

M.L. 2016 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2018

PROJECT TITLE: Youth-led Sustainability Projects in 50 Minnesota Communities – Phase III

PROJECT MANAGER: Shelli-Kae Foster

AFFILIATION: Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center

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FUNDING SOURCE: Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

LEGAL CITATION: M.L. 2016, Chp. 186, Sec. 2, Subd. 05c

APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$400,000

AMOUNT SPENT: \$ 339,981

AMOUNT REMAINING: \$ 60,019

Overall Project Outcome and Results

Our project goal was to engage Minnesota's youth in seeking sustainable solutions to today's environmental and economic challenges through hands-on learning. We accomplished this by:

- Supporting 34 youth-led YES! teams, with over 900 students, in 150 Minnesota communities
- Completing 264 youth-led energy conservation, renewable energy, waste reduction, prairie restoration, local food, climate change education, and water quality related projects
- Engaging 85 communities in climate science and other sustainability topics hosted by YES! students
- Providing 4 Fall Summit events and 26 regional workshops to increase student knowledge of sustainable best practices
- Leveraging the expertise and kindness of 19,000 volunteer hours including 7,000 hours of YES! student volunteer time
- Launching the first statewide YES! championship at the Minnesota Twin's Game (2 years)
- Rebranding of the YES! name to Youth Eco Solutions and upgrading our website (yesmn.org)

YES! staff worked with over 100 teachers and resource experts to engage Minnesota's youth in authentic learning through hands-on projects and community events. Pre and post assessment survey results indicate YES! was successful in impacting student behaviors:

- 20% reported an increase in turning off unneeded lights
- 20% reported an increase in their environmental awareness and were more likely to turn off electronics when not in use, use re-usable beverage containers and bags, and buy used instead of new
- 9% reported they recycled more

YES! students accomplishments benefited Minnesota communities in a variety of ways. Of the 264 completed projects, 25 were related to lake/prairie restorations, 26 improved energy efficiency, 69

involved waste reduction, and 83 additional projects from a range of categories including renewable energy, climate change, and local foods were completed, 61 environmental education events were held and 2,814 pounds of Christmas tree lights were recycled! As one YES! student said, “You can sit around and think about saving energy, or you can get out and do something about it. YES! lets us do something about it!”

Project Results Use and Dissemination

YES! was featured in 29 outside articles, one radio broadcast and one video. In addition, staff and students posted 96 blogs, we had 197 Facebook posts and 42 tweets. Partner organizations feature YES! in the newsletters and websites.



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) M.L. 2016 Work Plan Final Report

Date of Report: August 15, 2018 revision on Sept. 20, 2018 and revision on December 12, 2018

Final Report Yes

Date of Work Plan Approval: June 7, 2016

Project Completion Date: June 30, 2018

PROJECT TITLE: Youth-Led Sustainability Projects in 50 Minnesota Communities – Phase III

Project Manager: Shelli-Kae Foster

Organization: Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center

Mailing Address: 12718 Tenth Street NE

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Location: Statewide

Total ENRTF Project Budget:	ENRTF Appropriation:	\$400,000
	Amount Spent:	\$339,981
	Balance:	\$60,019

Legal Citation: M.L. 2016, Chp. 186, Sec. 2, Subd. 05c

Appropriation Language:

\$400,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center to expand the Youth Energy Summit (YES!) program statewide to complete more than 200 new youth-led climate change mitigation and adaptation projects in over 50 Minnesota communities.

I. PROJECT TITLE: Youth-led Sustainability Projects in 50 Minnesota Communities - Phase 3

II. PROJECT STATEMENT:

Previous support for the Youth Energy Summit (YES!) program from the M.L. 2011 & 2014 sessions resulted in over 500 energy action projects in 108 communities, having an impact on over 53,000 youth and 56,000 community members. With this 3rd and final phase of funding from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF), YES! will expand this award-winning model statewide to

complete over 200 new youth-led climate change mitigation and adaptation projects, impacting an additional 40,000 students and community members in over 50 MN communities. Working with our partners, YES! plans to fully transition from ENRTF funds to private and public sector partnerships. YES! has proven to be successful in engaging youth and mobilizing over 10,000 hours of volunteer time yearly while building strong and resilient communities. In addition, YES! will launch its first ever statewide competition.

YES! engages tomorrow's leaders in seeking sustainable solutions to today's environmental and economic challenges through youth-led energy conservation, waste reduction, water quality improvement projects, renewable energy installations and other environmental stewardship projects. Examples of YES! outcomes include:

- Within 1 year of the YES! Deep Winter Greenhouse Workshop, Lac qui Parle Valley and New London-Spicer YES! teams had their own greenhouses, providing local and organic produce for their schools.
- The Atwater-Cosmos Grove City (ACGC) YES! team reduced their school's annual electricity costs by \$5,000.
- Royalton's YES! team presented at the MN School Board Association and received the Lieutenant Governor's Red Wagon Award for Outstanding Leadership.

YES! projects have generated volunteer, in-kind and cash investments in sustainability projects far exceeding the total ENRTF funds invested in the projects for both M.L.2011 and M.L.2014 funding.

Specific goals for YES! Project 2016-18:

- Serve over 50 communities in Minnesota by supporting up to 45 YES! teams
- Complete 200 new youth-led sustainability projects over 2 years
- Expand the YES! model statewide
- Host the first ever statewide competition made up of finalists from regional competitions
- Develop a Funding Development Plan to transition YES! from ENRTF funds to private and public sector partnerships

ENRTF funding will support coordinator involvement with teams, provide assistance to cover team expenses for attendance at events, and provide matching funds for energy projects. In addition, funding supports key program staff.

HOW:

YES! staff will reach out to schools to recruit new teams and work with existing schools to retain teams to attain the goal of up to 45 teams, serving over 50 communities. These efforts will expand the outreach of YES! to include up to 650 students and more than 45 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. Students, community members, and businesses will be engaged in sustainable living best practices through YES! energy action projects such as school gardens, improved recycling systems, water quality and conservation projects, composting, and designing and building high mileage cars.

YES! staff meet directly with teams 3 to 5 times per year 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 efficiency and waste reduction projects involving solar, wind, biomass, recycling, local foods, water quality, composting and more. YES! staff provide on-going support to teams through: developing and sending out weekly updates, evaluating and offering relevant workshops and tours, organizing annual regional Summits bringing teams together for learning and networking, and in the spring, teams present their completed projects to a panel of judges and awards are presented at community events.

During this project, Prairie Woods ELC will work closely with our partners including the Ney Nature

Center, Laurentian Environmental Center, and a yet to be identified partner in the northwest region, to continue to bring this unique program to each part of the state. In addition, YES! staff are looking to establish new collaborations in the Northwest region to recruit and support youth-led projects with programs and organizations such as the Minnesota Alliance with Youth, the NW Regional Sustainable Development Partnership and other youth focused regional programs with a similar mission. In addition, bordering metro communities will be contacted in order to work towards a statewide program.

Working with our partners, YES! will seek regional support as well as statewide support through private and public partnerships, fundraisers, sponsorships and social enterprise.

YES! is currently working with Vela Strategy, through funding from the Southwest Initiative Foundation (SWIF), to create a funding development plan for Prairie Wood Environmental Learning Center which will serve as a model for the other partners.

III. OVERALL PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:

Amendment Request 4 (July 31, 2017)

Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center (PWELC) is requesting to move \$ 13,596 from the contract with Sauk River Watershed District (SRWD) to the contract with Lakes Country Service Cooperative (LCSC) for a total contract of \$ 52,596. This is necessary because SRWD is unable to fulfill the existing contract due to unexpected staffing changes. SRWD successfully completed one season of work with YES!. The contract with SRWD has been terminated as of June 15, 2017.

LCSC is an existing partner that has demonstrated a commitment to the program by successfully facilitating the creation and implementation of the YES! Coach Advisory group and working with the group, completed 12 Project Guides along with a valuable Tips for Coaches document. LCSC is working to recruit new teams in the region. This amendment will increase LCSC's capacity from a .25 FTE YES! Coordinator to approximately a .5 FTE YES! Coordinator. The increase in capacity will better enable LCSC to recruit new schools/YES! Teams and continue necessary work to strengthen the program in the north-central/northwest region and provide communication support. PWELC is confident LCSC has the expertise and commitment to the program to successfully complete the responsibilities of the work plan.

Amendment Approved: [08/03/2017]

Amendment Request 3 (January 31, 2017)

Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center (PWELC) is requesting to move \$ 43,000 from Personnel to Professional/Contract Services due to recent staff changes. PWELC is requesting to name Ney Nature Center (Ney) to fulfill a Professional Service Contract to provide a .5 FTE regional coordinator at \$ 28,000 for 18 months to develop and support up to 12 teams in the southern region of Minnesota. Ney has been a partner (not receiving funding) since 2014. Due to budget restrictions, Ney was unable to Contract with PWELC to provide the necessary services, however, they are now in a better financial position to manage the reimbursement process and both parties believe Ney should be a Contractor like the other YES! program partners (Laurentian Environmental Center, Sauk River Watershed District and Lakes Country Service Cooperative).

Ney Nature Center is in a strong position to fulfill the duties of a .5 FTE YES! Coordinator due to their: 1) location in the southern region, 2) knowledge and expertise in sustainability topics, 3) working relationship with schools in their region, 4) prior knowledge and experience working with the YES! program as a partner (not receiving funds) since 2014, and, 5) ability to pair a part-time position with another part-time position requiring similar qualifications to help ensure employee retention. We believe Ney's strong commitment to the program and its presence in the region will continue be an asset in stabilizing the program in southern Minnesota.

