Mountain Iron-Bule
- February 13: "Where Waste Goes After it Goes Away." St.Cloud
- February 17: "Energy Tour; Solar and Wind." North Woods School
- February 25: "Local Foods for Minnesota Winters." College of St. Benedict (CSB)
- March 3: "Energy Reduction, Composting & Recycling." Duluth
- March 4: " Grow Your YES! Business & Composting Program." Good Thunder/Mankato

## Activity 2 Status as of July 15, 2015:

YES! Staff organized and implemented the following Winter Workshops this past season:

- Exploring the Automotive Industry and Automotive Design Practices in Glencoe
- Local Foods for Northern Minnesota Winters in Grand Rapids
- Where Waste Goes (After it Goes Away) in St. Cloud
- Greenhouses, Growing and Recycling in Virginia and Embarrass
- Restoring Minnesota's Pollinator Landscape in Alexandria
- Exploring Energy and Waste Reduction in Duluth
- Local Foods for Minnesota Winters in St. Joseph
- Grow Your YES! Business and Composting Program
- Building Sustainability with Alternate Energies in Rochester
- Waste Audit Winter Workshop in Willmar

The annual YES! Spring Awards 2014-15 were met with enthusiasm and excitement. Judges met in each of the 4 cohorts to determine which teams would receive cash prizes and award certificates for their good work to conserve energy, reduce waste and promote sustainable best practices in their school and community. Judges commented on how impressed they were with the students' accomplishments and felt inspired to continue to support youth in their community. YES! coordinators went on-site to present the awards in front their peers and community. The winners include:

### Southern Cohort

- 1st: Sleepy Eye
- 2nd: Springfield
- 3rd: Tie between Mankato West and Westbrook-Walnut Grove

### Central Cohort

- 1st: New London-Spicer
- 2nd: Atwater-Cosmos-Grove City
- 3rd: Tie between DREAM Technical Academy and Litchfield

### North Central Cohort

- 1st: Royalton

- 2nd: Tie between St. Cloud Apollo and ROCORI
- 3rd: Tie between New York Mills and Alexandria

### **Northeast Cohort**

- 1st: Northern Lights Community and North Woods
- 2nd: Mountain Iron-Buhl and Duluth East (tie)

### **Activity 2 Status as of January 15, 2016:**

Outcome 1 result: 513 students have participated in YES! Fall Summits in years 2014 and 2015. Another 400 students participated in YES! Winter Workshops and Spring Judging in 2015 (some are the same students already accounted for in the Fall Summit data).

Outcome 2 result: 37 resource experts have made connections with YES! students through presentations and conversations at 11 YES! Winter Workshops and 4 Fall Summits. Students also connect with allies and resources in their local communities throughout the year.

Outcome 3 result: Each YES! team has connected with at least one regional partner such as: Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships, MN Technical Assistance Program, Southwest Initiative Foundation, Initiative Foundation, Northland Initiative Foundation, Iron Range Sustainability Partnership, local cooperatives, county waste facilities, local businesses & service organizations.

YES! staff hosted 2 Fall Summit events with featured guests from Climate Generation: A Will Steger legacy. In addition, 2 of the 10 YES! Winter Workshops have been completed. Read about them in the following articles.

### **8th Annual YES! Fall Summit held at Saint John’s University**

Article submitted by Aleta Kolan (YES! Data/Communications Specialists) for YES! blog

The air was electric with the excitement of 240 students and coaches as the 8th annual Fall Summit, held at Saint John’s University on September 30th, opened with a warm welcome by Tom Kroll, Director of Saint John’s Outdoor University. Kristen Poppleton from Climate Generation: A Will Steger Legacy gave the keynote address illuminating the difference between weather patterns and climate change. Poppleton encouraged students to work together to mitigate the effects of climate change through their energy action projects.

The 23 YES! coaches in attendance gathered while the students were engaged in initiative games to share best practices for fundraising, recruitment of new students and how to manage multi-year projects while giving new students the opportunity to start new projects of interest to them. Resources from YES! were also shared to kick off the new 2015-16 season.



Word cloud generated by activity

The Project Planning and Sharing session started with a representative from each team standing up and sharing their past projects and highlights with the rest of the group. The students then were able to go around the room and view posters of



what other YES! teams had done. It was a great networking opportunity for the teams as they were able to talk to YES! team members from other schools about different projects. In addition to hearing what other teams had accomplished each team was able to sit down and do project planning for the upcoming year.

The Meet the Experts session was jam-packed with helpful knowledge for teams. Experts included Doug Lien from Tri- County Solid Waste Management, Matt Domski from Minnesota Technical Assistance Program, and Jeff Haase from Great River Energy (along with eight representatives from local energy cooperatives). Lien talked about how he could assist teams working on organics recycling, and Domski discussed ways to reduce food waste in the cafeteria. Haase, along with the eight representatives, met with teams about ways to work with utilities to accomplish shared goals in conserving energy. All teams in attendance were given the opportunity to meet with and ask questions of the expert(s) of their choice.



GSL and MNCS YES! Teams

In the Behavior Change and Metrics session at the YES! Fall Summit, Alexis Troschinetz from the Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs) discussed the importance of choosing actions with measurable outcomes. She discussed the challenges and different ways of working towards changing long ingrained behaviors of different audiences. The YES! students had opportunities to group up and make a plan for changing behaviors in different settings such as helping elderly people switch to energy efficient lighting, and helping farmers adopt tractor block heater timers. The students had a valuable lesson in working as a group to solve a problem, and had an opportunity to brainstorm about possible energy savings actions.

The teams left energized and ready to take action in their schools and communities! Experts also commented that they had enjoyed interacting with teams and look forward to seeing the results of their actions at the end of the school year.

## **2nd Annual Northeast YES! Fall Summit**

Article submitted by Jim DeVries, NE YES! Coordinator for the YES! blog

On October 14, 2015, the second annual Northeastern Minnesota YES Fall Summit was held at the Laurentian Environmental Center in Britt, MN. This year we had 6 teams from around our region in attendance. There were 65 students and 11 coaches and/or supporting staff who made the trek to learn how they can make an impact on the energy future in their communities.

The day started with a “Wind Turbine” activity where students designed a wind turbine out of household materials, to see if they could lift a cup full of washers off the table using only the power of the wind. Two students achieved the record of 71 washers. They felt if more time was allotted their turbine would have done more.

We were all excited for the Keynote presentation about climate change presented by Jenna Totz of the Climate Generation, a Will Steger Legacy. Jenna talked about the trends of the warming climate and backed up each statement with facts gathered by scientists from around



One great idea that came up was planting an edible landscape around the school so students could grab an apple or carrot on their way to school in the morning as they walked into the building. Side benefits of having the apple trees on the south side of the school would be the cooling effect offered in the summer to reduce the cooling costs.

I am always amazed at the enthusiasm of the students when they are empowered to make a change in their schools. Their ideas are limitless and their dedication to the earth is even greater. It makes me proud to be able to work with the students in NE MN as we embark on some life changing experiences together.

## **Exploring the Biofuels Industry and Automotive Design Practices at GSL**

Article submitted by Katelyn Larson (YES! Southeast/Southwest Coordinator) for the YES! blog

The Glencoe-Silver Lake YES! Team (GSL), coached by Mike Sundblad, hosted “Exploring the Biofuels Industry and Automotive Design Practices” Winter Workshop at their school on Friday, December 4, 2015. The Minnesota New Country School YES! Team, coached by David Rice, attended.

The students began the day by helping to “Define YES! in One Word.” Each student wrote what YES! meant to them or what they thought YES! was in one word on a sheet of paper. These words were collected to create a word cloud. Words that occurred more frequently appear larger in the graphic.

Next, students broke the ice with Rock, Paper, Scissors. Students paired up and played 2-3 rounds of Rock, Paper, Scissors. Each winner paired up with another winner, and the students that did not win became the cheerleaders for the winners. Play progressed until one student triumphed, claiming a t-shirt and bragging rights for the day.

We had three engaging speakers lined up to talk to the students. Joe Wambeke and Kevin Larison, faculty members from the automotive programs at Ridgewater College, spoke to the teams about the type of automotive classes offered at Ridgewater College as well as ways to improve vehicle efficiency. Wambeke discussed the pros and cons of using aluminum versus steel, water-based paint versus solvent-based paint, and fuel injection versus carburetors. Larison showed the teams a glass engine, enabling students and staff to understand what happens when certain variables are changed.

Paul Steevens, automotive researcher at Minnesota State University, Mankato, explained the type of automotive research conducted at the university and also offered tips to the students on ways to improve miles per gallon in their various types of supermileage cars. One helpful tip he gave to the teams was if something doesn't work toward the overall goal, scrap it.

Our day concluded by allowing teams time to work on their projects. The MNCS team headed home to discuss ideas they had gathered while the GSL team stayed to work on their proposals for the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Supermileage Challenge, sponsored by the Minnesota Technology and Engineering Educators Association (MTEEA)

The following YES! Winter Workshops are planned for 2016:

- Jan. 22: Local Foods in Carlton, MN

- Jan. 27: How to Grow a Green Thumb, hosted by PWELC
- Jan. 29: Hydroponics, hosted in Duluth
- Feb. 2: Climate Generation, hosted by Duluth East YES! team
- Feb. 3: Completing the Circle (composting/recycling), hosted at Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, MN
- Feb. 3: Energy Conservation, hosted in Avon St. John's University
- Feb. 17: Community Solar, hosted by South Central Electric Cooperative, Lake Crystal, MN
- Feb. 17: Electrify Your Team with Sun and Climate Generation, hosted by PWELC
- Week of Feb. 22: Native Plants in St. Cloud
- Feb. 23: Climate Stewards with Climate Generation, hosted by Albany YES! team and open to the public (6:30 - 8)
- March 2: Greening your Cafeteria in Little Falls, MN

More information on the YES! Winter Workshops can be found on the YES! website events page at <http://www.youthenergysummit.org/events/2016-03/> .

### **Overall Project Outcomes and Results:**

Overall YES! met its intended outcomes for Activity 2 which includes student participating in relevant workshops, tours & educational events to connect students & coaches with local experts, network with each other and connect with sustainability project partners. During a survey conducted in partnership with Climate Generation(CG), the events were rated as one of the students' favorite part of the program. Winter Workshops in 2016 and the 2015 Fall Summit brought together matching dollars from McKnight (\$ 8,000) to partner with Climate Generation for the keynote and sessions on "Climate Stories." In addition, YES! and CG worked together to bring relevant climate education to YES! teams in 4 different regions through region specific education provided through our Winter Workshop series.

**Outcome 1 result:** 513 students have participated in YES! Fall Summits in years 2014 and 2015. Another 400 students participated in YES! Winter Workshops and Spring Judging in 2015 (some are the same students already accounted for in the Fall Summit data). An additional 500 students participated in YES! Winter Workshops and Spring Judging in 2016 for a total of 900 participating from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2016.

**Outcome 2 result:** 110 resource experts over the past 2 years have made connections with YES! students through presentations and conversations at 26 (11 in 2015 and 15 in 2016) YES! Winter Workshops and 4 Fall Summits. Students also connected with allies and resources in their local communities throughout the year.

**Outcome 3 result:** Each YES! team has connected with at least one regional partner and in most cases teams connected with multiple resources per year such as: Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships, MN Technical Assistance Program, Southwest Initiative Foundation, Initiative Foundation, University of Minnesota Extension, Northland Initiative Foundation, Iron Range Sustainability Partnership, local cooperatives, county waste facilities, local businesses & service organizations.

YES! staff hosted 4 Fall Summit events, 2 per year, with featured guests in 2015 from Climate Generation: A Will Steger legacy. YES! partnered with Climate Generation for 3 winter workshops and 1 community convening organized and led by the Albany YES! team.

Over 335 students and coaches participated in the 15 unique Winter Workshops offered this season--the most workshops we have ever hosted! They learned from over 70 experts as well as their peers and utilized hands-on learning, tours, and discussions to acquire knowledge and plan for the success of their projects.

Below please see a list of all 15 YES! hosted Winter Workshops along with a link to read more about each event.