In addition, PWELC requests to move \$ 15,000 to the Lakes Country Service Cooperative Contract to complete Communications/Data and curriculum development tasks. This change is necessary because Katelyn Bocklund (formally Larsen) left the position as of January 9. We believe LCSC is in the best position to professionally fulfill these valuable services necessary to the program. These services

include; website maintenance, blog postings, survey monkey results and summaries, brochure and handbook updates, curriculum guidebook research and development, and other key communication tasks as assigned. **Amendment Approved: [2/06/2017]**

Amendment Request 2 (October 31, 2016)

Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center (PWELC) is requesting to update the Budget Detail as a whole to reflect the current state of the operating budget due to necessary changes in staffing. PWELC is requesting to name Sauk Rapids Watershed District to fulfill a Professional Service Contract to provide a .25 FTE Coordinator at \$ 21,000 for 2 years to develop and support up to 6 teams in central region of Minnesota. Sauk Rapids Watershed District will serve as the fiscal host.

Sauk Rapids Watershed District is in a strong position to fulfill the duties of a .25 FTE YES! Coordinator due to their: 1) location in the central region, 2) knowledge and expertise in watershed and other sustainability topics, 3) working relationship with schools in their watershed district, 4) YES! coaches have specifically indicated that students are interested in water quality and conservation and want to get involved in preserving this natural resource and, 5) ability to pair a part-time position with another part-time position requiring similar qualifications to help ensure employee retention. We believe SRWD's extensive knowledge in water quality and other related topics will be an asset to all YES! teams across Minnesota by building a network of resources with other watershed districts in Minnesota,

In addition, Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center is requesting to move the Data/Communication Specialist remaining balance of \$ 19,841 (\$ 26,000 total) from the Contract category to the Personnel category. This shift is necessary due to the fact that the current Contract with Aleta Kolan will end as of November 1, 2016 when Kolan transitions to a new career path where she will not have the capacity to fulfill the Contract. Katelyn Larson, the current southern coordinator has been working closely with Kolan over the past year to learn the duties involved with the Data/Communications position. Transferring the Contract dollars to the Personnel category will ensure these key tasks will be transitioned to a skilled and knowledgeable employee that is familiar with the program and has the skills required to fulfill the duties assigned in the previous Contract. **Amendment Approved: [11/02/2016]**

Amendment Request 1 (August 2, 2016)

Prairie Woods Learning Center is requesting to name Lakes Country Service Cooperative to fulfill the Professional Service Contract to coordinate and support up to 6 teams in the Northwest region each year for 2 years (\$ 24,000). The DNR has approved the Sole Source Justification request for Lakes Country Service Cooperative to work as the Contractor on the project. Lakes Country Service Cooperative will provide a .25 FTE Coordinator at \$ 24,000 for 2 years to develop and support up to 6 teams in the north-west and upper west-central region of Minnesota. Lakes Country Service Cooperative will serve as the fiscal host.

Lakes Country Service Cooperative is uniquely positioned to fulfill the duties of a .25 FTE YES! Coordinator due to their: 1) location in northwest/upper west-central region, 2) wealth of experience in supporting educators in the region, 3) expertise in local food distribution and other sustainability topics, 4) previous interest and support of the YES! program, and 4) ability to pair a part time position with another part time position requiring similar qualifications. **Amendment Approved: [8/08/2016]**

Project Status as of January 31, 2017:

Recruitment and Retention of up to 40 teams in 50 communities in Minnesota.

The program has recruited and secured 29 teams for the 2016-17 season including: Carlton, Cherry, Discovery (Alexandria), Discovery Woods (Brainerd), Northeast Range (Babbitt), Northern Lights Community (Warba), North Woods (Cook), Virginia, Wrenshall, Melrose, ROCORI, Royalton, Sartell-St. Stephen, St. Cloud North Jr. High (St. Cloud), Atwater-Cosmos-Grove City, Glencoe-Silver Lake, Hutchinson, Lac qui Parle Valley, New London-Spicer, Yellow Medicine East, Belle Plaine, Forest Lake,

Mankato West, Minnesota New Country School (Henderson), New Prague, Sleepy Eye, Springfield and Westbrook-Walnut Grove.

Workshops and Events

The YES! program featured 2 Fall Summits in 2016; one at Saint John's University for the central, southern and west-central teams with over 200 participants; and one at our partner site Laurentian Environmental Learning Center for the northeast teams, with 50 participants. Both featured speakers and workshops on water quality.

YES! staff are organizing 10 - 15 Winter Workshops/Tours ranging in topics from You Are What You Eat, Power of Nature, Reducing Waste by Composting and Recycling and Using Passive and Active Energy Strategies to Design Buildings.

Complete 150 + Projects Benefiting 50 Communities in Minnesota

Teams have identified local sustainability challenges and needs, formulated goals and created action plans for the 2016-17 season. Each team is planning and working on 3 or more hands-on action projects related to energy efficiency, waste reduction, renewable energy, native gardens and local foods.

Project Status as of July 31, 2017:

Recruitment and Retention of up to 40 teams in 50 communities in Minnesota.

The program recruited and secured 29 teams for the 2016-17 season including: Carlton, Cherry, Discovery (Alexandria), Discovery Woods (Brainerd), Northeast Range (Babbitt), Northern Lights Community (Warba), North Woods (Cook), Virginia, Wrenshall, Melrose, ROCORI, Royalton, Sartell-St. Stephen, North Jr. High (St. Cloud), Atwater-Cosmos-Grove City, Glencoe-Silver Lake, Hutchinson, Lac qui Parle Valley, New London-Spicer, New Ulm, Yellow Medicine East, Belle Plaine, Forest Lake, Mankato West, Minnesota New Country School (Henderson), New Prague, Sleepy Eye, Springfield and Westbrook-Walnut Grove. These active teams represent over 40 Minnesota communities.

Workshops and Events

YES! Staff organized and implemented 15 Winter Workshops and 1 community convening in collaboration with Climate Generation during the 2016-17 season. In addition, 4 regional competitions were held with the winner from each region moving on to the first ever statewide competition. The Glencoe-Silver Lake YES! team was named the first YES! State Champion during the pre-game show of the Minnesota Twin's game on May 21, 2017. Of special note, YES! Won the 2017 Minnesota Ethical Leadership Award which was presented to the program on May 25 at the State Capitol.

Complete 150 + Projects Benefiting 50 Communities in Minnesota

YES! Teams completed 114 projects in over 40 communities. Projects included; 15 of which were related to lake/prairie restoration, 25 involved waste reduction, 11 improved energy efficiency, 28 environmental education events were held and 25 additional projects from a range of categories including renewable energy and climate change were completed

Project Status as of January 31, 2018:

Recruitment and Retention of up to 40 teams in 50 communities in Minnesota.

The program recruited and secured 27 teams for the 2017-18 season for a total of 34 teams in over 150 Minnesota communities during the 2-year project. Teams for this season include: Carlton, Discovery Woods (Brainerd), Northeast Range (Babbitt), Virginia, Wrenshall, Melrose, ROCORI (Cold Spring), Royalton, Sartell-St. Stephen, Atwater-Cosmos-Grove City, Glencoe-Silver Lake, Hutchinson, Lac qui Parle Valley (Madison), Mankato West, Moorhead, New London-Spicer High School & Middle School, New Prague, New Ulm, Yellow Medicine East, Forest Lake, Pillager/Motley/Staples, Sleepy Eye,

Springfield, Westbrook-Walnut Grove, and a pilot team with 4-H. YES! is on target serve over 80 Minnesota communities over the 2-year project.

Workshops and Events

The YES! program featured 2 Fall Summits in 2017 with the theme “Say YES! to Green Living”; one at Saint John’s University for the central, southern and west-central teams with over 200 participants; and one at our partner site Laurentian Environmental Learning Center for the northeast teams, with 40 participants. Both featured speakers and workshops on sustainable best living practices including waste reduction, energy conservation, renewable energy, water quality, and “Career Talks.”

YES! staff are organizing 10 - 15 Winter Workshops/Tours ranging in topics from waste reduction, water quality and conservation, energy saving practices and building tours, 2 Youth Minnesota Convening with Climate Generation, prairie preservation, and local foods.

Complete 150 + Projects Benefiting 50 Communities in Minnesota

Teams have identified local sustainability challenges and needs, formulated goals and created action plans for the 2017-18 season. Each team is planning and working on 3 or more hands-on action projects related to energy efficiency, waste reduction, water quality & conservation, renewable energy, native gardens and local foods. We project over 175 projects will be completed over the 2- year grant period.

Overall Project Outcomes and Results:

Our project goal was to engage Minnesota’s youth in seeking sustainable solutions to today’s environmental and economic challenges through hands-on learning. We accomplished this by:

- Supporting 34 youth-led YES! teams, with over 900 students, in 150 Minnesota communities
- Completing 264 youth-led energy conservation, renewable energy, waste reduction, prairie restoration, local food, climate change education, and water quality related projects
- Engaging 85 communities in climate science and other sustainability topics hosted by YES! students
- Providing 4 Fall Summit events and 26 regional workshops to increase student knowledge of sustainable best practices
- Leveraging the expertise and kindness of 19,000 volunteer hours including 7,000 hours of YES! student volunteer time
- Launching the first statewide YES! championship at the Minnesota Twin’s Game (2 years)
- Rebranding of the YES! name to Youth Eco Solutions and upgrading our website (yesmn.org)

YES! staff worked with over 100 teachers and resource experts to engage Minnesota’s youth in authentic learning through hands-on projects and community events. Pre and post assessment survey results indicate YES! was successful in impacting student behaviors:

- 20% reported an increase in turning off unneeded lights
- 20% reported an increase in their environmental awareness and were more likely to turn off electronics when not in use, use re-usable beverage containers and bags, and buy used instead of new
- 9% reported they recycled more

YES! students accomplishments benefited Minnesota communities in a variety of ways. Of the 264 completed projects, 25 were related to lake/prairie restorations, 26 improved energy efficiency, 69 involved waste reduction, and 83 additional projects from a range of categories including renewable energy, climate change, and local foods were completed, 61 environmental education events were held and 2,814 pounds of Christmas tree lights were recycled! As one YES! student said, “You can sit

around and think about saving energy, or you can get out and do something about it. YES! lets us do something about it!"

IV. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

ACTIVITY 1: Recruit and retain up to 45 YES! teams in over 50 Minnesota communities

Description: YES! Coordinators recruit coaches and confirm participation of existing teams. Coaches are typically teachers or similarly trained professionals serving in an active advisory role with teams of youth. Each .5 FTE coordinator supports up to 12 teams regionally by in-person meetings, weekly updates, on-going project support along with relevant and current resources featured on the YES! website.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 1:	ENRTF Budget:	\$40,942
	Amount Spent:	\$38,286
	Balance:	\$2,653

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Recruit and retain up to 45 teams serving 50 Minnesota communities	Nov. 2017
2. Educate youth on sustainable living best practices while providing regional relevance to the importance of their action projects in their communities	May 2017 & 2018
3. Continue to increase the number of middle school teams from 5 to 8 teams	Oct. 2017 & 2018

Activity 1 Status as of January 31, 2017:

Outcome 1: The program has recruited and secured 29 teams for the 2016-17 season including:

REGION	PARTNER Organization	SCHOOL
Northeast • 7 teams	Laurentian Environmental Center	Carlton H.S., Cherry H.S., Northeast Range H.S. (Babbit), Northern Lights Community (Warba), North Woods High School (Cook), Virginia H.S. & Wrenshall H.S.
Central • 5 teams	Sauk River Watershed District	Melrose H.S., ROCORI H.S., Royaltown M.S. & H.S., Sartell-St. Stephen M.S. & St. Cloud North Jr. High (St. Cloud),

West-central • 6 teams	Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center	Atwater-Cosmos-Grove City H.S., Glencoe-Silver Lake H.S., Hutchinson H.S., Lac qui Parle Valley H.S., New London-Spicer H.S. & Yellow Medicine East H.S.
Southern • 9 teams	Ney Nature Center	Belle Plaine H.S., Forest Lake H.S., Mankato West H.S., Minnesota New Country School (Henderson), Sleepy Eye H.S., Springfield H.S., & Westbrook-Walnut Grove H.S.
Northwest • 2 teams	Lakes Country Service Cooperative	Discovery Woods Montessori (Brainerd), Discovery M.S. (Alexandria)

Lakes Country Service Cooperative (LCSC) and Sauk River Watershed District (SRWD) are both new partners this year. We anticipate both regions to grow to 6 teams for the next season (2017-18).

Outcome 2: YES! kicked off the year with the Fall Summit at St. John's University with the theme "Say YES! to youth-led solutions to water issues." Over 200 students and coaches gathered to learn about "Why Global Water Matters" from Dr. Kate Brauman (UofM/Institute on the Environment) and several other experts throughout the day. Currently YES! staff are organizing regional workshops on a variety of topics from waste reduction, native prairies, supermileage cars and renewable energy. In addition, bi-weekly updates go out to the teams with regional, relevant and timely information on water quality, climate change and sustainable best practice tips and information.

Outcome 3: For the 2016-17 season YES! is serving 11 middle schools including: New Ulm, Atwater-Cosmos-Grove City, New London-Spicer, Melrose, ROCORI, Royalton, Sartell-St. Stephen, Sleepy Eye, North Jr. High (St. Cloud), Discovery Woods (Brainerd) and Discovery (Alexandria).

Activity 1 Status as of July 31, 2017:

Outcome 1: Please refer to Outcome 1 chart of the January 31, 2017 Status update for 2017-18 teams.

Outcome 2: 15 winter workshops were customized to meet the needs of the students and community with 300 students and coaches attending. Regional and state experts presented at these events from the University of Minnesota, community and technical colleges, renewable energy companies, utilities and government agencies. Climate Generation partnered with YES! and the Middle Fork Crow River Watershed District to research and complete a tree trench project. Students organized a community event to celebrate the success of the project. In all, over 50 community events were hosted by or attended by YES! teams throughout the state.

Outcome 3: For the 2016-17 season YES! supported 11 middle schools including: New Ulm, Atwater-Cosmos-Grove City, New London-Spicer, Melrose, ROCORI, Royalton, Sartell-St. Stephen, Sleepy Eye, North Jr. High (St. Cloud), Discovery Woods (Brainerd) and Discovery (Alexandria). We are finding out that the middle school is a great age to engage students in environmental stewardship projects because they are very passionate and not over committed to other responsibilities like jobs and high school athletics.

Activity 1 Status as of January 31, 2018:

Outcome 1: The program has recruited and secured 27 teams for the 2017-18 season for a total of 34 teams serving over 80 Minnesota communities over 2 years:

REGION	PARTNER Organization	SCHOOL
Northeast • 4 teams	Laurentian Environmental Center	Carlton H.S., Northern Lights Community (Warba), Virginia H.S. & Wrenshall H.S.
West-central • 11 teams	Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center	Atwater-Cosmos-Grove City H.S., Glencoe-Silver Lake H.S., Hutchinson H.S., Lac qui Parle Valley H.S., Melrose H.S., New London-Spicer M.S. & H.S., ROCORI H.S., Royalton M.S./H.S., Sartell-St. Stephen M.S. & Yellow Medicine East H.S.
Southern • 8 teams	Ney Nature Center	Forest Lake H.S., Mankato West H.S., Sleepy Eye H.S., Springfield H.S., Westbrook-Walnut Grove H.S. & 4-H pilot team, New Ulm H.S. & New Prague ALS
Northwest • 4 teams	Lakes Country Service Cooperative	Discovery Woods Montessori (Brainerd), Moorhead Youth Educational Services ALC, Staples/Motely & Pillager

Outcome 2:

YES! kicked off the year with its 11th annual Fall Summit at St. John's University. The theme this year is "Say YES! to Living Green." We choose this theme to enable us to offer a variety of workshops on living a sustainable lifestyle for students. Over 200 students and coaches gathered to learn about environmentally focused careers with mini "Career Talks" and then students spent the rest of the day rotating through the following sessions; "Getting Current" with Clean Energy Teams (CERTs), Water, Water Everywhere. We Really Need to Care," with Middle Fork Crow River Watershed District and Kandiyohi AIS Taskforce," The Climate is Changing – Are You?" with Climate Generation, and "You Are My Sunshine!" with IPS Solar.

Currently YES! staff are organizing regional workshops on a variety of topics from waste reduction, native prairies, super-mileage cars and renewable energy. In addition, bi-weekly updates go out to the teams with regional, relevant and timely information on water quality, climate change and sustainable best practice tips and information

The Northeast Region YES! Fall Summit was held on October 16, 2018 at Laurentian Environmental Learning Center in Britt, MN. Over 40 YES! students and coaches attended the event which started out with outdoor team building activities. Teams were blended to enable connections to other schools in hopes that cross communications would offer insights into how other teams function. Everyone left energized and ready to tackle the mission of YES! for another year!

Outcome 3:

For the 2017-18 season YES! is serving 11 middle schools including: New Ulm, Atwater-Cosmos-Grove City, New London-Spicer, Melrose, ROCORI, Royalton, Sartell-St. Stephen, Sleepy Eye, Discovery Woods (Brainerd), Pillager, and Staples-Motely

Activity 1 Final Report Summary:

Outcome 1: The YES! program secured 34 active teams serving 152 Minnesota communities during the 2-year grant period of July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2018. The following chart includes all teams supported:

REGION	PARTNER Organization	SCHOOL
Northeast <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 6 teams• 33 communities served	Laurentian Environmental Center	Carlton H.S., Cherry H.S., Northeast Range H.S.(Babbit), Northern Lights Community (Warba), Virginia H.S. & Wrenshall H.S.
West-central <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 13 teams• 41 communities served	Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center	Atwater-Cosmos-Grove City H.S., DREAM Academy/Willmar, Glencoe-Silver Lake H.S., Hutchinson H.S., Lac qui Parle Valley H.S., Melrose H.S., New London-Spicer M.S. & H.S., ROCORI H.S., Royalton M.S./H.S., Sartell-St. Stephen M.S. & Yellow Medicine East H.S., & North Jr. High/St.Cloud
Southern <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10 teams• 66 communities served	Ney Nature Center	Belle Plaine H.S., Forest Lake H.S., Mankato West H.S., Minnesota New Country School (Henderson), Sleepy Eye H.S., Springfield H.S., Westbrook-Walnut Grove H.S., 4-H pilot, New Ulm H.S. & New Prague ALS
Northwest <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5 teams• 12 communities served	Lakes Country Service Cooperative	Discover M.S. (Alexandria), Discovery Woods Montessori (Brainerd), Moorhead Youth Educational Services ALC, Staples/Motely & Pillager

Outcome 2:

YES! held 2 Fall Summit events each year for a total of 4 Fall Summits over the 2 year grant period. The first year's theme was "Say YES! To Water Quality" and our theme for the second year was "Say YES! to Living Green." The Central/South Fall Summit events both had over 200 students and teachers in attendance and were held at St. John's University. LEC held both Fall Summit events for the Northeast region at LEC with over 40 students and coaches in attendance.