- Dec. 4: [Exploring the Automotive Industry and Design Practices in Glencoe](#)
- Jan. 22: [Local Foods in Carlton](#)
- Jan. 27: [How to Grow a Green Thumb at PWELC](#)
- Jan. 27: [Why We Should Install a Hydration Station?](#)
- Feb. 2: [What Happens to Waste at UMD](#)
- Feb. 3: [Energy Conservation in Avon and at SJU](#)
- Feb. 17: [Community Solar in Mankato and Lake Crystal](#)
- Feb. 17: [Solar Energy/Community Solar at PWELC](#)
- Feb. 23: [Climate Stewards Workshop at Albany](#)
- Feb. 26: [Native Plants in Sartell and St. Cloud](#)
- Feb. 26: [Hydroponics in Duluth](#)
- Mar. 2: [Greening your Cafeteria in Little Falls](#)
- Mar. 2: [Completing the Circle at Gustavus](#)
- Apr. 14: [Solar Energy 101 at Silicon Energy](#)

More information on the YES! Winter Workshops can be found on the YES! website events page at <http://www.youthenergysummit.org/events/2016-03/> .

**ACTIVITY 3:** Team Action Projects; complete 150+ Energy Action Projects benefiting at least 40 Communities in Central, Northeast, Southwest and Southeast Minnesota.

**Description:**

YES! teams assess needs in their community and school, evaluate and help find local resources to meet the need, create an action plan and implement their projects with the support of their adult coach, YES! staff and community experts. Projects may include: energy efficiency upgrades, energy audits, waste reduction, composting, recycling, hydration stations, renewable energy installations, school gardens, educational events for k-12 and community to promote sustainable living practices and more.

YES! staff provide on-going 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 to share information on best practices and lessons learned.

ENRTF funds provide support for YES! staff time, in-state travel, 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. 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, and 2. Transportation expenses for buses or vans for students and coaches/adult advisors to travel to YES! events. The total allowance will be distributed equally among participating teams.

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 by mid December or early January. See “Project Seed Funds Eligible Expenses” attachment.

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 the production of and/or consumption of locally-produced foods in school cafeterias and communities.

<b>Summary Budget Information for Activity 3:</b>	ENRTF Budget:	\$242,105
	Amount Spent:	\$219,996
	Balance:	\$22,109

**Activity 3 Completion Date:** June 30, 2016

<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>	<b>Budget</b>
1. All teams identify sustainability issues in their community and school and then create a sustainability action plan each year.	Jan. 1, 2015 & 2016	\$48,421
2. Over 150 energy action projects completed. YES! teams use seed funds to help reimburse project expenses. All teams will seek and be awarded cash, in-kind or volunteer support. PWELC will report non-ENRTF funds as Other Funds.	June, 2015 & 2016	\$121,053
3. Project accomplishments are recognized and made public via website, newsletters, conference presentations and news media at least 3 times/year. Staff meet in person with teams approx. 2 to 3 times per year or more and provide support to teams & networking amongst teams on a regular basis.	June 2015 & 2016	\$24,210

4. YES! staff and partners develop a sustainable program strategy & establishment of a Northeast YES! cohort	June, 2016	\$48,421
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**Activity Status as of January 15, 2015:**

All YES! teams have completed an assessment of their community and school to determine where the greatest need is and where their efforts can have the biggest impact. Each team is developing action plans and working with local resources and experts to accomplish the following projects:

**Alexandria Area High School YES! Team:**

- Making plans for a native pollinator garden and Monarch butterfly habitat in their newly-developing school garden.
- Planning a recycling fundraiser to move this process forward.

**Atwater-Cosmos-Grove City YES! Team:**

- In process of developing the team.

**Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa**

- Researching and assessing needs of school and interest of students.

**DREAM Academy, Willmar, MN YES! Team:**

- Working on a campus wide pop can recycling drop off. The cans will be used for fundraising for team projects.
- Analyzing energy usage at the school using the power cost monitor YES! Kit.
- Playing with the idea of paper-towel mulch.
- Planning a Black Out Day.

**Duluth East High School YES! Team:**

- Exploring options related to gardening and recycling projects in their school.

**Eden Valley - Watkins YES! Team:**

- Researching and planning on building a wall garden.
- Reaching out to local business to support YES! through the East Side Oil 5 cent program.

**Glencoe -Silver Lake YES! Team:**

- Building a new vehicle to compete in the E-85 division of the MTEEA Supermileage Challenge. The two vehicles that they have built in previous years for the competitions will be entered into the competition in the Stock and Modified divisions.
- Check out their team website.

**Harbor City International YES! Team:**

- Have an interest in recycling and gardening projects to better their school.
- **Lac qui Parle Valley YES! Team:**
- Running and maintaining a Deep Winter Greenhouse.
- Sold 5 CSA shares from their greenhouse to maintain operations.
- Looking into doing a show with Pioneer Public Television based around a town hall meeting with local farmers.
- Are planning on doing plastic bag recycling for their school and community.

- Selling concessions as a fundraiser for their team.
- Looking into an Elementary Education Event.

**Litchfield YES! Team:**

- Investigating possibilities for plastic bag recycling.
- Installing hydration stations at their Elementary School.
- Doing “One Vegetable, One Community” for the 4th year in a row. This year the vegetable will most likely be squash!
- Did a holiday light recycling program in their school and community.
- Plan to participate in their Litchfield Community Clean up Day.

**Mankato West YES! Team:**

- Distributed 1250 reusable water bottles to students and staff at their high school to encourage use of the hydration stations they installed in their school last year.
- Considering a full electrical inventory of their school building.
- Installed a vending miser to save energy in a drink vending machine in their school cafeteria. They first measured how much energy the vending machine is using without the energy-saving device so that they can calculate how much energy and money the vending miser will save their school.
- Are writing articles regarding their team and projects for a STEM kiosk in their school.

**Mountain Iron-Buhl YES! Team:**

- Working on a project to recycle all of their school’s milk cartons.
- Researching installing a hydration station to cut down on plastic water bottle use and waste.
- Exploring options for building a school garden to feed their student body more fresh food.

**New London-Spicer YES! Team:**

- Making organic granola with local rolled oats.
- Making beeswax products for the Kandi Mall bake sale.
- Getting a shoe collection going to raise money for a hydration station in their local elementary school.
- Looking deeper into recycling plastics, metals, copper wire, and other materials.
- Designing a heat exchanger for the sink in their school greenhouse.
- Collected holiday lights in the lobby of their middle and high schools.

**New York Mills YES! Team:**

- Continuing school garden development.
- Researching apple orchard options
- Exploring the possibilities for hydration stations in their schools.

**North Woods (Cook) YES! Team:**

- Working on energy projects to benefit their school .

**Northern Lights Community School (Warba) YES! Team:**

- Working on replacing all of the milk cartons in their school by installing bulk milk dispensers to save money and send less waste to landfills.
- Exploring options for expanding their school’s gardens and working on a possible farmers market through their school.



**Pine Island YES! Team:**

Determining which ideas to put into practice this year. Some of the ideas they discussed include:

- A recycling project that involves the community
- Tree plantings
- A blackout day at their school where they calculate their energy savings
- Planning a late spring star-gazing event
- Host a class for children to help them discover nature
- Hosting second annual Winter Event on January 31st which will include collaborative classes with Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center regarding Winter Survival, paths lit by luminaries for skiing and snowshoeing, and lots more!

**ROCORI YES! Team:**

- Exploring possibilities for a school courtyard garden.
- Organizing a campaign to rid lunchroom of wasteful Styrofoam bowls.
- Planning a water bottle fundraiser to install more hydration stations.

**Royalton YES! Team:**

- Partnering with Minnesota Power to sell LED bulbs and encourage families to energy audit their homes, thus earning funds for their school.
- Entering the annual Solar Boat Regatta.
- Hosting an annual smoothie fundraiser for local nursing home.
- Laying groundwork for a school garden and greenhouse.

**Sleepy Eye YES! Team:**

- Are investigating the possibility of bringing composting to their school and community.
- Planning to enter data from 3 city buildings into the state's B3 database.
- Continue to implement recycling and paper re-use programs as well as "biggest loser" locker clean-outs at their schools.
- Their town received new LED holiday light displays, so they dismantled their town's old light displays in order to recycle them. They will also collect holiday lights from their community members for recycling.
- Planning Earth Week activities for the schools in their district.

**Springfield YES! Team:**

- Developing energy action plans

**St. Cloud Apollo YES! Team:**

- Working in partnership with Tri-County Organics to begin a lunchroom composting program.
- Creating a short film to raise awareness, titled "Do the rot thing."

**Westbrook-Walnut Grove YES! Team:**

- Placed bottle recycling bins strategically in their high school and elementary school in order to help them reach their goal of having no recyclable bottles placed in the garbage in their school. They count the number of bottles in their recycling bins and in the trash regularly and donate the proceeds to their town's 4th of July fireworks fund.

- Have a successful plastic bag recycling program at their school. They are using the colored bags that are turned in to make bracelets that they plan to sell.
- Using an idea they found on Pinterest, they have created some solar LED jars that they also plan to sell.
- Continue to enter the data from their city buildings into the state's B3 database.

**Yellow Medicine East High YES! Team:**

- Planning to do plastic bag recycling.
- Working on a greenhouse and outdoor education center in their 40'x40' greenhouse which will be utilized like a traditional greenhouse as well as a classroom.

**Activity 3 Status as of July 15, 2015:**

In the 2014-2015 season of YES!, 344 YES! students from 23 YES! Teams implemented over 120 action projects ranging from collecting shoes, cellphones and plastic bags to designing, building and participating in a Supermileage competition. Overall impact on community and projects during the 2014-15 season include:

- Working with 253 community members, 1,606 non-YES! students, 75 local businesses and organizations, and 17 connections from the University of Minnesota impacting an additional 9,092 students and 7,975 community members
- YES! teams collected and recycled over 2,000 pounds of holiday lights, 1,700 pounds of shoes, 8,000 plastic bags, and 181 cell phones.
- YES! teams implemented 5 YES!/Earth Weeks and installed 8 hydration stations.
- Teams built 4 super-mileage cars for the 2015 MTEEA Supermileage competition, entering in the stock, modified, E-85 and electric divisions.
- 8 teams built and/or managed school gardens and greenhouses.
- 8 teams participated in the World Wear Project in various capacities, many of them doing it for YES! These teams collected used shoes that will be reused and/or recycled in return for "Prairie Woods" bucks that they can use towards their YES! team fee next year. They collected over 300 pounds of tennis shoes!
- At least 15 teams did recycling projects in their schools and communities.
- 4 teams did waste or energy audits of their schools
- 4 teams worked on composting initiatives
- 57 towns and cities were involved in YES! projects and students
- 25 counties were represented by YES! teams
- 96 organizations and agencies were involved with YES! projects and students

Team accomplishments:

**Alexandria Area High School YES! Team:**

- The YES! team is part of a transition program for 12th grade special education students with high needs who will require support after high school. The program requires students to do a service project and these students selected to research, design and plant a pollinator garden in collaboration with master gardeners and fellow students from the MN Landscape class.
- Students visited the Science Museum to learn about pollinators
- Students worked with school staff, students, and community members to write 4 grants and secure funding for their pollinator garden which now includes 375 plants

### **Atwater-Cosmos-Grove City YES! Team:**

- Monitored the use of their hydration station and recorded 13,085 fills as of April 14, 2015.
- Ran a paper recycling fundraiser during April and May at their Jr/Sr High School to help fund future energy action projects in their schools and communities.
- Participated in the YES! [World Wear Project](#) by collecting used shoes that will be reused and/or recycled in return for “Prairie Woods” bucks that they can use towards their YES! team fee next year. They collected over 300 pounds of tennis shoes!
- Completed an energy audit by analyzing every exterior door in their school with a laser thermometer to see which doors needed weather stripping and where on the doors it was leaking.

### **DREAM Academy YES! Team, Willmar**

- Analyzed energy usage at the school using the power cost monitor YES! Kit.
- Received a grant from the Southwest Initiative Foundation to build a compost tumbler. This is part of a waste awareness initiative that was sparked in part at the Waste Winter Workshop where they toured the Kandiyohi County Recycling and Hazardous Waste Facility and the county landfill. This workshop culminated in a waste audit at the school that will continue the team on their path to sustainability.
- Based on their waste audit, they expect to be able to reduce their school waste by 25% through a combination of composting and better recycling.
- Participated in the YES! World Wear by collecting used shoes that will be reused and/or recycled in return for “Prairie Woods” bucks that they can use towards their YES! team fee next year.

### **Duluth East High School YES! Team:**

- Evaluated and redefined recycling at Duluth East High School. This included determining weaknesses of the current program and setting goals for the future.
- Plan to reorganize their “green club” as a YES! team next year.