YES! staff organized 28 regional workshops and 4 community events for a total of 32 events on a variety of topics from waste reduction, native prairies, super-mileage cars, energy efficiency, and renewable energy. In addition, bi-weekly updates went out to teams with regional, relevant and timely information on sustainable best practice and project information.

Outcome 3 Results:

During the 2 year grant (2016-2018) YES! supported 13 middle schools including: Atwater-Cosmos-Grove City, Discovery (Alexandria), Discovery Woods (Brainerd), Melrose, New London-Spicer, New Ulm, North Junior High/St.Cloud, Pillager, ROCORI, Royalton, Sartell-St. Stephen, Sleepy Eye, and Staples-Motely.

ACTIVITY 2: Educate students on sustainable best practices while increasing climate literacy through all team youth gatherings (annual Summit), workshops and tours with local, regional and statewide experts to design projects promoting a sustainable lifestyle in the school, home and community.

Description: YES! Coordinators organize annual Fall Summits and more than 10 tours and workshops per year which are specific to team project goals. Topics have included: energy conservation, water quality, climate adaptation strategies, composting, recycling, renewable energy, visits to solar and wind farms, and local food initiatives.

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

(2) Annual Workshops and Industry Tours: YES! Coordinators organize more than 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, supermileage vehicle design, 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), University of MN/Extension educators, renewable energy businesses such as Blattner Energy Inc., Silicon Energy of Mount Iron, Solar Skies, LLC. 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). A new statewide competition will publicly recognize an outstanding YES! team.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 2:	ENRTF Budget:	\$109,055
	Amount Spent:	\$80,397
	Balance:	\$28,658

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Over 800 (total for 2 years) YES! students attend YES! annual Summits, customized workshops and tours and participate in an annual regional competition	May 2017 & 2018
2. Each team demonstrates connections with over 5 experts and allies who can assist them with completing energy related community projects	May 2017 & 2018

3. Pilot and implement first statewide YES! competition	May 2017 & 2018
4. Pre-assessment and post survey on sustainable best practices will allow for evaluation of effectiveness	Sept. 2016 & 2017 May 2017 & 2018

Activity 2 Status as of January 31, 2017:

Outcome 1: Annual YES! Fall Summit & YES! Winter Workshops

The following articles featuring the YES! Fall Summits were taken from the YES! website.

10th Annual Fall Summit Prepares YES! Students for Success with Interactive Sessions

By Ali Dahmes, YES! Coordinator

10th Annual Fall Summit, held at Saint John's University on October 12th, engaged nearly 200 students and coaches from 16 YES! teams from central and southern Minnesota. The day started out with an activity, "massively multi-player thumb-wrestling," where "grand masters" and "legendary grand masters" were born. Teams were then welcomed by Father Lew Grobe, a monk at St. Johns Abbey, who shared his ideas on the importance of creating a stable environment. Following that, Keynote speaker Dr. Kate Brauman, Lead Scientist for the Global Water Initiative at the Institute on the Environment at the University of Minnesota, talked about "Why Global Water Matters" and gave students insights into how their actions impact water consumption and capacity. A video message from Senator Al Franken followed that included not only inspiration about protecting our resources in Minnesota but also some great humor.



After the opening, students moved into breakout sessions. This year, there were two different tracks for teams, one for those teams that are new or have mostly new students involved in the program, and one for veteran teams. Both tracks combined mid-day for a highly active Project Sharing session.

In the Measuring Your Project's Success session for returning teams, students investigated local water quality data compiled by the Middle Fork Crow Watershed District and Sauk River Watershed District. After investigating the data, they used their creativity to make posters of their lake as a unique way to tell their peers about the status of the lake they examined. Afterwards, Jon Morales from the Middle Fork Crow Watershed District demonstrated how they use various equipment to monitor lakes and streams. Students also learned about ways they can get involved in monitoring lakes and streams through Citizen Science. By the end of the session, all students had a better appreciation for tracking and analyzing data, which they will carry forward as they work to collect data for their own projects this year.

During the FUNdraising 101 session, returning YES! teams were encouraged to find projects this year that are good for the Planet, good for People and also generate a Profit. Students learned about the CERTs Saving Watts & Drops program, WorldWear Project, and Climb for a Cause as well as a number of other great ideas shared by YES! teams. The literal high point of this fast-paced session was the opportunity to climb the PWELC portable climbing wall, which can be used to help fund projects in schools and communities. Thanks to Joel Haskard of CERTs and Steve Friedlein and Cameron Kalkbrenner from PWELC for sharing their energy and expertise in this session.

At the Project Sharing session, new and returning teams were able to make connections with students from other schools through fun activities. New teams also “met the experts” when returning teams shared some of their past successes. Meanwhile, coaches enjoyed meeting with other coaches and discussing YES! in more detail.

In the Measuring Your Project's Success/Big Canoe session for new teams, students explored a fun and engaging way to track data. The Voyageurs were a hardworking and competitive group of guys who engaged in competition to “prove” they were the best. This session introduced students to the tracking tools that will help teams “prove” their success in their community. Students also learned that tracking data can be fun by taking a paddle in a 34-foot Voyageur canoe to drop a secchi disk and take some water quality readings.

In the Introduction to YES! for New Teams session, students spent time together learning about what it means to be a part of YES! students heard from University of MN 4-H Extension educators Mark Haugen and Cassidy Martin, worked on creating S.M.A.R.T. goals for their projects, and learned how to identify allies in their community by using power mapping/mind mapping, a skill that will be useful in finding community members able to assist them in accomplishing projects. Overall, the session provided new members great information on YES! as well as a strong foundation for planning their projects for the year.

By the end of the day, all students left with their minds full of project ideas and excitement, ready to take on the challenge of the new season of YES!.

Sea Change Makes a Splash at 3rd Annual Northeast Fall Summit

By YES! Coordinator Jim DeVries

On a beautiful fall day, 83 students and 21 coaches assembled at the Laurentian Environmental Center in Britt MN for the 3rd annual Northeast MN Fall Summit. Teams representing Carlton High School, Cherry High School, Northern Lights Community School, Virginia High School and Wrenshall High School were in attendance.

The day started off with a quick introduction to the YES! program for new students. The students then dove into a creative problem solving session. This hands-on session proved to be a great motivation to get everyone talking about how to solve energy issues in their school.

The keynote speakers from Sea Change presented about their four years of sailing on Lake Superior and how they have personally witnessed impacts of global climate change. They shared stories of swimming out in the middle of Lake Superior when the water temperature was 82 degrees on the surface. Previously water temps would have been considered high when it was in the low 60's. They have also witnessed several “100 year storms”, little-to-no winter ice coverage, and a rapid change in water quality due to increased algal blooms.

As the Sea Change crew sailed along the North Shore, they stopped in villages along the lake and shared their observations and concerns with these communities while gathering stories from the people along the way. Climate change is not a hopeless catastrophe, but the impacts can be lessened by our actions. Sea Change ended its talk with practical advice on what we can do in our own lives. Easy suggestions like walk instead of drive, turn down the heat by 2 degrees, shut lights off when not needed and don't let your car idle when you are parked somewhere. Simple tasks, but when done by thousands of people can make a big impact on the carbon released into the atmosphere every year.

Following the presentation lunch was served and the students had the chance to visit with the presenters to find out more information about their trip and the impacts of climate change. After lunch three returning teams shared about the projects they had worked on over the last few years to get everyone in the mind set for planning this year's efforts. Teams had a half hour to discuss their future plans and report back to the larger group what they hoped to work on this year.

The day went by quickly, but it was a positive start to the 2016-17 school year and the YES! program. Thank you to everyone to helped to make this another successful kick off!

2017 Winter Workshops planned to date include:

DATE	LOCATION	THEME	TEAMS ATTENDING
Dec. 15	Glencoe Silver Lake High School	Fueling Appetites for Fuel Efficient Vehicles	Glencoe Silver Lake & Hutchinson
Jan. 18	Gustavus Adolphus College	Reducing Waste Through Composting & Recycling	New Prague ALC, Mankato West & Springfield
Jan. 23	Forest Lake High School	Best Practices for Recycling Programs	Forest Lake
Feb. 1	Kennedy Community School, St. Joseph, MN	Back to Our Roots (Native Prairies)	Royalton, ROCORI & North Jr. High
Feb. 15	Mankato	Using Passive and Active Strategies to Design Buildings	Belle Plaine, New Prague ALC, West Brooke-Walnut Grove, Mankato West & Sleepy Eye
Feb. 15	Willmar	Don't Throw Away - Recycle for Another Day	Atwater-Cosmos-Grove City & Minnesota New Country School
Feb. 15	St. Cloud	What Does It Take for Water Quality ?	ROCORI, Yellow Medicine East & Lac qui Parle Valley
Feb. 28	New London-Spicer School Greenhouse	You Are What You Eat	New London-Spicer, New Prague ALC, Atwater-Cosmos-Grove City & Minnesota New Country School
March 8	Prairie Woods ELC, Spicer	Power of Nature	Lac qui Parle Valley, Atwater-Cosmos-Grove City & Hutchinson
March 22	Mankato	Gaining Energy Skills	New Prague ALC & Mankato West

Note: Highlights for each completed workshop can be found at <http://www.youthenergysummit.org/news/blog/>

Outcome 2: During each workshop, students are connecting with at least 2 to 3 regional experts. During the Fall Summit each student met with an additional 2 to 3 experts. In addition, regional

coordinators are connecting teams with topic specific experts to assist with completing their energy action projects.

Outcome 3: YES! staff are actively researching a process and a partner for piloting the first ever YES! state-wide competition to be held in the spring of 2017. To date, we have contacted the Environmental Initiative, Minnesota Alliance for Youth, Minnesota League of Cities, Minnesota State Fair and the Twins to explore possible collaborations and sites to hold the award ceremony.

Outcome 4: A pre-assessment was completed through Survey Monkey and submitted by all students attending the Fall Summit, 2016. We will send a post-assessment survey to the same students in April/May to be completed to assess how well the program has done to improve student's knowledge on climate literacy, water quality and sustainable best practices.

Activity 2 Status as of July 31, 2017:

Article written by Ali Dahmes for the "Warbler" publication, Summer 2017 edition which summarizes the events since the last Status Update:

The Youth Energy Summit has been busy with presenting Spring Awards, attending the MN Twins Game for our first annual State Competition, accepting the Minnesota Ethical Leadership Award, working with Kandiyohi Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force, and planning for the next YES! season.

Regional and State Awards: Twenty-nine YES! teams across the state participated in their Regional Spring Competition. Congratulations to the West Central YES! Teams for yet another amazing year of hardworking students completing complex projects. The Spring Awards were awarded to the following teams:

- All-Star Award Recipient – Glencoe-Silver Lake YES! Team
- Project Impact Award Recipient – Atwater-Cosmos-Grove City YES! Team
- Wow Factor Award Recipient – Hutchinson YES! Team
- Goal Setting & Teamwork Award Recipient – New London-Spicer YES! Team
- Community Leadership & Education Award Recipient – Lac qui Parle Valley YES! Team

Following Spring Awards, the four regional All-Star Recipients were entered into the State Competition. The First Annual State Competition Award Ceremony was held at Target Field on May 21st, 2017. This event was attended by over 100 YES! students, coaches, staff, and supporters from 4 Youth Energy Summit (YES!) teams. Teams represented the following communities; Glencoe–Silver Lake, Wrenshall, Westbrook–Walnut Grove, and St. Cloud. Students were escorted onto the Twins field near home base during the pregame show. Brendon Slotterback, from the McKnight Foundation presented the award. This year, Glencoe–Silver Lake was awarded the 2017 State Champion Award for their dedication to their project, their outstanding teamwork, and their work on a real world problem. One judge said the Glencoe–Silver Lake YES! team is "preparing leaders for future problem-solving."

Minnesota Ethical Leadership Award: 8 students, staff, and supporters of the Youth Energy Summit (YES!) program attended the Character Recognition Awards Ceremony at the Minnesota State Office Building on May 25, 2017. This ceremony was made possible by the Synergy & Leadership Exchange as directed by Governor Dayton. The event focused on recognizing organizations and schools who have gone above and beyond in order to promote good character and ethical leadership.

The YES! program was one of three awardees to be presented with the Minnesota Ethical Leadership Award, as the panel was impressed with the character and ethical leadership development it provides to students. Following the award presentation, the YES! group met up with Michael Varien from the Legislative Citizens Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR), the Commission designated to support the appropriations of the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF). We then went on a quick and lively tour of the State Capitol building with Secretary of State Steve Simon and later a more in depth tour with Senator John Hoffman.

Kandiyohi County Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force: This summer, the New London – Spicer YES! team is working with the Kandiyohi AIS Task Force to build up the AuqaHunter database and help educate the public. 12 NL-S students have been using the yellow boats on Kandiyohi County water to collect, identify, and report native and non-native (invasive) plants and animals.

Outcome 1:

504 YES! students and 400 non-YES! students participated in YES! events and activities during the 2016-17 season. The following Winter Workshops were completed:

DATE	LOCATION	THEME	TEAMS ATTENDING
Dec. 15	Glencoe Silver Lake High School	Fueling Appetites for Fuel Efficient Vehicles	Glencoe Silver Lake & Hutchinson
Jan. 18	Gustavus Adolphus College	Reducing Waste Through Composting & Recycling	New Prague ALC, Mankato West & Springfield
Jan. 23	Forest Lake High School	Best Practices for Recycling Programs	Forest Lake
Feb. 1	Kennedy Community School, St. Joseph, MN	Back to Our Roots (Native Prairies)	Royalton, ROCORI & North Jr. High
Feb. 15	Mankato	Using Passive and Active Strategies to Design Buildings	Belle Plaine, New Prague ALC, West Brooke-Walnut Grove, Mankato West & Sleepy Eye
Feb. 15	Wilmar	Don't Throw Away - Recycle for Another Day	Atwater-Cosmos-Grove City & Minnesota New Country School
Feb. 15	St. Cloud	What Does It Take for Water Quality ?	ROCORI, Yellow Medicine East & Lac qui Parle Valley
Feb. 28	New London-Spicer School Greenhouse	You Are What You Eat	New London-Spicer, New Prague ALC, Atwater-Cosmos-Grove City & Minnesota New Country School
March 3 & 17	Hill City & Floodwood	Teaching Younger Students about Environmental Stewardship	Northern Lights School
March 3	Duluth area	Alternative Energy	Wrenshall High School

March 8	Prairie Woods ELC, Spicer	Power of Nature	Lac qui Parle Valley, Atwater- Cosmos-Grove City & Hutchinson
March 22	Mankato	Gaining Energy Skills	New Prague ALC & Mankato West
March 30	Laurentian Environmental Center	Water Quality Lessons	Northeast Range Community School
March 31	Duluth Entertainment & Convention Center and Western Lake Superior Sanitation District	Waste Reduction	Virginia and Carlton

Note: Highlights for each completed workshop can be found at
<http://www.youthenergysummit.org/news/blog/>

Outcome 2: During each workshop, students are connected to regional experts and provided hands-on learning experiences. On an on-going basis, regional coordinators connect teams with topic specific experts to assist with completing their energy action projects. YES! students connected with over 75 organizations and businesses and 8,000 community members.

Outcome 3: YES! crowned it's the first YES! State Champion on May 21, 2017 at Target Field during the Minnesota Twin's pre-game show. Brendon Slotterback from the McKnight Foundation presented the award to Glencoe-Silver Lake! The YES! logo and smiling students were seen on the jumbotron and celebrated by over 1,000 fans. The Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund was acknowledged as a major funder of the program. The 3 runner-up YES! Teams were there to enjoy their success and the Twin's game.

Outcome 4: 120 students completed the pre-assessment through Survey Monkey and 28 completed the post assessment.

Summary of results:

- 15% increase understanding what a watershed is
- 8% increase understanding sources of water pollution
- 7% increase understanding that zebra mussels are invasive species
- 14% increase on what wetlands do for the ecosystem (benefits)
- 4% increase believe climate change is happening
- 13% increase believe that climate change is caused by human activity
- 9% recycled more
- 11% talked to peers about climate change more

To improve survey results next season we plan to require students to complete the post assessment prior to participation in spring judging.

Activity 2 Status as of January 31, 2018:

Outcome 1: Annual Fall Summit & Winter Workshops

The 11th annual YES! Fall Summit was held on October 11 at Saint John's University. Throughout the day, Climate Generation's Jothsna Harris and Green Corps member Kira Liu presented to students on how to put on a community event using their climate convening model. Jothsna and Kira taught students about the science of climate change. Then, after a short story, Harris challenged students to think about what is important to them in their community. Answers like "family, nature, trees, parks, water, and ice" were shouted out. Finally to get the students to think about the problems and solutions in their communities, the session was wrapped up with a gallery walk culminating in these word clouds: <https://www.youthenergysummit.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Yes-gallery-run-wordle.pdf>

During the "Water, Water Everywhere – We really Need to Care," session led by Jonathan Morales of the Middle Fork Crow River Watershed District and Charlene Brooks, Kandiyohi Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Taskforce Coordinator, students from Forest Lake, Sleepy Eye, Mankato West, Melrose, Royalton and Yellow Medicine East schools were introduced to best management practices (BMPs). Students explored the SJU campus and identified BMPs that were on the campus including a rain garden which helps with run-off by the beach.

The other half of the session introduced students to shoreline health, invasive species that can overtake a shoreline, and projects that students could complete to help with improving shoreline health like building a buffer.

What a day! After months of planning and working out details, Coordinator Michelle Isaacson teamed up with Alexis Troschinetz from Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs) and Judy Elling-PrzBILLA from Southwest Regional Development Commission to plan the "Get Current" session. This session focused on energy conservation and the Saving Watts & Drops program. To make the session educational, hands-on, and fun, the presenters had 6 stations where students wrote their ideas on poster board and then moved onto the hands-on demonstration station. Students were able to learn about how LED light bulbs, smart power strips, and low-flow showerheads are able to save electricity and water by seeing them in action.

Students viewed the flow rate of a high and low flow showerhead and were able to see the difference in water used in the same amount of time.

While learning about LED lights, participants used infrared cameras to see the heat loss a bulb creates. Lastly, students were able to plug in general office devices into a wattmeter to see how much energy was being used.

Using a worksheet created for this event and the energy they found each device to be using, students determined what the savings would be if a teacher switched to using a smart power strip in their classroom.

Students also brainstormed ideas of who in their lives could benefit from these energy, water, and money savings products to prepare them for the fundraising process. Overall, students enjoyed the session's interactive quality, driving home the concepts of energy conservation.