### **Eden Valley - Watkins YES! Team:**

- Researched and planned flower bed construction. Their wish is to beautify an area outside of their building that is in need of work. Once the garden is constructed, a system will be developed to bring and utilize rainwater to water the garden.
- Reached out to local business to support YES! through the East Side Oil 5 cent program

### **Glencoe -Silver Lake YES! Team:**

- Built a new vehicle to compete in the E-85 division of the [MTEEA Supermileage Challenge](#). The two vehicles that they built in previous years for the competitions were entered into the competition in the Stock and Modified divisions. One student commented, “building a high-mileage vehicle from scratch was a very enjoyable experience. I hope to have more real-life experiences like it in college”.
- According to their coach “the team performed beyond expectations at the competition”. Their “Orange Crush” vehicle (with an average MPG of 425 and top MPG of 456) earned them a second-place finish. Their blue car finished with 253 MPG and their Pink Cadillac with 85 MPG (the weather was a factor in this low MPG).
- Helped fund their projects through a [community-based recycling initiative](#) that resulted in 10,000 pounds of waste scrap metal being recycling and raised \$4,700 for their team.

- Planned and went on a trip to Kansas where they met with well over 500 fans and talked to them about Supermileage, YES!, and STEM.
- Check out their [team website](#).

#### **Lac qui Parle Valley YES! Team:**

- Ran and maintained a Deep Winter Greenhouse.
- Grew enough greens for their school lunch program and sold 5 CSA shares to local families to raise money in order to maintain operations and make this program sustainable in the future.
- Participated in the YES! World Wear by collecting used shoes that will be reused and/or recycled in return for “Prairie Woods” bucks that they can use towards their YES! team fee next year.

#### **Litchfield YES! Team:**

- Installed hydration stations at their Elementary School.
- Participated in “One Vegetable, One Community” for the 4th year in a row. This year they planted four different varieties of squash and distributed about 800 plants to local first graders and community members.
- Did a holiday light recycling program in their school and community and collected 5 big boxes (about 40 pounds) of lights.
- Collaborated with other organizations in their school including Student Council and FCCLA for the Litchfield Community Clean up Day.

#### **Mankato West YES! Team:**

- Distributed 1250 reusable water bottles to students and staff at their high school to encourage use of the hydration stations they installed in their school last year. Each hydration station has a QR code on it so students can scan it and submit the current number of bottle fills from the station to a graph of fills that the YES! students monitor.
- Upgraded hallway lighting throughout the school. They replaced 731 of the school’s 32-watt light bulbs with T8 28W Ultra Energy Saving bulbs. This change reduces their electrical energy consumption slightly, but also more than doubles the life span of the bulbs, saving them about \$6.50 per day and nearly \$19,500 over the lifespan of the replacement bulbs! Check out a [time-lapse video](#) of their efforts and [read more about it](#).
- To gather data on their school’s electrical usage during the school day, they distributed a survey to all staff members and compiled the results along with the data from an electrical energy usage audit they did to help them understand their school’s energy habits and how they might change them.
- Installed a vending miser to save energy in a drink vending machine in their school cafeteria. They first measured how much energy the vending machine is using without the energy-saving device so that they could calculate how much energy and money the vending miser saves their school. The miser has reduced the vending machine energy usage by 25%!
- Wrote articles regarding their team and projects for a STEM kiosk in their school.

#### **Mountain Iron-Buhl YES! Team:**

- Explored several projects and worked on a project to recycle all of their school's milk cartons, but found that this was harder than they expected.

#### **New London-Spicer YES! Team:**

- Made and sold organic granola with local rolled oats.
- Made beeswax products for the Kandi Mall bake sale.
- Created a shoe collection to raise money for a hydration station in their local elementary school. They collected about 600 pounds of shoes!
- Grew plants for their bee garden.
- Taught outdoor science lessons to grades 1-3 in small groups.
- Explored the feasibility of solar (both photo voltaic and solar thermal) for their school.
- Collected holiday lights in the lobby of their middle and high schools.

#### **New York Mills YES! Team:**

- Continued school garden development and maintenance.
- Raised money for a hydration station in their school by selling re-useable YES! team water bottles and hosting a dance.
- Hosted a YES! week May 4-8 including dress-up days and trivia!
- Participated in the YES! World Wear by collecting used shoes that will be reused and/or recycled in return for "Prairie Woods" bucks that they can use towards their YES! team fee next year.

#### **North Woods (Cook) YES! Team:**

- Worked on making their school forest by acquiring 50 acres of land.
- Built a bridge to access acres of land of the opposite side of a stream in their forest. For this project they worked with the US Forest Service and other community members.
- Started a milk carton recycling program and collected the unused milk left over by students which was then fed a local sow as she prepared to give birth to 11 piglets.

#### **Northern Lights Community School (Warba) YES! Team:**

- Got rid of all of the waste created by milk cartons in their school through installing bulk milk dispensers in order to save money and send less waste to landfills. They were able to find a used milk dispenser that met all requirements at a reasonable price. They put together a cost analysis regarding this switch and determined that this switch will save approximately \$200.00 of milk annually and eliminates 350 milk cartons from the waste stream each week.
- They wanted to have a more environmentally effective way to dispose of their school's food waste, so they implemented a composting program involving local community farmers. Their school now collects all of its food waste at the end of every meal and provides it to local farmers to feed various farm animals in their community.
- In return for the food waste, these farms provide the NLCS school garden with organic fertilizer.
- The students developed a school garden and they have planned a CSA for the local community. The YES! team will be planning, planting, growing, and harvesting all the organic vegetables used for the CSA at NLCS. Students were able to organize a garden based on the landscape architecture planning they studied. A vegetable stand will be the

centerpiece of the CSA garden project where local community members will be able to receive fresh, organic vegetables.

- Received the 2nd annual Community Sustainability – People’s Choice Award which included a check in the amount of \$200.00 from the Iron Range Partnership for Sustainability’s Community Sustainability Initiative to be used in their school greenhouse.
- The YES! team has been maintaining the recycling center at NLCS. They designed and built signs that label which recyclables go in which area of the recycling center. They also produced flyers that were distributed in the local community to inform them about the recycling center. This made a difference for those community members that previously didn’t have access to an easy, local recycling center.

### **Pine Island YES! Team:**

- Initiated a recycling project involving their community which will result in 10 new mixed-recycling containers for their school to be put into use by next school year.
- Held a late spring star-gazing event.
- Hosted a class for children to help them discover nature.
- Collected 181 cell phones for recycling from their school and community as part of the Minnesota Zoo’s [Recycle for Rainforests](#) program.
- Hosted their second annual Winter Event on January 31st which included collaborative classes with [Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center](#) regarding Winter Survival, paths lit by luminaries for skiing and snowshoeing, and lots more!

### **ROCORI YES! Team:**

- Provided recycling containers in their school building and collected paper, plastic, glass, and aluminum weekly.
- Continued their assessment of their recycling program and noted that they recycled more than 4 barrels of paper, 5 barrels of plastic bottles, and almost 2 barrels of aluminum cans per week. This is an increase from last year’s amounts, which were 3 barrels of plastic bottles, and 3 barrels of paper. They attributed this increase to the fact that they provided more containers in key areas.
- Again collected used tennis shoes from January through April to be refurbished and reused or recycled through the World Wear project, which also helps them generate funds for their team projects. They collected over 150 pairs of shoes this year and new and old members of YES! joined together to pack and ship off the shoes!
- Tabled at the ROCORI Coaches Association Kids Carnival and had a game that elementary school students could play to increase awareness of recycling as well as their YES! team.
- Tabled at the St. Cloud State University Earth Day Expo.
- With the collaboration of their custodial staff and Wenner Plumbing and Heating they installed their school’s second hydration station, something that staff and students had requested that they do due to the popularity of the first station.
- During their school’s Earth Week they ran a contest for the best graphic designs for the reusable water bottles that they plan to sell as a fundraiser for their team and to promote better hydration and health.

### **Royalton YES! Team:**

- Partnered with [Minnesota Power](#) to sell LED bulbs and encourage families to audit the energy use of their homes, thus earning funds for their school.
- Entered the annual MN Renewable Energy Society [Solar Boat Regatta](#) and [MTEEA Supermileage Challenge](#).
- Hosted their second annual smoothie fundraiser for a local senior center.
- Laid the groundwork for a school garden and greenhouse.
- Exhibited and showcased renewable energy and waste reduction projects at the MN School Board Association conference.
- Exhibited and showcased renewable energy and waste reduction projects at the CERTs conference in St. Cloud on March 10th.
- Worked on the wiring, graphics, body structure, and solar panels of their solar trailer.
- Worked to get signs with information regarding different species and vegetation types placed in the forest area behind their school.
- Went on a trip to the Water Park of America to learn about water conservation and usage (and played around in the water, of course!)
- Met with their school board to promote solar panels for the school.
- Worked with their mayor to provide their school and community with an Eco-Fair on May 21st.
- Hosted their first annual YES! week with activities, games, trivia, learning opportunities, and dress-up days.
- Worked on the outdoor classroom that they helped install last year.
- Initiated battery recycling this year.
- A group of students worked with teachers and staff to help them save energy in their classrooms.
- Completed their first full year of having milk carton recycling in their High School breakfast and lunch room and initiated it at their Elementary School.
- Installed 6 hydration stations and have filled over 70,000 water-bottles with them over the 7 months they have been in use.
- Continued to manage the East Side Waste Oil Collection site near their school.

### **Sleepy Eye YES! Team:**

Continued many projects from previous years including:

- “Save it for Side Two” (use of both sides of paper in copy machines)
- Locker clean outs to collect recyclables (over 400 pounds recycled from these events this year)
- Party in the Park to promote YES! goals and educate their community
- Aluminum, plastics, and paper recycling
- Promoting use of their hydration stations
- Reminder signs to turn off unnecessary lighting
- Selling reusable grocery bags with the YES! logo on them
- Using energy misers on vending machines in their school
- Continued to investigate the possibility of bringing composting to their school and community.
- Based on a [MnTap](#) Solid Waste Assessment, they implemented new signage and organization of their recycling programs and began a waste audit to determine the amount of recyclables still going into the school dumpsters.

- Investigated the possibility of installing solar at their school including meeting Zinniel Electric to practice installing panels and measuring energy output using the company's computer program.
- Their town received new LED holiday light displays, so they dismantled 20,000 lights from their town's old light displays in order to recycle them. This led to the Lights in Motion committee asking the team to raise additional funds for the community display by selling LED lights at the 2015 Party in the Park.
- Collected 1,224 pounds of holiday lights from their community for recycling!
- Six team members were trained to enter city building data into the B3 database for 14 city buildings including the two high schools that are attended by team members. Next year the team will analyze this data to make recommendations to improve energy use in the city.
- Planned and hosted Earth Week activities for the schools in their district, educating over 500 of their fellow students.
- Hosted a Family Fun Night for parish outreach, education, and fun!
- Installed a new hydration station at their school thanks to fundraising and donations.
- Participated in the YES! World Wear Project by collecting used shoes that will be reused and/or recycled in return for "Prairie Woods" bucks that they can use towards their YES! team fee next year.

#### **Springfield YES! Team:**

- Created a YES! Week for their school, which took place March 16-20. Events included an energy fair, dress-up days with energy themes, and a blackout day.
- Collected 930 pounds of holiday lights for recycling!
- Organized a clean water fundraiser that took place on May 8th and included a silent auction and brunch. Proceeds were donated to Clean Water Action, an organization dedicated to protecting the "environment, health, economic well-being and community quality of life."
- Planned and implemented environmental education events in three elementary classrooms which included helping these students plant plants and chaperoning a field trip to the [Children's Museum of Southern MN](#) to learn about the impacts of plants and agriculture on the environment.
- Participated in the YES! World Wear Project collecting t-shirts, sweatshirts, and hats that will be reused and/or recycled in return for "Prairie Woods" bucks that they can use towards their YES! team fee next year.

#### **St. Cloud Apollo YES! Team:**

- Worked in partnership with [Tri-County Organics](#) to begin a lunchroom composting program which included creating a short film to raise awareness entitled "[Do the rot thing](#)".
- They estimate that they have diverted 50% of their school lunchroom waste from the landfill and to the organics recycling facility.
- Implemented an Earth Week celebration at their school to increase and re-emphasize recycling in their school.
- Hosted an annual "dirt cup" fundraiser that generated \$110 in profit.
- Planned events for next school year including a household hazardous waste collection day in conjunction with [Tri-County HHW](#) and educational events for their peers including presenting about recycling during freshman orientation day.



- Toured Valley Fair in order to learn about their recycling and waste reduction program.
- Communicated with school staff regarding purchasing more eco-friendly school supplies.