Eric Pasi with IPS Solar helped students learn how solar energy works and shared examples of how schools are using solar energy to now only save money and our environment, but also incorporate STEM learning into their curriculum. Pasi was excited to share with the students that the project they may have passed on I-94 on their way to the Summit is an IPS Solar project.

The Northeast Region YES! Fall Summit was held on October 16, 2018 at Laurentian Environmental Learning Center in Britt, MN. Over 40 YES! students and coaches attended the event which started out with outdoor team building activities. Teams were blended to enable connections to other schools in hopes that cross communications would offer insights into how other teams function.

Josthna Harris and Jenna Totz from Climate Generation presented on how our climate is changing and instructed the students on how to organize a climate convening. Two teams have committed to hosting a Youth Minnesota Convening this spring!

Alexis Troschinetz from Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs) presented three ideas on energy savings and introduced teams on how these simple energy tips could translate into a fundraiser. The 3 energy strategies were demonstrated to the students through hands-on activities. These ideas included low flow shower heads, smart energy strips and LED light bulbs.

Everyone left energized and ready to tackle the mission of YES! for another year!

Preparations are being made for 10 – 15 winter workshops to be held around the state. Three Youth Minnesota Convenings will be held this spring in partnership with Climate Generation. The locations have been identified as Carlton, Warba and New London-Spicer.

Outcome 2: During each of the workshops being planned, students will connect with at least 2 to 3 regional experts. During the 2017 Fall Summit each student met with, were inspired by, and received instruction from an additional 10 resource experts. Throughout the season, regional coordinators are connecting teams with topic specific experts to assist with completing their energy action projects.

Outcome 3: The date of the second annual YES! state-wide competition is set for May 20, 2018 at Target Field. Due to the success of the first state-wide competition, we decided to continue having the awards presented “academy style” at the Twins game. Last spring over 100 students, parents and coaches attended the event! Brendon Slotterback from the McKnight Foundation presented the award.

Outcome 4: A pre-assessment was completed through Survey Monkey and submitted by most of the students attending the Fall Summit, 2017 and by students not able to attend. To date we have over 70 pre-assessments completed. We will send a post-assessment survey to the same students in April/May to be completed to assess how well the program has done to improve student’s knowledge on climate literacy, water quality and sustainable best living practices.

Activity 2 Final Report Summary:

Outcome 1: Annual YES! Fall Summit & YES! Winter Workshops

YES! has grown from 92 students working with 39 businesses and organizations and impacting 6,080 community members and almost 2,000 students in its first season to over 400 students working with 500 community members, businesses, and organizations and impacting over 10,000 community members and 13,000 students this past season (2017-18). Since 2007, YES! has involved more than 3,000 students working with 4,300 local businesses, organizations and community members.

The following data is for the grant period which includes the 2016-17 and 2017-18 YES! seasons. The following Fall Summits were completed:

DATE	LOCATION	THEME	STUDENTS ATTENDED
Oct. 12 2016	Saint John's University	Why Global Water Matters	About 175 Students

Oct. 19 2016	Laurentian Environmental Center	Why Global Water Matters	About 80 Students
Oct. 11 2017	Saint John's University	Say YES! to Living Green	About 175 Students
Oct. 16 2017	Laurentian Environmental Center	Say YES! to Living Green	About 45 Students

The following 30 Winter Workshops and Community events were completed:

DATE	LOCATION	THEME	TEAMS ATTENDED
Dec. 15 2016	Glencoe Silver Lake High School	Fueling Appetites for Fuel Efficient Vehicles	Glencoe Silver Lake & Hutchinson
Jan. 18 2017	Gustavus Adolphus College	Reducing Waste Through Composting & Recycling	New Prague ALC, Mankato West & Springfield
Jan. 23 2017	Forest Lake High School	Best Practices for Recycling Programs	Forest Lake
Feb. 1 2017	Kennedy Community School, St. Joseph, MN	Back to Our Roots (Native Prairies)	Royalton, ROCORI & North Jr. High
Feb. 15 2017	Mankato	Using Passive and Active Strategies to Design Buildings	Belle Plaine, New Prague ALC, West Brooke-Walnut Grove, Mankato West & Sleepy Eye
Feb. 15 2017	Willmar	Don't Throw Away - Recycle for Another Day	Atwater-Cosmos-Grove City & Minnesota New Country School
Feb. 15 2017	St. Cloud	What Does It Take for Water Quality ?	ROCORI, Yellow Medicine East & Lac qui Parle Valley
Feb. 23 2017	Albany	Youth Climate Convening	Albany High School
Feb. 28 2017	New London-Spicer School Greenhouse	You Are What You Eat	New London-Spicer, New Prague ALC, Atwater-Cosmos-Grove City & Minnesota New Country School
March 3 & 17 2017	Hill City & Floodwood	Teaching Younger Students about Environmental Stewardship	Northern Lights School
March 3 2017	Duluth area	Alternative Energy	Wrenshall High School
March 8 2017	Prairie Woods ELC, Spicer	Power of Nature	Lac qui Parle Valley, Atwater- Cosmos-Grove City & Hutchinson

March 22 2017	Mankato	Gaining Energy Skills	New Prague ALC & Mankato West
March 30 2017	Laurentian Environmental Center	Water Quality Lessons	Northeast Range Community School
March 31 2017	Duluth Entertainment & Convention Center and Western Lake Superior Sanitation District	Waste Reduction	Virginia and Carlton
Dec. 6 2017	Glencoe Silver Lake High School	Solar and Efficient Automotive Design	Glencoe Silver Lake & Recorded
Jan. 25 2018	Forest Lake High School	Green Step Cities	Forest Lake
Feb. 1 2018	Gustavus Adolphus College	Energy Conservation and Climate Change	Mankato West, New Prague, Westbrook Walnut Grove
Feb. 6 2018	Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center	Water is Life, Treat it Right	New London Spicer High, New London Spicer Middle, Atwater-Cosmos-Grove City
Feb. 21 2018	Granite Falls	Clean Energy for a Clean World	Yellow Medicine East
Feb. 28 2018	Mankato West High School	Solar Energy and Aquatic Invasive Species	Mankato West, New Prague
March 7 2018	Brainerd	Energy is Power	Pillager, Staples, Motley
March 12 2018	SPRUCE Project Marcell, MN	How Climate Change Impacts Peatlands	Northern Lights Community
March 16 2018	Prairie Restorations Greenhouse - Esko and Hartley Nature Center	Pollinators and Solar Energy	Carlton
March 20 2018	Laurentian Environmental Center	Forestry, Water Quality, and AIS	Virginia
March 21 2018	Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center	Prairie Restoration, Climate Change, and Renewable Energy Tour (Back to Nature)	New London Spicer High, Atwater-Cosmos-Grove City, DREAM Academy
April 13 2018	Cambria Gallery	Local Foods and School Gardens	New Prague, Mankato West
April 21 2018	Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center	Youth MN Convening – New London-Spicer	New London Spicer Middle and High School
May 4 2018	4 Season Complex Carlton	Youth MN Convening - Carlton	Carlton High School
May 11 2018	Eagles Lodge Granite Falls	Youth MN Convening - Warba	Northern Lights Community School

Note: Highlights for each completed workshop can be found at <https://yesmn.org/news/>

Outcome 2: During each of the workshops, students interacted with at least 2 to 3 regional experts and provided hands-on learning experiences. On an on-going basis, regional coordinators connected teams with topic specific experts to assist with completing their energy action projects.

Outcome 3: After actively researching piloting the first ever state-wide competition, YES! crowned it's the first YES! State Champion on May 21, 2017 at Target Field during the Minnesota Twin's pre-game show. Brendon Slotterback from the McKnight Foundation presented the award to Glencoe-Silver Lake! The Second Annual YES! State Champion was crowned to Northern Lights Community School on May 20, 2018 at Target Field once again during the Minnesota Twin's pre-game show. Della Young, a commissioner of the LCCMR, presented the award. During both events, the YES! logo and smiling students were seen on the jumbotron and celebrated by over 1,000 fans. The Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund was acknowledged as a major funder of the program. The runner-up YES! Teams were also there to enjoy their success and the Twin's game.

Outcome 4: A pre-assessment was completed through Survey Monkey and submitted by all students attending the Fall Summits in 2016 and 2017. We sent a post-assessment survey to the same students in April/May to be completed to assess how well the program did to improve student's knowledge on climate literacy, water quality and sustainable best practices.

2016-17 Season: 120 students completed the pre-assessment through Survey Monkey and 28 completed the post assessment.

- Summary of results:
 - 15% increase in understanding what a watershed is
 - 8% increase in understanding sources of water pollution
 - 7% increase in understanding that zebra mussels are invasive species
 - 14% increase understanding on what wetlands do for the ecosystem (benefits)
 - 4% increase believe climate change is happening
 - 13% increase believe that climate change is caused by human activity
 - 9% recycled more
 - 11% talked to peers about climate change more

2017-18 Season: 129 students completed the pre-assessment through Survey Monkey and 54 completed the post assessment.

- Students were surveyed on how "green" they lived their lives.
- Summary of results:
 - 20% increase of turning off unneeded lights
 - 20% increase in how environmentally aware students are
 - Increase in turning off electronics when not in use, using re-usable beverage containers, buying used instead of new, bike instead of drive, use re-usable shopping bags, and compost food waste.
 - 9% recycled more
 - 20% increase believe climate change is happening
 - 15% increase believe that climate change is caused partially or fully by human activity

ACTIVITY 3: Complete 200+ new sustainability projects in over 50 Minnesota communities

Description:

YES! teams assess needs in their communities and schools, evaluate and help find local resources to meet these needs, and 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, water quality assessments, composting, recycling, repurposing, 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 and team leaders (youth) and assists with identifying organizations and businesses that share an interest in energy efficiency, waste and water conservation and renewable energy. The YES! Data and Communications Specialist maintains the YES! website, blog, social media, tracks key data and creates and disseminates e-newsletter. Coordinators use in-person meetings 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, 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 teams 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 offered equally among participating teams.

Project seed funds are made available to teams to get a project started. These funds are usually matched by community support, fundraisers and volunteer time. 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 of each year. Funds will be used only for items deemed eligible as outlined in M.L. 2016 RFP "Guidance on Allowable Expenses."

Eligible expenses may include:

1. Materials and supplies to install water saving devices and to monitor water quality 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.
9. Materials and supplies for developing native plantings, pollinator gardens and promotion of other restorative practices

Funding Development Plan

YES! will work in collaboration with partners and stakeholders to develop a Funding Development Plan to provide economic stability for the program. YES! is currently working with Great River Energy and regional electric cooperatives to develop a way for YES! students to assist cooperatives in reaching

their Conservation Improvement Program (CIP) goals through LED sales and possibly having students conduct energy audits in homes. YES! is working with Vela Strategy with funding from the Southwest Initiative Foundation to create a development plan for Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center to serve as a model for the other partners. Teams are engaging their communities in fundraisers where local “celebrities” pledge to climb an outdoor wall. Teams are also organizing shoe and metal collections that enable them to better fund their projects.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 3:	ENRTF Budget:	\$250,003
	Amount Spent:	\$221,295
	Balance:	\$28,708

Outcome	Completion Date
1. YES! teams identify local sustainability challenges and needs, formulate goals and create action plans each of 2 years	Nov. 2016 & 2017
2. YES! teams complete over 200 new energy, water quality and climate change action projects in 2 years	May 2017 & 2018
3. YES! teams project will provide over 10,000 volunteer hours per year to complete projects and educational events engaging and educating over 40,000 students, 50,000 community members and over 500 businesses in 2 years (based on past history)	May 2017 & 2018
4. Develop a Fund Develop Plan to transition YES! from ENRTF funds to private and public sector partnerships	June 30, 2018

Activity 3 Status as of January 31, 2017:

Outcome 1: Teams have identified local sustainability challenges and needs, formulated goals and created action plans for the 2016-17 season. Each team is working on 2 to 3 hands-on action projects as detailed in Outcome 2.

Outcome 2: Below please find a list of the projects teams are currently working on. Projects will be completed by the next Status Update and therefore there will be a complete list of projects at that time.

Atwater-Cosmos-Grove City

- Newly completed tree trench at ACGC school site. Tree trench project is from 2015-16 and will plant shrubbery in the spring of 2017. This project was part of a \$25,000 grant the team received through the Middle Fork Crow River Watershed District for a tree trench and permeable paver storm drain piping project at their elementary school
- Collecting holiday lights for recycling
- Collecting shoes for WorldWear fundraiser
- Planning an Earth Day education and tree trench dedication events
- Replacing parking lot lights with LED
- Planning to replace paper towels in the bathrooms to hand dryers

Belle Plaine

- They're a new team!
- Inaugural night hike to gain appreciation for creatures and nature at night
- Organizing a sleep out to raise awareness of homelessness in winter
- Assisting Ney Nature Center with hands-on improvements

Carlton

- Recycling education & recycling program expansion
- Planning a school garden

Cherry (Iron Range)

- Designing an electric go-kart.

Discovery Woods Montessori (Brainerd)

- Learning how to teach water conservation to younger students in the school and will provide tips on how to conserve water at school and at home

Forest Lake

- They're a new team!
- Focusing heavily on waste reduction this year through education, recycling, and reducing plastic utensil use in the cafeteria
- Recycling holiday lights

Glencoe-Silver Lake

- Building a supermileage car to compete with in the 29th Annual MTEEA Supermileage Challenge
- Building a solar boat to compete with in the 25th Annual MRES Solar Boat Regatta

Hutchinson

- Building a tiny house with off grid capabilities (i.e. solar panels)!
- Building a super-mileage car to compete with in the 29th Annual MTEEA Supermileage Challenge
- Building a solar boat to compete with in the 25th Annual MRES Solar Boat Regatta

Lac qui Parle Valley

- Planning to help their watershed district create charts and graphs of water quality from previous years
- Continuing to plant in their green house
- Collecting holiday lights for recycling
- Working on a device to collect rain/snow from their greenhouse roof to use for watering plants to save money
- Collecting shoes for WorldWear fundraiser

Mankato West

- Finalizing a composting education video for area elementary schools
- Working to reduce waste in elementary schools in their region

Melrose

- Building bat boxes to put in their community and raise awareness of declining populations of Northern Long-Eared bats due to White Nose Syndrome
- Distributing new light bulbs
- Examining the use of power in their classroom lighting
- Continuing to recycle in their school

Minnesota New Country School (Henderson)

- Educating the elementary students with Xcel Energy kits
- Collecting data to determine how much waste the school is generating
- Will be creating an education program to impact and reduce their waste

New London-Spicer

- Working to reduce food waste in their school by meeting with the school nutritionist for new meal taste testing
- Continuing to plant and harvest in their greenhouse
- Planting apple trees in the spring
- Completed a vitality week which included awareness days for water, recycling, local foods, and ending with trivia
- Planning for possible bat house construction as an integrated pest management program
- Planning to construct an outdoor education teaching dock

New Prague

- They're a new team!
- Working on energy conservation in New Prague schools by installing reminders to turn off lights when not in use
- Raising funds for a rain garden by making and selling candles
- Establishing a rooftop garden by building and placing garden boxes on the roof of the high school

New Ulm

- They're a new team!
- Thinking heavily about food waste at their school. They're looking into having a 'share' table at lunch where unwanted fruits like apples, bananas, grapes, and oranges can serve another purpose
- Want to raise awareness of how much recycling currently happens in their school and what they can do to improve recycling rates
- Have found that 27 rooms want bigger recycling bins, and they are working to secure larger bins for each classroom

Northeast Range (Babbitt)

- Planning several environmental education activities to present to area elementary schools

Northern Lights Community School (Warba)

- Planning a Water Education event for younger students
- Making plans to design and plant a school garden

North Woods (Cook)

- They're a new team!
- Working on an energy audit of the school

ROCORI

- Collecting recycling throughout the school each Friday (6th year of providing this service!)
- Researching and raising funds to install a second hydration station

Royalton

- Helped influence the interest in adding a STEM designated teaching facility at their school
- Creating green classrooms within their school through recycling and energy improvements
- Planning a trip to Italy to share sustainable best practices and to learn about how communities in Italy are becoming sustainable

Sartell - St. Stephens

- Developing a water quality curriculum they will use to teach younger students

Sleepy Eye

- Monitoring the staff appliances in the school district using Kill-o-watt meters to determine a fair cost per appliance based on energy use
- Educating staff and administration about energy consumption of various appliances
- Recycled holiday lights

Springfield

- Recycled holiday lights.
- Conducting a pop tab drive and will be donating all pop tabs collected to the Ronald McDonald House in Minneapolis, MN.

St. Cloud North

- Planting a native prairie/pollinator habitat on their school grounds that will also serve as an outdoor classroom. Funding and education are being provided through the Peasants Forever Youth Pollinator Habitat Program

Virginia

- They're a new team!
- Interested in restoring shoreline of Silver Lake.
- Interested in starting a composting program in their lunchroom.

Westbrook-Walnut Grove

- Hosted a volunteer day in their community where they raked leaves. Read more about that here
- Looking into giving presentations to elementary students about water use and conservation.
- Continuing their solar pop can heater project from 2015-16 and are testing different colors of paint to see which is more effective
- Researching how to run a diesel engine on vegetable oil
- Working on creating a recycling depot where members of their community can recycle plastic bags, aluminum cans, and oil

Wrenshall

- They're a new team!
- Providing labor to construct a recycling center that will serve over 500 rural residents in

Yellow Medicine East

- Have officially broken ground on constructing an LED green house at their school
- Planning to adopt a storm drain
- Looking to install another hydration station in their gym
- Researching composting with worms from agriculture classes
- Collecting shoes for WorldWear fundraiser

Outcome 3: Data will be collected from the YES! Final Reports in May and be reported on in the next Status Update.

Outcome 4: A Fund Development Plan has been completed by Vela Strategy with funding support from the Southwest Initiative Foundation. We are in the process of finalizing a contract with a development expert to implement the various strategies outlines in the Plan including:

- 1) Facilitating the formation of a YES! Advisory Board
- 2) Developing a revised structure and plans for YES!
- 3) Developing relationships and donor/funding strategies to support and sustain YES!
- 4) Providing support to create exceptional events that strengthen the visibility of YES!

Activity 3 Status as of July 31, 2017:

Outcome 1: Teams identified local sustainability challenges and needs, formulated S.M.A.R.T. goals and created action plans to complete energy actions projects for the 2016-17 season.

Outcome 2: YES! Teams completed 114 projects in over 40 communities. Projects included; 15 of which were related to lake/prairie restoration, 25 involved waste reduction, 11 improved energy

efficiency, 28 environmental education events were held and 25 additional projects from a range of categories including renewable energy and climate change were completed.