#### **Westbrook-Walnut Grove YES! Team:**

- [Placed bottle recycling bins](#) strategically in their high school and elementary school in order to help them reach their goal of having no recyclable bottles placed in the garbage in their school. They count the number of bottles in their recycling bins and in the trash regularly and donate the proceeds to their town's 4th of July fireworks fund.
- They have a [plastic bag recycling program](#) at their school and have collected almost 8,000 bags this year. They are using the colored bags to make bracelets and lanyards. They have sold over 50 of these bracelets and made around \$180!
- Using an idea they found on Pinterest, they have created some solar LED jars. They have sold 15 of these at two local events!
- They did a [blog post](#) about all of their entrepreneurship initiatives.
- Continued to enter the data from their city buildings into the state's B3 database. They used this information to show their city officials ways to improve efficiency in their buildings.
- Continued to oversee their local oil recycling site and recycled 379 gallons of oil, 1.2 barrels of filters and have made about \$40 this year.
- Provided upkeep for their school's wind turbine, which has saved their school around \$461.
- They made and sold recycled plastic-bottle bird-feeders.
- Took donated t-shirts and have turned them into reusable bags.
- Made and sold 3 solar battery chargers.

#### **Yellow Medicine East High YES! Team:**

- Collected plastic bags for recycling.
- Planned a greenhouse and outdoor education center in their 40'x40' greenhouse which will be utilized like a traditional greenhouse as well as a classroom.
- Got elementary students involved in growing their own food and enrolled more elementary school students in their gardening program.
- Worked with the cities of Granite Falls and Hanley Falls to continue to develop and expand community gardens. Worked with a local church to develop a garden on an open lot they own. This has sparked several conversations in the community about gardening and local foods.

All YES! teams demonstrated that they were empowered to partner with their communities to create economic and environmental vitality through hands-on learning and team-based projects.

#### **Activity Status as of January 15, 2016:**

Outcome 1 result: Teams have identified sustainability issues in their community and school and are each working on 1 to 3 energy action projects.

Outcome 2 result: In 2014-15 120 energy action projects were completed. Teams are working on their projects for the current season (2015-16). We will report on completed action projects in the Final Report.

PWELC was awarded a grant from the McKnight Foundation in November of 2015 to be used to enhance climate literacy to YES! students and coaches. Because of these dollars, YES!/PWELC awarded the following teams with \$ 1,000 each to use towards completing energy action projects as outlined below:

- Atwater-Cosmos-Grove City YES! Team: Solar Lights & Garden
- Cherry YES! Team: Electric Vehicle
- Glencoe-Silver Lake YES! team: Electric Vehicle with Solar Power Station
- Minnesota New Country School YES! Team: Local Foods Festival
- New London-Spicer YES! Team: Energy Wise Local Food
- Springfield YES! Team: Solar Sidewalks
- Westbrook-Walnut Grove YES! Team: Solar Thermal Heater

For complete details on each project, please see the [YES! Blog](#)

Below please find a list of projects YES! teams are working on this season. A complete list of projects including accomplishments from previous years can be found on the “Team” tab on the YES! website.

#### **Atwater-Cosmos-Grove City**

- Collected 97 pounds of holiday lights for recycling
- Researching solar energy with the intention of replacing school parking lot lights
- Exploring possibility of implementing a solar garden

#### **Albany**

- Collected 6 boxes of shoes with almost 350 lbs of shoes to be recycled
- Hosted a holiday lights recycling project
- Planning a community-wide event about Climate Change with Climate Generation: A Will Steger Legacy

#### **Carlton**

- Working on a school garden to supplement their cafeteria food

#### **Cherry**

- Working on an electric vehicle. Their goal is to demonstrate this electric vehicle to their fellow students and community. The students will learn how to design, order materials, and build an electric vehicle.
- They plan to have their vehicle achieve a range of 2 miles at 15 miles per hour before it must be recharged.

#### **DREAM Technical Academy (Willmar)**

- Developing an energy bike
- Planting trees
- Working on native prairie restoration

### **Discovery Woods Montessori**

- Put up signage throughout their school to help remind their peers and teachers to shut off lights and recycle appropriately
- Working to put a worm bin in every classroom
- Planning to plant a food/pollinator garden

### **Eden Valley-Watkins**

- Developing a solar readout display

### **Glencoe-Silver Lake**

- Building an electric vehicle powered by solar energy for the MTEEA Supermileage Challenge
- Students will inform the community of how using hybrids, full electric and high efficiency gasoline powered vehicles can reduce consumption of non-renewable fuel sources.
- Plan to feature their electric vehicle at local parades, community events, McLeod County and MN State Fair

### **Lac qui Parle Valley**

- Continuing to work on their Deep Winter Greenhouse
- Developing an Eco-event for their school and community

### **Little Falls Middle School**

- Working to get mild carton recycling up and running in their school
- Working to get a School to Farm program going

### **Mankato West**

- Brainstorming how to encourage other Mankato schools to switch from Styrofoam to reusable trays
- Monitoring benefits of hydration stations installed in their school

### **Melrose**

- World Wear Project shoe collection
- Working on reducing lunchroom food waste
- Planning to plant pollinator gardens at their school

### **Mesabi East**

- Planning to install a hydration station to reduce disposable water bottles

### **Minnesota New Country School**

- Transitioning their garden project into the harvesting and marketing phase of their ongoing sustainable foods project
- Spent a week touring local CSA farms
- Created a local foods celebration in Henderson where they served a local foods lunch and created a farmers market at their school
- Currently sell apples, cider, vinegar, honey, and flour from their 6-acre school orchard

### **New London-Spicer**

- Continuing to maintain their Deep Winter Greenhouse
- Plan to expand their plantings to include both an annual and perennial herb garden
- Collected 93 lbs of holiday lights for recycling!
- Sold beeswax products
- Participated in a renewable energy assessment of a school building addition

#### **Northeast Range (Babbitt)**

- Working on a hydroponic garden in the school

#### **Northern Lights Community School (Warba)**

- Working on a Hydroponic garden for the solarium in their school

#### **ROCORI**

- Continuing their tradition of collecting recycling from the entire school each Friday after school
- Planning their annual volunteer work at the Earth Day Half-Marathon in St. Cloud
- Working with school administration on the possibility of both replacing Styrofoam bowls in the lunch line with reusable ones
- Planning to install Vending Misers on all vending machines throughout their school

#### **Sartell Middle School**

- The 7th grade part of their team is researching and planning projects that include installing a greenhouse, planting native plants/trees in their school yard
  - Starting a bike rental station
  - The 8th grade part of their team is researching and planning projects that include replacing school light bulbs with more efficient ones
  - Researching changing school lunch choices to reduce food waste
- Installing more hydration stations

#### **Springfield**

- Planning a class competition pop tab collection for March
- Creating dividers for their current classroom recycling bins so that plastic and paper can be separated
- Collected 529 lbs of holiday lights for recycling!

#### **St.Cloud North Junior High**

- Working with custodial staff to help with recycling and adding recycling bins into new addition of the school building
- Planning a week long event around Earth Day, including a blackout day/hour and a “Kahoot” interactive quiz game on recycling
- Investigating planting a native pollinator garden in an existing garden area outside of school

#### **Westbrook-Walnut Grove**

- Organized their 2nd annual Pop Tab Collection. A total of 6 schools participated and they raised money for the Ronald McDonald House at Avera McKennan Hospital in Sioux Falls
  - All schools collected a combined total of 207,006 pop tabs
  - Westbrook-Walnut Grove High School won the competition with a total of 73,817 pop tabs!
- Researching how to convert a diesel engine to run on vegetable oil

- Building solar pop can heaters
- Planning an elementary show on one tub recycling for Walnut Grove, run in conjunction with the town of Walnut Grove
- Long term planning of redoing the park in Walnut Grove with solar lights and recycled flooring for basketball courts

### **Yellow Medicine East**

- Continuing their work on a community garden with their local elementary school
- Starting an orchard and growing fruit for their school lunch program
- School received a grant to build a greenhouse and they are working to help generate ideas and planning their greenhouse
- Planning to build butterfly gardens around their school and in their community

**Outcome 3 result:** Please see Dissemination section for more information on media presence.

YES! staff meet regularly with their regional teams 2 – 3 times throughout the season. Staff will continue to work with each team to assist them in developing and completing their projects and to prepare for the upcoming Spring Judging. The YES! Update is sent to YES! coaches each week with new and relevant information to assist with education, offer resources and information on grants in support of their energy action projects.

Outcome 4 result: YES! staff have applied to the Southwest Initiative Foundation to support a Funding Development Plan with Vela Strategies. In addition, YES! teams are connecting with local service groups and each team is encouraged to participate in a fundraiser. Plans are in place to pilot a “Saving Watts & Drops” initiative for YES! students to promote the use of LED bulbs by selling them at events, etc.

The Northeast cohort is established and going strong with 8 teams participating since July 1, 2014. The Laurentian Environmental Center (LEC) staff and surrounding allies have provided support and expertise enabling the YES! cohort to thrive. LEC has been able to secure additional funding to support Spring Prize awards and has developed solid relationships in the region.

### **Activity 3 Overall Project Outcomes and Results:**

Overall 280 energy action projects were completed over the duration of the project. Projects ranged from the building of hydroponic gardens and solar retrofits to the designing and building of award winning super mileage cars, along with numerous education events for people of all ages. We found that with local expert connections, support from YES! staff and informed and creative young people, project ideas can take root and bloom into amazing results of energy efficiency, waste reduction and local food production.

The remaining balance of \$ 22,109 is a result of staff turn over midway through the project. This resulted in less staff time used along with less was spent on travel miles and meals. In addition, staff used remote conferencing to connect with teams which reduced travel time. Our contract partner, Central Minnesota Sustainability Partnership experienced a change in direction midway through the project and was unable to continue to host a .5 FTE coordinator

in the Central region. This also accounted for less costs incurred in the Profession/Contract line item as we transitioned to our new partner, Saint John's University.

**Outcome 1 result** : Teams identified a variety of sustainability issues in their community as is demonstrated by the list of completed projects described in Outcome 3.

**Outcome 2 result:** In 2014-15, 120 energy action projects were completed and in 2015-16 160 energy action projects were completed for a total of 280 completed projects!

Below please find a list of projects YES! teams completed during the 2015-16 season:

### **Atwater-Cosmos-Grove City**

- Manned the YES! booth at the PWELC Sleigh Fest where they used a bike that powers light bulbs to educate visitors about the energy consumption difference between incandescent, fluorescent and LED light bulbs. LED light bulbs were sold as a fundraiser.
- Collected 97 pounds of holiday lights for recycling.
- Collected and recycled 47 pounds of shoes and 53 pounds of clothes.
- Were invited as guest speakers at the West Central Clean Energy Resource Team Luncheon where they presented their solar parking lot projects to experts and solicited feedback and ideas.
- Designed and implemented an Earth Day Education event for K-4<sup>th</sup> graders with 30 minute educational workshops for each grade level on topics such as solar and wind energy, recycling, and seed germination.
- The school garden is being reinstated by the team this summer. Plots of 10'x20' will be rented to the community and the remaining area will be tended by the YES! Team. Produce will be used in school lunches and sold through farmers markets.
- Packaged green bean seeds for distribution to families throughout Meeker County as part of the Meeker County One Vegetable, One Community Project.
- Received a \$25,000 grant through the Middle Fork Crow River Watershed District for a tree trench and permeable paver storm drain piping project at their elementary school. Rainwater currently pools near the door and floods into the hallway.
- Received a [\\$1,000 grant from the McKnight Foundation](#) for their work this year which they used for a solar parking lot project. Research indicated that the first step toward solar powered parking lot lights would be to reduce the energy load and LED lights were installed on two light poles.

### **Albany High School**

- Collected 6 boxes of shoes from their community totaling about 300 pounds to be recycled.
- Hosted a holiday lights recycling project and collected over 100 pounds of lights.
- Recycled over 400 pounds of aluminum cans
- Planned and hosted a community-wide event about climate change and their team's accomplishments.
- Hosted an environmental week for their school.
- Worked with the school cafeteria workers to make sure recycle-able lunch items were actually being recycled.
- Created educational signs about how climate change is impacting animal populations for use in their community.

### **Alexandria Area High School** - Alternative Learning Program

- Prepared a booth on recycling and answered questions by attendees at the annual [STEAM \(Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics\) Expo in Alexandria](#) on March 17th.
- Worked on a project to get 35 recycling bins for the classrooms and offices in their new school that did not currently have them.
- Educated their community about recycling.

### **Carlton High School** - They're a new YES! team!

- Built an aquaponics system with two 10-gallon tanks containing 8 fish each. They have successfully grown lettuce and basil with this floating garden and hope to expand this project and educate other members of their community with their newly acquired gardening knowledge.
- Knowing they would need grow lights to enable plant growth during the dreary winters, they went to their local sheriff's department and were able to obtain confiscated grow lights at no cost to the team.
- Wanting to engage the student body in a broader recycling effort at the school, they partnered with their special education department to design and build four recycling stations for their school. They painted them in school colors and placed them in strategic locations around the school.
- Knowing that just having the bins around school would not be enough, they began an advertising campaign to empower students to recycle. They even recruited key staff to assist in their efforts. The early results were an elimination of 80-100 pounds of waste per month being diverted from the landfill.
- The last project they tackled this year was to install a garden on the school grounds. They acquired 50 pallets in order to grow plants on inverted pallets filled with dirt so if they ever needed to relocate their garden plot it was not a permanent structure. This team has also developed a schedule for watering and weeding the garden this summer to make sure their efforts are rewarded fully next fall when harvest time arises.

### **Cherry School** (Iron Junction) - They're a new YES! team!

- Worked to build an electric vehicle. Their goal is to demonstrate this electric vehicle to their fellow students and community next school year. The students have learned how to design, order materials, and build an electric vehicle.
- Their hope is for their vehicle to achieve a range of 2 miles at 15 miles per hour before it must be re-charged.
- Developed a Fair Share "Tiger Coffee" program which they branded after finding a supplier and ensuring they were following the Fair Share guidelines.
- Studied greenhouse designs, costs of construction, green building techniques, and general construction practices. This led the way for their district to apply for a grant through the University of Minnesota to build a cold weather greenhouse.
- Designed "Blow-Out Doors" for use in buildings that might experience a sudden drop in pressure, such as during tornadoes.
- Received a [\\$1,000 grant from the McKnight Foundation](#) for their work this year.

### **DREAM Technical Academy (Willmar)**

- Sold LED lightbulbs at the Earth Day event at Prairie Woods ELC.

### **Discovery Woods Montessori (Brainerd) - They're a new YES! team!**

- Put up signage throughout their school to help remind their peers and teachers to shut off lights and recycle appropriately.
- Expanded their outdoor composting program to include indoor worm bins. Educated their fellow students and community members about how to compost using worms and began using the worms to compost food scraps.
- Developed a brochure which they displayed and handed out at a "Green Marketplace" and plant sale they hosted to raise money for their projects.
- Will be able to utilize their current perennial garden area as a habitat for pollinators for their school garden (which they are building this summer) and increase community and family education about sustainable living.

### **Duluth East High School**

- Did an energy audit of their school.
- Began a [Georgetown University Energy Prize](#) Campaign to shut off/dim lights and computers at night.
- Planned and hosted a green week in April which included a recycling push, a trash talk, and a green day.
- Planted trees.
- Supplied a student discussion panel on eating habits at a sustainable foods conference.

### **Eden Valley-Watkins High School**

- They worked hard to recruit new members.
- Participated in the "Bean Program", a partnership with the Meeker County One Vegetable, One Community Program. Through this they went to their local elementary school and did activities with the three 1st grade classrooms.
- The YES! students read a book to the elementary students about growing beans, then they watched a time lapse video of beans sprouting and finally got to make a window bean garden to bring home with them.

### **Glencoe-Silver Lake High School**

- Successfully researched, designed, financed, fabricated and tested a one-person rechargeable electric vehicle. The vehicle was entered into the [MTEEA Supermileage Challenge](#) held May 10-11, 2016 at Brainerd International Raceway. Sixteen students worked after school and on weekends to see the project to completion.
- At this competition, they took 3rd in the E-85 class, 3rd in the modified class, and 6th in the electric car division. The judges were impressed with the team's transition of their stock car to an electric car!
- Students informed their community of how using hybrids, full electric and high efficiency gasoline powered vehicles can reduce consumption of non-renewable fuel sources.
- They have shared their final vehicle at local parades, community events, McLeod County and the MN state fair, and have presented to various community organizations including



the [Climate Generation's West Metro Convening](#), Glencoe Lions club, Glencoe Chamber of Commerce, the Central MN Manufacturing Association, and the Silver Lake Lions.

- They are dismantling the old tennis courts at their school to make room for a new building. So far, they have removed the fence and light poles and are cutting up the metal and hauling the scrap for recycling. At various sites they have disassembled, loaded and hauled away 14,000 lbs of steel for recycling, the proceeds of which have been used to fund their vehicles.
- Received a [\\$1,000 grant from the McKnight Foundation](#) for their work this year.

### **Hutchinson High School** - They're a new YES! team!

- Worked on a solar boat design and competed in the 25th annual Minnesota Renewable Energy Society (MRES) Solar Boat Regatta.
- Other projects they plan to explore next year include tiny homes, green construction, a high mileage vehicle, and recycling.

### **Lac qui Parle Valley High School**

- Maintained their school's passive solar Deep Winter Greenhouse, through which they grew greens for 5 CSA shares and for their school's lunchroom salad program. They grow an array of cold weather plants including pea sprouts, lettuces, bok choy, swiss chard, and more!
- Gave tours to students and community members, updated the school board at monthly meetings, and communicated with administration, custodial staff, and kitchen staff about production issues.
- Their team "wants to work to bring our message of healthy eating, healthy living, and a healthy environment to every person in our community, all ages, all backgrounds, all incomes levels, so that everyone can all benefit from the hard work and hours spent in our greenhouse." In fact, they would like to incorporate their fresh greens into the local Meals on Wheels program next year!
- Maintained the used oil recycling site in Madison.
- Removed buckthorn at Lac qui Parle Mission State Park.
- Presented at the Lac qui Parle Farm and Home show.

### **Little Falls Middle School** - They're a new YES! team!

- Developed a "Dark Lunch" at their school to encourage awareness of energy use and the need for energy conservation.
- After learning about the importance of standardized recycling containers at a YES! Winter Workshop, they evaluated their school's recycling efforts and standardized recycling bins to all classrooms and copy rooms (40 in total).
- Worked to get milk carton recycling up and running in their school.
- Worked to get a School to Farm program going. They plan to have lunch waste collected and then sent to a farmer for use as hog or chicken feed.

## **Mankato West High School**

- Brainstormed how to encourage other Mankato schools to switch from Styrofoam to reusable trays like they did in their school as a previous YES! project. To do this they gathered data regarding why permanent, washable trays are more cost efficient and environmentally friendly than foam trays.
- They developed a questionnaire for their tray project to help make the transition for other schools easier.
- Continued to check data on the hydration stations they installed in their school.
- Researched the most efficient way to compost bathroom paper towels rather than throw them away.
- Were asked to create a video to inform elementary students about composting that also and highlights the difference between composting and trash. They chose to create a video from the first-person perspective of food waste and the potential paths it may take when it leaves the lunchroom. To do this, they took video and photos of the composting process and the landfill process at various sites from their school to composting sites and landfills. They are in the process of finishing the video, which will be used annually across their school district for students in grades K-5.

## **Melrose High School**

- Advertised in their school and community and collected four boxes of shoes for the World Wear Project.
- In order to improve recycling in their school, the students searched the garbage cans in the 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade part of the building to assess what was being thrown away and how this was impacted by where the recycling bins were located. They then worked with Doug Lien of Tri-County Waste to increase the number of recycling containers available in their school and created a labeling system for the waste baskets and recycling bins. They have already noticed an improved recycling rate and will be putting up more signs about proper recycling.
- Designed and planted a pollinator garden made up of student-selected native plants at their school.
- Organized Earth Week activities for their middle school which included earth trivia cards, an Earth Day coloring contest, a Lights Out Day and green/blue day on Earth Day.

## **Mesabi East High School - They're a new YES! team!**

- Worked to get a hydration station installed in the school to reduce disposable water bottles.

## **Minnesota New Country School - They're a new YES! team!**

- Transitioned into the harvesting and marketing phase of their ongoing sustainable foods project.
- Built a hydroponics project that is raising tilapia and lettuce and they plan to expand it next year.
- The hydroponics system project resulted in another project-a solar power project. A solar panel, connected to batteries, a controller and inverter, was installed in the greenhouse. The pumps on the aquaponics system are being run with solar power. The whole system

has become a demonstration of the project's success and energy conservation for the entire school. They hope to triple the system next year.

- Spent a week touring local CSA farms.
- Created a local foods celebration in Henderson where they served a local foods lunch and created a farmers market at their school. Had over 120 community members and students attend their local foods fair!
- Sold apples, cider, vinegar, honey, and flour from their 6-acre school orchard.
- Worked on their Supermileage vehicle for the [MTEEA Supermileage Challenge](#) in Brainerd.
- Received a [\\$1,000 grant from the McKnight Foundation](#) for their work this year.

### **New London-Spicer Middle School**

- They continue to work on their Deep Winter Greenhouse. Through collaboration with the district nutritionists and cooks, their team is delivering greenhouse lettuce to the lunch line at the height of its taste and nutritional value with no transportation energy and no disposable packaging.
- Plan to expand their plantings to include both an annual and perennial herb garden.
- Their apple orchard, grapevines, and greenhouse are all school community areas where YES! is raising organic food for students.
- They collected 93 pounds of holiday lights for recycling.
- Sold beeswax products this fall including lip balm and hand cream as a way to raise awareness for the need of pollinator protection.
- Hosted a YES! Week in January with reminders and activities for each day of the week.
- Designed and sold reusable water bottles as well as using them as incentives in an Earth Week photo contest. They invited students to observe and submit photos of the many examples of clean water in their lives in order to inspire the protection of their watershed. The student clean water photos from the contest were assembled into a digital display to celebrate the Water/Ways theme.
- Worked with the [Middle Fork Crow River Watershed District](#) in their efforts to protect water ways by installing a tree trench living filtration system in the new NLS Middle School parking lot. The YES! team will help develop an educational piece for the school community, along with their vigilance through the Adopt a Drain program.
- Taught outdoor environmental lessons to the younger members of their community (1st-3rd graders) in order to impact lessons about the environment to them.
- Received a [\\$1,000 grant from the McKnight Foundation](#) for their work this year.

### **Northeast Range Middle School (Babbitt) - They're a new YES! team!**

- Built two different hydroponic growth chambers which they used to grow basil and mint plants.
- Sold cuttings from these plants to faculty and staff at their school, raising about \$50 in sales!
- Prepared a poster about their project for the [Iron Range Earth Fest](#).

## **Northern Lights Community School (Warba)**

- Continued their work on their greenhouse project from last year by adding a hydroponic component and rainwater collection system. The food grown in their greenhouse will go to the cafeteria and any extra produce each week will be distributed to families in need within their community.
- Completed a project analyzing the water quality of the Swan River in Warba. This included gathering baseline data on a river that flows a mere quarter mile from the school and has the potential to gather toxic runoff from sources up stream. The team chose to test for a variety of chemical properties of the river and compile their data in a report.
- They are scheduled to present their findings about the Swan River to the Warba City Council at their next meeting so city officials are aware of the condition of the river. Plans are in place to continue to monitor the river on an annual basis and keep the City Council up to date on their findings.
- In addition, they plan to educate their community members about the quality of the water in the Swan River.

## **Pine Island High School**

- Hosted their 3rd annual Winter Fest event on Saturday, January 30. This event included winter survival and cross country ski classes in the afternoon and a trail with luminaries after dark.
- They took a [team-building adventure trip](#) to northern Minnesota February 12-14 to learn about wildlife and northern adventures. While at Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center, they participated in an energy conservation challenge.
- Every other Thursday, the team got together and collected the recycling bins from each classroom and brought them to a collection point for the custodial staff to take outside.
- They sent out a survey to students to gauge how sustainably their peers are living, awarding points based on behaviors.
- To raise awareness for Earth Hour on Saturday, March 19 8:30-9:30 pm, they:
- Hosted a black out at school on Friday, March 18 from 2:21-3:09 pm
- Showed a video on Friday, March 18 to inspire the student body to participate in Earth Hour
- Encouraged students to wear all black on Friday, March 18
- Organized their 2nd annual [cell phone recycling collection](#) in April to benefit Como Park Zoo and Conservatory.
- Their YES! team adopted the North Fork of the Zumbro River that runs past their school. They did a Fall river clean-up on Sunday, October 2, 2015 and a Spring clean-up on Friday, May 13, 2016.

## **ROCORI High School**

- Continued their tradition of collecting recycling from the entire school on Fridays after school.
- Expanded their efforts to include collecting the recycling from the middle school each week.
- Planned their annual volunteer work at the Earth Day Half-Marathon in St Cloud.

- Participated once again in the annual Coaches' Carnival where they were able to explain what their team does as well as how they manage the recycling in their schools to over 400 grade school students.
- Collected shoes throughout their district for the [World Wear](#) Project.
- Worked with school administration to replace styrofoam bowls in the lunch line with reusable ones. These will be used by the students in the high school and middle school.
- Installed 8 Vending Misers on the vending machines throughout their school.
- Addressed food waste in their cafeteria by installing a "Sharing Bin", in which students can put fruit and other items they don't want to eat so other students can take them, rather than just throwing them away.
- The team also volunteered to pick up trash and recyclables after their homecoming parade this year. They walked behind the rest of the parade with signs advertising their club and their [World Wear](#) shoe collection. They also collected any trash and recyclables from the parade route, filling almost 3 bags of garbage.

### **Royalton High and Middle School**

- Presented at the [National Joint Powers Alliance \(NJPA\)](#) 'Building the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Workforce' on the skills the students learn by participating in the YES! program and other programs at their school.
- Planned a trip to Italy to share what they have accomplished and learn more sustainability best practices to bring back to Royalton. The trip is scheduled for next March!
- In an effort to gather more information about the new greenhouse they are building, they toured the Happy Dancing Turtle campus located outside of Pine River to learn more about greenhouse design and sustainable living. They also went to New London-Spicer High School to look at their greenhouse and discuss its construction. They then researched and designed a model using an architectural design program to try to make it totally sustainable through the use of photo voltaics and vacuum thermal solar.
- Planned and implemented a community Eco Fair with the collaborative effort of their mayor. Their 8th grade students presented research projects related to climate change at the Eco Fair.
- Planted trees and shrubs for their city through a grant from MN DOT.
- Implemented a milk carton recycling project at their elementary school.
- Concentrated on developing signs in recycling areas throughout their building in an effort to enhance usage and make their recycle system more efficient.
- Did a compost research project so that they can introduce composting into their new building next year.
- Participated in the MTEEA Supermileage competition with their electric vehicle.
- Moved their used oil collection site to make it more visible to their public. Usage of the site has increased since the move took place.
- Continue to improve and maintain their outdoor classroom.
- Participated in a community-wide cleanup including providing spring cleaning and maintenance services to the city and the public.
- Helped with a wildflower planting on the prairies of the [Crane Meadows National Wildlife Preserve](#).
- Worked with the janitorial staff at their school to research and choose new recycling stations to be located throughout their new school building.
- Participated in the annual solar boat regatta in Eden Prairie.
- Developed a shoe collection site this year.

## **Sartell Middle School - They're a new YES! team!**

- Developed a YES! week with mini lessons on reducing one's impact on the environment.
- Designed a project on bike safety education for 4<sup>th</sup> graders in order to encourage the students to bike to school more often and thereby lesson their pollution.
- Worked to purchase a hydration station and additional bike rack for their school. This included presentations to their school administration.
- Planted a pollinator garden and additional trees on their school campus.

## **Sleepy Eye High School**

- The 2015–16 school year has been a year of maintenance and expansion of existing programs and activities including:
- Party in the Park: Students hosted a game where participants needed to throw items in the correct bins to educate them on recycling, composting, and land-filling.
- Grassroots Gathering: Students sold raffle tickets for a compost and rain barrel bin.
- Planned an Earth Week with lessons taught by YES! Team members in preK – grade 6 classrooms.
- Continued and expanded recycling activities.
- Holiday Lights in Motion: students pulled off old light bulbs and recycled them, replacing them with LED bulbs, dismantling 100-200 pounds of string.
- Students collected 900 pounds of holiday lights for recycling.
- Collected plastic bottles for recycling.
- Did locker-clean outs to ensure that school supplies are re-used and recycle-able materials are recycled.
- Addition of 12 more recycling bins and reminder signage.
- Strung together all plastic containers placed in recycling bins at Saint Mary's over a three day period and calculated the impact of their recycling habits.
- Worked to decrease waste: Looked to find alternative ways of serving lunch to reduce excessive waste. Styrofoam trays are currently being used because the school lacks the money for dish washing staff.
- Pushed use of hydration stations in their school to reduce the amount of bottled water used.
- Working to have teachers cancel their duplicate catalogs received at school and reuse on-sided paper to reduce extra paper waste.
- Added energy saving and waste reduction signs by light switches and recycling bins.
- Worked on energy savings: Helped to promote LED lighting, maintained and installed energy misers, maintained and installed energy efficient lighting.
- Continued to enter data into the B3 database.

## **Springfield High School**

- Sponsored a pop tab collection in k-12 classrooms for the Ronald McDonald House.
- They collected 618.8 pounds of holiday lights for recycling.
- Hosted a YES! Run on April 30. The route showcased previous projects, educating participants on the influence the team has had in the community. Registration fees were donated to water.org to raise money for communities to have access to safe water.
- Worked to refurbish over 30 solar lights in order to be able to install them around school sidewalks, courtesy of the [\\$1,000 grant from the McKnight Foundation](#).

## **St. Cloud Apollo High School**

- Worked to sustain the organics recycling program they started at the school last year. This included redesigning the lunch room to make it easier for students to use the correct bins and working with the art department to paint some large murals on the wall depicting what items go where.
- Engaged in announcements and activities related to Earth Day.
- Collected and recycled approximately 1,500 plastic shopping bags.
- Continued to encourage use of the hydration stations in their school.

## **St. Cloud North Junior High School - They're a new YES! team!**

- Worked with custodial staff to help with recycling and adding recycling bins into new addition of the school building.
- Hosted a week-long event around Earth Day, including a blackout day/hour, a 'Kahoot' interactive quiz game on recycling, educational posters and presentations, and a trash audit. They also had themed dress-up days designed to spark conversations about various topics related to sustainability.
- Their team, along with other interested students, staff, and community members, seeded and planted a whole new start to a 9,000 square foot rain garden.

## **Westbrook - Walnut Grove High School**

- Organized their 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Pop Tab Collection. A total of 6 schools participated, and they raised money for the Avera McKennan Ronald McDonald House at Avera McKennan Hospital in Sioux Falls. All schools collected a combined total of 207,056 pop tabs. Westbrook-Walnut Grove High School won the competition with a total of 73,817 pop tabs.
- Built solar pop can heaters, courtesy of the [\\$1,000 grant from the McKnight Foundation](#).
- Collected over 26,800 plastic bags for recycling.
- Continued to check school trash cans for recyclables weekly. Since starting the project this fall, they saw a reduction in the amount of recyclables that were thrown away, thanks to their education efforts.
- Continued to monitor the 6 Bottle Bins for collected aluminum cans in their school and donate the cans to the city to raise money for improvements.
- Continued to enter data into the B3 database.
- Continued to maintain the used oil collection site in Westbrook.
- Designed and built trombe walls, which will be used to offset heating costs on days when there is a large fluctuation in temperature from day to night.
- The team presented to students in kindergarten through 3rd grade at WWG Elementary on recycling and impact from landfills.

## **Yellow Medicine East High School**

- Once again worked on a community garden with their local elementary school. They have 8 students registered to have 6' x12' garden plots where they can plant a variety of produce.

- Worked to start an orchard of apple and pear trees. They plan to use the fruit in their school lunch program.
- Their school received a grant to build a greenhouse and they are working to help generate ideas and planning this greenhouse.

**Outcome 3 result:**

Please see Dissemination section for more information on media presence.

YES! staff met regularly with their regional teams throughout the season. Staff assisted teams in developing and completing their projects and to prepared for Spring Judging. The YES! Update is sent to YES! coaches bi-weekly with new and relevant information to assist with education, offer resources and information on grants in support of their energy action projects.

**Outcome 4 result:** YES! staff completed the program’s Fund Development Plan created with Vela Strategy. The next steps are to create an advisory board, hire a development specialist (as funding is secured), create opportunities for teams to source support in their own communities and implement sponsorship opportunities.

The Northeast cohort is established and going strong with 8 teams participating since July 1, 2014. The Laurentian Environmental Center (LEC) staff and surrounding allies have provided support and expertise enabling the YES! cohort to thrive. LEC has secured additional funding to support Spring Prize awards, some travel costs and they have developed solid relationships in the region. In addition, LEC has secured a GreenCorps Members to work with YES! on a .25 FTE basis for the 2014-15 season.

**V. DISSEMINATION:**

**Description:** Information, updates and reports will be made available via the YES! website ([www.youthenergysummit.org](http://www.youthenergysummit.org)), YES! e-newsletter, Prairie Woods ELC newsletter, Foundation communication vehicles (such as Southwest Initiative Foundation) & local media as available and on an on-going basis. YES! will present at relevant opportunities such as Sustainability/ Earth Day events, CERTS (Clean Energy Resource Teams) conferences and relevant science events.

**Activity Status as of January 15, 2015:**

YES! website ([www.youthenergysummit.org](http://www.youthenergysummit.org)) features current and relevant news on team projects in addition to resources (forms, links and documents) and information on YES! kits for loan. The News tab features the YES! blog offering current and in-depth coverage of student projects. The Teams tab includes a current team map, prospective team information on action projects and team accomplishments. YES! is also on Face Book and Twitter.

YES! E-Newsletter

- The Fall/Early Winter edition was sent out on December 5, 2014 to 438 people.

Print Media:

- Prairie Woods Environmental Newsletter “Warbler” featured an article on YES! Fall Summit and new partnerships – reaching 1,400 people



- Royalton YES! Team featured in Morrison County Record when they presented at the MN School Board Association conference. To read the article go to : <http://mcrecord.com/2015/01/02/royalton-tech-club-presenting-at-msba-conference/>
- Sleepy Eye YES! profiled in the Herald Dispatch promoting holiday lights collection: <http://www.sleepyeyenews.com/article/20141003/NEWS/141009952/-1/entertainment%20life>

#### Television:

- City of Willmar produced a segment specifically on YES! for the regional series “Backroads Journal” produced by David Hillbrand. To see the segment go to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?>

#### Web presence:

- Royalton YES! Team joined Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs) to feature renewable energy projects happening in Royalton to the attention of community members. Please view more about this event at: <http://www.youthenergysummit.org/join-the-royalton-yes-team-july-16th/>
- During July 1, 2014 to January 15, 2015, 1,942 users accessed the youthenergysummit.org website resulting in 2,795 sessions and 6,235 page views. With 67.7% of those accessing the website as new users.

#### **Activity Status as of July 15, 2015:**

YES! website ([www.youthenergysummit.org](http://www.youthenergysummit.org)) features current and relevant news on team projects in addition to resources (forms, links and documents) and information on YES! kits for loan. The News tab features the YES! blog offering current and in-depth coverage of student projects. The Teams tab includes a current team map, prospective team information on action projects and team accomplishments. YES! is also on Face Book and Twitter.

#### YES! E-Newsletter

- The Spring edition YES! E-Newsletter was sent to 430 people

#### Print Media:

- Prairie Woods Environmental Newsletter “Warbler” featured an article on the Eastside Oil initiative and YES! collaborations in its Fall/Winter edition - reaching 1,400 people
- 35 Press Releases sent to announce YES! Spring Award recipients
- 50 Newspaper articles on YES! accomplishments were published

#### Television:

- 4 news stories aired

#### Web presence from January 16 to June 30, 2015:

- 44 blog posts written and posted
- 2,193 users accessed the youthenergysummit.org website resulting in 2,891 sessions and 5,812 page views. Seventy-four (74) percent of those accessing the website were new users.

#### **Activity Status as of January 15, 2016:**

#### YES! E-Newsletter

- The Summer edition of the YES! E-Newsletter was sent out on July 15 to 444 people
- The Fall/Winter edition YES! E-Newsletter was sent on December 18 to 467 people

Print Media:

- Prairie Woods Environmental Newsletter “Warbler” featured a YES! article in both its Summer/Fall and Fall/Winter editions - reaching over 1,400 people between July 1 and December 31, 2015
- Press Releases were sent to all schools announcing winners of the McKnight project funds.
- Saint John’s Outdoor University featured YES! in their Autumn Edition 2015 Volume 18 Number 4 “Sagatan Seasons” Newsletter Summer/Fall edition titled “Just Say YES!” by Sarah Gainey

Television: (NA)

Web presence from January 1 to December 31, 2015:

- 25 blog posts written and posted
- 1,895 users accessed the youthenergysummit.org website resulting in 3,070 sessions and 6,888 page views. Sixty (60) percent of those accessing the website were new users.
- Website has been updated with a Coach’s Corner containing relevant information to YES! coaches.

**Overall Project Outcomes and Results:**

Information on YES! projects are regularly highlighted through the YES! website ([www.youthenergysummit.org](http://www.youthenergysummit.org)), blog posts, Facebook updates and Twitter. The YES! website received well over 25,000 page views from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2016 with 68 % of these viewers being new to the site. Local media frequently print stories on YES! team accomplishments, the Warbler, a PWELC newsletter reaching 1,400 people, goes out 3 times a year and commits a page of each publication to YES! furthermore the YES! e-newsletter goes out 4 times a year.

Several communications and outreach activities have been done in relation to this Youth-Led project including one Community Convening hosted by the YES! Albany team in collaboration with Climate Generation: A Will Steger Legacy. This event brought together community leaders, resource experts, parents and students to learn about climate mitigation strategies and to highlight local resources. A highlight of the evening was the telling of climate stories by 4 citizens, 2 of which were YES! students. Other outreach activities include tabling at local green fairs and events by student-led YES! teams.

The program’s funding partners are regularly updated on projects and show their support through continued funding and volunteer time. Coordinators submit Press Releases to local and regional outlets for Spring Award winners and other important stories.

YES! staff and students presented at a 21st Century Skills workshop for the National Joint Powers Alliance in Staples, MN, (2015), Region 9 Economic Development events (2016) and the Smithsonian Water Ways exhibit at Prairie Woods ELC (2016) and plan to table at the Minnesota Community Education and Minnesota Education Association events this fall (2016). During YES! events, techniques such as S.M.A.R.T. goals have been developed and shared with the students and students have taken that information back to their Team to successfully plan and implement projects.

### **Specific data results include:**

#### **YES! E-Newsletter**

- The Spring edition of the YES! E-Newsletter was sent out on April 8, 2016 to 479 people
- View newsletter here: <http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs112/1101927257608/archive/1124127313862.html>
- Ney Nature Center Newsletter - YES! update in June 2016 edition sent to 476 people
- Ney Nature Center Newsletter - YES! update in July 2016 edition sent to 477 people

#### **Print**

- Prairie Woods Environmental Newsletter “Warbler” featured 2 YES! articles in its Spring Edition reaching over 1,400 people
- Press Releases were sent out to announce winners of the Spring Judging in each region

#### **YES! in outside news sources**

Please click on the underlined section to view the amazing stories featuring YES! students and their projects:

- July 2, 2016: (VIDEO) [Youth Energy Summit \(YES!\)-Royalton High School \(National Joint Powers Alliance\)](#)
- June 23, 2016: [YES! team wins awards for accomplishments \(Sleepy Eye Herald-Dispatch\)](#)
- June 1, 2016: [Award-winning efforts: Albany environmental group recognized \(Albany Enterprise\)](#)
- May 24, 2016: [ROCORI 's Youth Energy Summit team earns award \(St. Cloud Times\)](#)
- May 21, 2016: [Carlton students say YES to improving the school \(Pine Journal\)](#)
- May 18, 2016: [Westbrook-Walnut Grove Earth YES! team wins awards! \(New Century Press\)](#)
- May 17, 2016: [Crane Meadows seeing part of big-picture restoration \(St. Cloud Times\)](#)
- April 27, 2016: [WWG Earth YES! class has another successful year \(New Century Press\)](#)
- March 11, 2016: [Region's clean energy getting 'greener' \(Willmar West Central Tribune\)](#)
- March 7, 2016: [Climate convening comes to Albany \(The Albany Enterprise\)](#)

- March 6, 2016: Local high school students participate in winter workshop at Gustavus \_\_\_\_\_ (Mankato Times)
- March 1, 2016: Women in Energy: Shelli-Kae Foster with Youth Energy Summit (Clean Energy Resource Teams)
- February 28, 2016: Local YES! Teams Participate in Community Solar Winter Workshop in Mankato (Mankato Times)
- January 27, 2016: WWG YES! class received \$1,000 award from McKnight Foundation (Westbrook Sentinel Tribune)
- January 24, 2016: Stimulating young minds with STEM (Hibbing Daily Tribune)
- January 4, 2016: A busy and exciting time for Youth Energy Summit (YES!) participants (Clean Energy Resource Teams)

### **Press Releases**

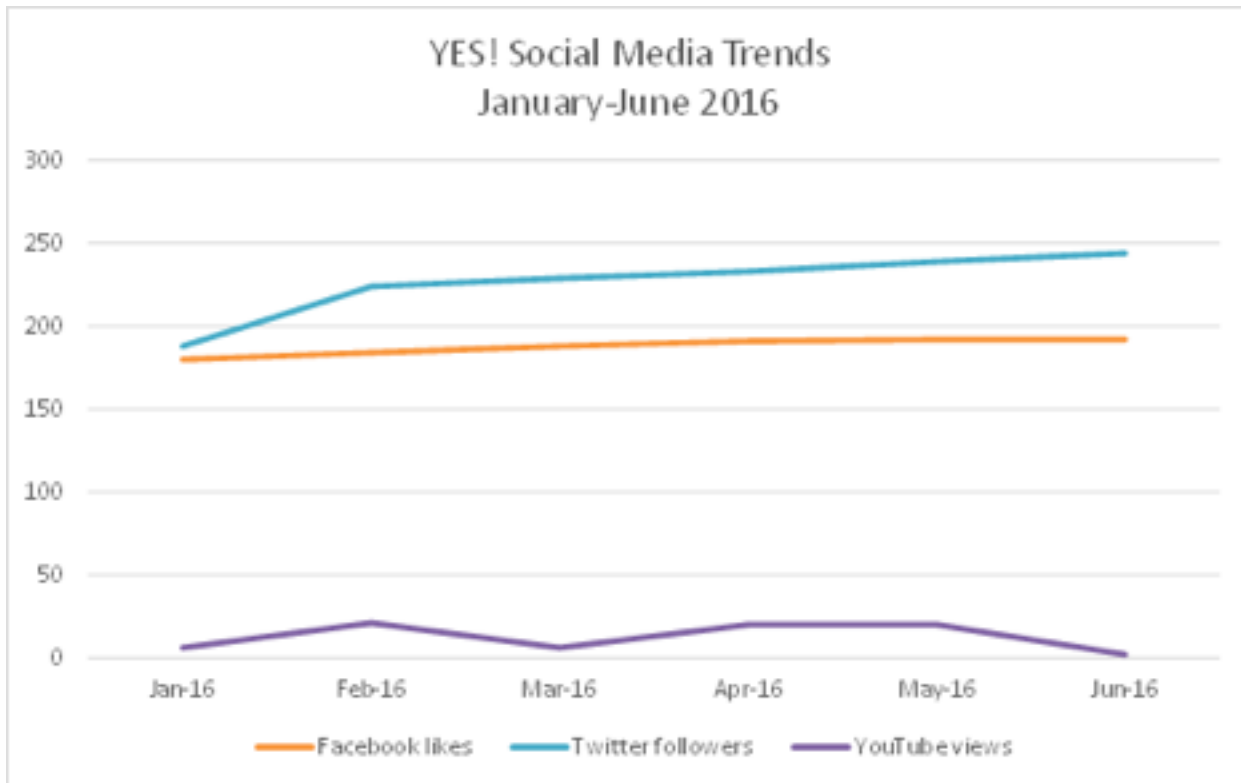
- June 4, 2016: Lac qui Parle Valley YES! Team Wins Awards!
- June 1, 2016: Sleepy Eye YES! Team Wins Awards!
- May 6, 2016: Westbrook-Walnut Grove Earth YES! Team Wins Awards!
- May 6, 2016: Glencoe-Silver Lake Supermileage YES! Team Wins Award!
- March 4, 2016: YES! Teams Make Sustainable Connections at Winter Workshop held at Gustavus Adolphus College
- February 18, 2016: Mankato West, Minnesota New Country School, Springfield, and Westbrook-Walnut Grove YES! Teams Participate in Community Solar Winter Workshop in Mankato

### **Website**

- 33 blog posts written and posted
- 2,358 users accessed the [www.youthenergysummit.org](http://www.youthenergysummit.org) website resulting in 3,214 sessions and 6,765 page views. Seventy - one (71) percent of those accessing the website were new users.

### **Social Media**

- 75 YouTube views
- 136 YouTube watchtime minutes
- Twitter followers from January to end of June: 188-->244
- Facebook likes from January to end of June: 180-->192



Significant results captured in the Final Reports by all teams and compiled by our YES! Data Specialist show the following:

- 80 presentations to students, school board and faculty
- 12 presentations outside of school to service organizations
- 45 community events participated in
- 17 press releases sent out by teams
- 9 blog posts submitted by teams
- 26 articles about YES! teams published in local print newsletters
- 24 social media posts related to projects
- 308 social media likes and/or shares

**VI. Project Budget SUMMARY:**

**A. ENRTF Budget Overview:**

Budget Category	\$ Amount	Explanation
Personnel:	\$204,480	<p>1.0 FTE Project Leader (Shelli-Kae Foster) @ \$ 46,000 each year for 2 years totaling \$ 92,000 (new team training and development, program sustainability, grant management/reporting &amp; direct service to regional teams)</p> <p>Two (2) .5 coordinator positions @ \$ 23,000 each year for 2 years totaling \$ 92,000 (Typically a .5 coordinator facilitates approx. 8 to 10 teams creating a regional cohort)</p> <p>(75% Salary, 25% benefits for each position for 2 year period)</p>
Professional / Technical / Service Contracts:	\$71,520	<p>Laurentian Environmental Center will provide .5 FTE coordination @ \$ 23,000 total each year for 2 years totaling \$ 46,000. (Develop program and support up to 10 teams in the Northeast region). LEC will serve as fiscal host for the contract. LEC will provide travel and meal allowance (approx. \$ 5,000 per year).</p> <p>Saint John's Outdoor University (SJOU) will provide .5 FTE coordination @ \$ 25,520 total for 13.5 months to develop and support 8 to 10 teams in the north-central region. Saint John's University (SJU) will serve as fiscal host for the contract.</p> <p>(75%Salary, 25%Benefits for 2 year period)</p>
Supplies:	\$500	<p>Supplies and materials for hands-on experiential activities at events and tours. Provide local, healthy &amp; light breakfast for students at Summit events: to 1) illustrate importance of sourcing regional produce and products, and 2) provide a nutritious breakfast due to the fact many schools travel approx. 1.5 hours to attend.</p>

Travel:	\$25,500	<p>Approx. 1,600 miles per month total for staff x 24 months = 38,400 x .56 = \$21,500. Plus \$4,000 total for meals and lodging (as deemed necessary for working with out-state teams and events) allowance for a total of \$25,500.</p> <p>(Required for serving widely dispersed rural communities).</p> <p>All travel expense reimbursements as per Minnesota State Commissioner plan. Additional requirements to be covered by non-ENRTF funds.</p>
Other: Team Project Seed Funds	\$24,000	<p>Allows teams to purchase materials and services needed to start and often complete energy action projects. Dollars will be dispersed amongst participating teams each year. Dollar amount may vary depending on number of teams - but will not exceed \$ 24,000. (for example: \$ 300 per team x 40 teams x 2 years = \$ 24,000).</p> <p>If fewer teams are recruited in year one, funds will be apportioned to participating teams based on their project needs. See "Eligible Expenses for Project Seed Funds" attachment for guidelines.</p>
Other: Coach/District Allowance:	\$24,000	<p>Provides reimbursement necessary for teams and coaches to attend YES! workshops, tours and events. Expenses may include: 1. Substitute teacher expenses and/or 2. Transportation expenses for YES! events. Dollars will be dispersed amongst participating teams each year. Dollar amount may vary depending on number of teams - but will not exceed \$ 24,000. (for example: \$ 300 per team x 40 teams x 2 years = \$ 24,000).</p>
<b>TOTAL ENRTF BUDGET:</b>	<b>\$350,000</b>	

Explanation of Use of Classified Staff: N/A

Explanation of Capital Expenditures Greater than \$ 5,000: N/A

**Number of Full-time Equivalents (FTE) Directly Funded with this ENRTF Appropriation:**

Directly funded FTEs = 2 (1.0 FTE per year x 2 ) plus 3 (3, .5 FTE per year = 1.5 per year x 2 = 3) = 5 total FTE

Number of Full-time Equivalents (FTE) Estimated to Be Funded through Contracts with this ENRTF Appropriation: 1 (.5 for 2 years) FTE contracted with the Laurentian Environmental Center.

**B. Other Funds:**

Source of Funds	\$ Amount Proposed	Additional Funds	\$ Amount Spent	Use of Other Funds
Non-state				
Southwest Initiative Foundation	\$44,000		\$25,000	Funds to hire Vela Strategy to create a Fund Development Plan and to increase staff capacity.
NE Regional Sustainable Partnership to YES! @ Laurentian Environmental Center	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$ 5,000 for each of 2 years to cover meals & mileage for Northeast coordinator & some project seed funds.
University of MN Central Regional Sustainable Partnership	\$4,000	\$2,000	\$6,000	Fiscal year Jan. 1, 2014 to Dec. 31, 2014.
Team Registration Fees	\$ 32,000 for 2 years	\$17,600	\$9,069.98	Each participating team paid approx. \$ 400 for each of participation. These funds were used for things not eligible with the ERNTF dollars. Amount proposed is less than amount received because of the number of teams was less than anticipated.
McKnight Foundation		\$50,000	\$39,061.14	Dollars used to increase climate literacy through Fall Summit and Winter Workshop sessions and on-going support through bi-weekly updates on key concepts. In addition, funds were used to increase core capacity and to conduct a pre and post season survey.
Initiative Foundation		\$5,000	\$5,000	Scholarships for new team participation fees, core support, supplies, prize awards
MN Power		\$2,000	\$2,000	Regional prize awards - northeast
Eastside Oil Company		\$1,000	\$1,000	Regional prize awards-central
Gannett Foundation		\$1,000	\$1,000	Regional prize awards-central and scholarships for new teams in the region



Henderson Fire Department		\$1,000	\$1,000	Regional prize awards-south
Great River Energy		\$500	\$500	Regional prize awards-south
Kandiyohi Power Company		\$500	\$500	Regional prize awards- west central
National Joint Powers Alliance (NJPA)		\$500	\$500	Regional scholarships - Region 5
Kandiyohi Power Company		\$1,000	\$1,000	Regional prize awards-west central and core support
Sauk River Watershed District		\$500	\$500	Regional prize awards-central
United Fund of LeSuer		\$500	\$500	Regional prize awards - south
Feast Forward Fundraiser with MN Assoc.of Environmental Education		\$200	\$200	Core program support
<b>TOTAL OTHER FUNDS:</b>	<b>\$85,000</b>	<b>88,800</b>	<b>\$103,331.12</b>	

Note: YES! teams provide over 20,000 volunteer hours to complete projects and educational events which will engage & educate over 12,000 students (k-12), 17,000 community members and students will work with over 200 businesses each year.

**VII. PROJECT STRATEGY:**

**A. Project Partners:**

YES! 2014-2016 will be implemented through partnering organizations including Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center (PWELC), the Laurentian Environmental Center (LEC), the Iron Range Partnership for Sustainability (IRPS), the Southwest Initiative Foundation (SWIF), and up to 40 YES! teams in communities throughout Central, Northeast, Southwest and Southeast Minnesota. Prairie Woods ELC, Laurentian EC, and participating school districts will receive funding through the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund. Prairie Woods ELC and Laurentian EC will receive funding to support staffing and each participating team (sponsored by a school district or community organization) will be able to submit for reimbursement for eligible project-related expenses and program participation expenses such as transportation and substitute teacher costs. (Expenses will meet the eligible and ineligible guidelines).

Please note that Prairie Woods ELC has secured additional funding to increase the amount of funds for supporting team projects and other YES! activities. In addition, each participating community becomes a partner towards building environmentally and economically strong communities. Teams typically receive voluntary and in-kind support from local businesses and community organizations.

**Project Partners Not Receiving Funds:**

- Southwest Initiative Foundation, 15 3rd Avenue NW, Hutchinson, MN 55350  
ph: 320-587-4848 website: [www.swifoundation.org](http://www.swifoundation.org)
- Iron Range Partnership for Sustainability.  
Contact: Don Graves ph: 218-875-3904 website: [www.ironrangeearthfest.org](http://www.ironrangeearthfest.org)

- Ney Nature Center, 28238 Nature Center Ln, Henderson, MN 56044 507-248-3474  
website: [www.neycenter.org/](http://www.neycenter.org/)

**Project Partners Receiving Funds:**

- Prairie Woods ELC, 12718 Tenth Street NE, Spicer, MN 56288  
Ph: 320-354-5894 website: [www.prairiewoodselc.org](http://www.prairiewoodselc.org)
- Laurentian Environmental Learning Center, 8950 Peppard Road, Brit, MN 55710  
Ph: 218-749-1288 website: [www2.moundsviewschools.org/laurentian/](http://www2.moundsviewschools.org/laurentian/)
- Saint John’s University, 2850 Abbey Road, Collegeville, MN 56321  
Ph: 320.363.2011 website: [www.csbsju.edu](http://www.csbsju.edu)
- Central Minnesota Sustainability Project, P.O. BOx 7154, St. Cloud, MN 56302Ph: 320-310-0934  
website: [www.sustainmn.org](http://www.sustainmn.org)

**B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy:**

This project will expand a successful model and initiate youth-led energy conservation and waste conservation projects in at least 40 communities in greater Minnesota. The project will mobilize public and private partnerships to raise awareness of issues and opportunities related to sustainable living practices 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 encouraging them to contribute to the environmental and economic health of our state and expose them to valuable employment and training opportunities. Through YES!, students are learning by doing – building solar panels, doing energy audits, designing and building composting bins and small wind turbines, growing local food for their cafeterias and more! One student from Royalton commented “after learning CAD drawings in tech class I loved it and decided to go into engineering. Then I joined YES! and now I want to go into engineering so I can create things that are better for the environment.”

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. Initiatives such as waste oil collection sites generating donations have been established in 4 YES! communities. These types of income generating operations will continue to be explored. 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. 2008 or FY09	M.L. 2009 or FY10	M.L. 2010 or FY11	M.L. 2011 or FY12-13	M.L. 2013 or FY14
MN Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund				\$246,000	
Southwest Initiative Foundation	\$34,736	\$23,300	\$72,174	\$196,300	\$44,000

Minnesota Renewable Energy Marketplace	\$25,000	\$177,500			
AgStar		\$2,500	\$7,500	\$10,000	
McKnight Foundation			\$75,000	\$40,000	
Southern MN Initiative Foundation		\$10,000		\$30,000	
Initiative Foundation				\$5,000	
Center for Energy & Environment				\$1,500	
University of MN Central Regional Sustainable Development Partnership					\$4,000
University of MN Southwest Regional Sustainable Development Partnership				\$20,000	
Other Supporters	\$7,500	\$4,500	\$3,500	\$2,000	
Other funds for expenses: \$ 300 team fee collected for 2011-12 and 2012-13 seasons and \$ 350 for 2013-14 season				\$17,100	\$8,050
Matching funds/support from local community towards team projects for 2011-12 and 2012-13 seasons				\$112,430.92	

VIII. ACQUISITION/RESTORATION LIST: N/A

IX. VISUAL ELEMENT or MAP(S): See attached visual

X. ACQUISITION/RESTORATION REQUIREMENTS WORKSHEET: N/A

XI. RESEARCH ADDENDUM: N/A

XII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

Periodic work plan status update reports will be submitted no later than January 15, 2015, July 15, 2015, and January 15, 2016. A final report and associated products will be submitted between June 30 and August 15, 2016.

**Final Attachment A: Budget Detail for M.L. 2014 (FY 2014-16) Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Projects**

**Project Title:** Youth-led Sustainability Initiatives in 40 Greater MN Communities

**Legal Citation:** M.L. 2014, Chp. 226, Sec. 2, Subd. 09b

**Project Managers:** Dave Pederson and Shelli-Kae Foster

**Organization:** Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center

**M.L. 2014 ENRTF Appropriation:** \$ 350,000

**Project Length and Completion Date:** 2 years, July 1, 2014-June 30, 2016

**Date of Report:** August 12, 2016

	Activity 1 Revised Budget as of 3.30.2015	Amount Spent as of 6/30/2016	Activity 1 Revised Balance as of 6/30/2016	Activity 2 Revised Budget as of 3.30.2015	Amount Spent as of 6/30/2016	Activity 2 Revised Balance as of 6/30/2016	Revised Budget as of 3/30/2015	Amount Spent as of 6.30.2016	Revised Balance as of 6/30/2016	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL BALANCE
<b>ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET</b>											
	<i>Recruitment and Retention</i>			<i>Workshops and Events</i>			<i>Team and Project Support</i>				
<b>Personnel:</b> 1.0 FTE Project Leader (Shelli-Kae Foster) @ \$ 46,000 each year for 2 years totaling \$ 92,000 (new team training and development, program sustainability, grant management/reporting & direct service to regional teams)											
Two (2) .5 coordinator positions @ \$ 23,000 each year for 2 years totaling \$ 92,000 (Typically a .5 coordinator facilitates approx. 8 to 10 teams creating a regional cohort) <i>(75% Salary, 25% benefits for each position for 2 year period)</i>	19,550	18760	790	51,750	44,750	7,000	133,180	133,107	73	204,480	7,863
<b>Professional/Technical contracts:</b> Laurentian Environmental Center (LEC) will provide .5 FTE coordination @ \$ 23,000 total each year for 2 years totaling \$ 46,000. (Develop program and support up to 10 teams in the Northeast region.) LEC will serve as fiscal host for the contract. LEC will provide travel and meal allowance (approx. \$ 5,000 per year). Saint John's Outdoor University (SJOU) will provide .5 FTE coordination @ \$ 25, 520 total for 14.5 months to develop and support 8 to 10 teams in the north-central region. SJU will serve as fiscal host for the contract. <i>(75%Salary, 25%Benefits for 2 year period)</i>	10,350	8899	1,451	17,250	20,945	-3,695	43,920	38,664	5,256	71,520	3,012
<b>Travel:</b> Approx. 1,600 miles per month total for staff x 24 months = 38,400 x .56 = \$21,500. (Travel for 2016 will be reimbursed at .54) us \$4,000 total for meals and lodging (as deemed necessary for working with outstate teams and events) allowance for a total of \$25,500. (Required for serving widely dispersed rural communities). All travel expense reimbursements as per Minnesota State Commissioner plan. Additional requirements to be covered by non-ENRTF funds. (Amount adjusted from .565 to .56 as per DNR notification.)	2,570	1620	950	6,425	4,812	1,613	16,505	11,003	5,502	25,500	8,065
<b>Other: Team Project Seed Funds.</b> Allows teams to purchase materials and services needed to start and often complete energy action projects. Dollars will be dispersed amongst participating teams each year. Dollar amount may vary depending on number of teams - but will not exceed \$ 24,000. (For example: \$300 per team x 40 teams x 2 years= \$ 24,000). *See Note (1) below. Project Expenses will meet the eligible/ineligible guidelines. See "Project Seed Funds Eligible Expenses List."							24,000	23,551	449	24,000	449
<b>Other: Coach/District Allowance:</b> Provides reimbursement necessary for teams and coaches to attend YES! workshops, tours and events. Expenses may include: 1. Substitute teacher expenses and/or 2. Transportation expenses for YES! events. Dollars will be dispersed amongst participating teams each year. Dollar amount may vary depending on number of teams - but will not exceed \$ 24,000. (For example: \$ 300 per team x 40 teams x 2 years = \$ 24,000) Expenses will meet the eligible/ineligible guidelines.							24,000	13,171	10,829	24,000	10,829
<b>Supplies and materials</b> for hands-on experiential activities at events and tours. Provide local, healthy & light breakfast for students at Summit events to: 1) illustrate importance of sourcing regional produce and products, and 2) provide a nutritious breakfast due to the fact many schools travel approx. 1.5 hours to attend.							500	500	0	500	0
<b>COLUMN TOTAL</b>	<b>\$32,470</b>	<b>29279</b>	<b>3,191</b>	<b>\$75,425</b>	<b>\$70,507</b>	<b>\$4,918</b>	<b>\$242,105</b>	<b>\$219,996</b>	<b>\$22,109</b>	<b>\$350,000</b>	<b>\$30,218</b>

**\* Notes:**

1. Additional funds have been secured to increase seed funds to teams. Additional support to teams is expected through other community partners..  
To meet budget parameters, dollars were decreased to teams because we have found it is easier to find community support for project dollars vs. staff.  
Update: LEC has spent down dollars raised for meals and mileage. PWELC will add \$ 2,000 to their contract for them to use towards Travel: meals and mileage.