Outcome 3: YES! team projects provided 7,736 volunteer hours to assist in completing 114 energy action projects and 28 educational events. The program engaged and educated over 12,000 students, 8,000 community members, diverted over 7,000 pounds of waste from landfills and leveraged over \$20,000 in local support during the 2016-17 season.

Here is a list of projects by YES! Team:

Atwater – Cosmos-Grove City:

- Completed tree trench project from 2015-16 and will plant shrubbery in the spring. This project was part of a \$25,000 grant the team received through the Middle Fork Crow River Watershed District for a tree trench and permeable paver storm drain piping project at their elementary school.
- Collected holiday lights for recycling.
- Collected over 130 lbs. of shoes for WorldWear fundraiser.
- Planned an Arbor Day climate change education and tree trench dedication event.
- Replaced parking lot lights with LED
- Planned to replace paper towels in the bathrooms to hand dryers.

Belle Plaine

- Inaugural night hike to gain appreciation for creatures and nature at night
- Organized a sleep out to raise awareness of homelessness in winter
- Assisted Ney Nature Center with hands-on improvements

Carlton

- Recycling education, recycling program expansion, school garden

Cherry (Iron)

- Designed an electric go-kart. You can find out more information about that project [here](#).

Discovery Middle School (Alexandria)

- Worked on their school garden.

Discovery Woods Montessori (Brainerd)

- Learned how to teach water conservation to younger students in the school and provided tips on how to conserve water at school and at home.
- Built rain barrels to use for watering their school garden.

Forest Lake

- Stadium cleanup after homecoming football game.
- Planted pollinator garden.
- Had a booth at Ag Day in their school to educate students on the importance of pollinator plants.

- Participated in Lobby Day in the cities to present the need for funding environmental clubs and the environment in general.
- Working toward reusable silverware for the school.
- Focused heavily on waste reduction this year through education, recycling, and reducing plastic utensil use in the cafeteria.
- Recycled holiday lights.
- Grew plants in milk cartons to give away at their Earth Day table.
- Had games and prizes at a lunch table for Earth Day to educate fellow students while having fun.
- Expanded the school recycling program to include 4 large bins in common areas and 48 more small blue bins for classrooms.

Glencoe-Silver Lake

- Built a supermileage car to compete with in the 29th Annual MTEEA Supermileage Challenge.
- Built a solar boat to compete with in the 25th Annual MRES Solar Boat Regatta.

Hutchinson

- Built a tiny house with off grid capabilities (i.e. solar panels) that will be up for sale in January!
- Built a solar boat to compete with in the 25th Annual MRES Solar Boat Regatta.

Lac qui Parle Valley

- Helped their watershed district create charts and graphs of water quality from previous years.
- Successfully planted and harvested in their green house.
- Collected holiday lights for recycling.
- Worked on a device to collect rain/snow from their greenhouse roof to use for watering plants to save money.
- Collected shoes for WorldWear fundraiser.

Mankato West

- Helped switch from styrofoam to compostable trays at a local elementary and middle school.
- Participated in community awareness for composting at the local Plate to Garden event.
- Gathered data through multiple waste sorts.
- Finalized a composting education video for area elementary schools and provided education to the students on the process of composting.
- Worked to reduce waste in elementary schools in their region.
- Created an automatically updating website to display data from the school's energy monitoring system
- Prepared for additional hydration station implementation

Melrose

- Built bat boxes to put in their community and raised awareness of declining populations of Northern Long-Eared bats due to White Nose Syndrome.
- Distributed new light bulbs.
- Examined the use of power in their classroom lighting.
- Continued to recycle in their school.

Minnesota New Country School

- Educated the elementary students with Xcel Energy kits
- Collected data to determine how much waste the school is generating
- Created an education program to impact and reduce their waste
- Worked on a recycling program and building a greenhouse for our elementary school

New London-Spicer

- Worked to reduce food waste in their school by meeting with the school nutritionist for new meal taste testing.
- Successfully planted and harvested in their green house.
- Planted apple trees in the spring
- Completed a vitality week which included awareness days for water, recycling, local foods, and ending with trivia.
- Constructed bat houses as an integrated pest management program.
- Planned to construct an outdoor education teaching dock.

New Prague ALC

- Designed a rain collection system to water pollinator garden.
- Proposed play scape design elements for the local nature center.
- Planned a pollinator garden for the new school.
- Facilitated orienteering course at local nature center to integrate nature into an educational activity.
- Worked on energy conservation in New Prague schools by installing reminders to turn off lights when not in use.
- Raised funds for a rain garden by making and selling candles.
- Established a rooftop garden by building and placing garden boxes on the roof of the high school.
- Sold hot chocolate and seed bombs
- Researched where their recyclables go
- Recycled pop cans for money
- Created and distributed informational pages around their school
- Facilitated a shoe drive to be both donated and recycled depending on their condition
- Looked into replacing disposable silverware and installing milk dispensers in the high school cafeteria
- Collected old cell phones for recycling.
- Researched recycling categories to implement a common recycling station along with an informative slideshow
- Researched feasibility of a simple compost bin at their school

New Ulm Middle School

- Thought heavily about food waste at their school. They looked into having a 'share' table at lunch where unwanted fruits like apples, bananas, grapes, and oranges can serve another purpose
- Raised awareness of how much recycling currently happens in their school and what they can do to improve recycling rates
- Found that 27 rooms want bigger recycling bins, and they are worked to secure larger bins for each classroom
- Researched and setting up worm bins to create an alternative destination for food waste

Northeast Range (Babbitt)

- Planned several environmental education activities to present to area elementary schools

Northern Lights Community School (Warba)

- Water education for younger students, school garden

North Woods

- Developed team structure and started laying ground work for projects for next year

ROCORI

- Collected recycling for the middle and high school on a weekly basis
- Planned to install another hydration station closer to their gym

Royalton

- Helped influence the interest in adding in STEM designated teaching facility at their school.
- Created green classrooms within their school through recycling and energy improvements.
- Travelled to Italy to share their sustainability story and successes with a small community in Italy and learned new technologies and opportunities to bring back to their community

Sartell- St. Stephen Middle School

- Developed a water quality curriculum they will use to teach younger students.

Sleepy Eye

- Participated in local community events including Party in the Park and Corn Days to spread awareness of the YES! team and to educate the community on important environmental topics.
- Planted trees in their community.
- Looked into providing water quality monitoring for a tributary of the Cottonwood River.
- Collected school supplies at locker clean out day that can be reused.
- Sold hot chocolate, cider, and treats at the local Lights in Motion event and helped the organization set up.
- Monitored the staff appliances in the school district using Kill-o-watt meters to determine a fair cost per appliance based on energy use.
- Educated staff and administration about energy consumption of various appliances.
- Recycled holiday lights.
- Worked to reduce and eventually eliminate styrofoam use in the cafeteria
- Organized a movie and pizza night with the showing of Leonardo DeCaprio's recent documentary.
- Participated in the high school paper recycling pickup
- Entered B3 benchmarking data and determined which buildings need assistance with reducing resource waste
- Recycled shoes through World Wear
- Utilized TerraCycle to recycle items that aren't accepted into their current recycling system
- Provided education using an energy trailer from Get Into Energy for Earth Day
- Visited classrooms to educate students using energy kits for Earth Day
- Sold dirt cups and solar power made popcorn for Earth Day
- Created pollinator gardens as landscaping at the new convention center

Springfield

- Recycled holiday lights.
- Conducted a pop tab drive and donated all pop tabs collected to the Ronald McDonald House in Minneapolis, MN.
- Looked into installing milk dispensers at their school
- Added recycling bins to each classroom and made an educational video to be shown to the school on using them properly. Signs will also be made to insure proper use.
- Created multiple videos on a variety of environmentally important topics for peers to view in class.
- Facilitated a 5K Fun Run with a trail that winds along past YES! projects and informational signage. Proceeds from this run went to water.org.

St. Cloud North Junior High

- Planted a native prairie/pollinator habitat on their school grounds that will also serve as an outdoor classroom. Funding and education were provided through the Peasants Forever Youth Pollinator Habitat Program

Virginia

- Researching shoreline restoration of Silver Lake
- Starting a composting program in their lunchroom

Westbrook-Walnut Grove

- Upkeep on past projects including the wind turbine and oil recycling
- Sorted through and documented the school's recycling efforts
- Added recycling bins in the school
- Hosted a volunteer day in their community where they raked leaves.
- Gave presentations to elementary students about water use and conservation
- Continued their solar pop can heater project from 2015-16 and are testing different colors of paint to see which is more effective
- Researched how to run a diesel engine on vegetable oil
- Worked on creating a recycling depot where members of their community can recycle plastic bags, aluminum cans, and oil
- Met with local service organizations to see what need the community has for sustainable projects
- Expanded pop tab collection into their community. There were currently 5-6 sites in the school and students placed 5 more in the community at local businesses
- Inherited the city's can recycling to expand their existing oil and plastic bag recycling station
- Conducted tire pressure checks on teachers' cars and left a note indicating the environmental impact and gas wasted from improperly inflated tires

Wrenshall

- Provided labor to construct a recycling center that will serve over 500 rural residents in Carlton County.

Yellow Medicine East

- Planned on transferring crops from the LED green house at their school to the lunchroom.

- Planned to adopt a storm drain.
- Looked to install another hydration station in their gym.
- Researched composting with worms from agriculture classes.
- Collected shoes for WorldWear fundraiser

Outcome 4: A Fund Develop Plan was completed in August, 2016 to assist with transitioning YES! from ENRTF funds to private and public sector partnerships. Funding for the Plan came from Southwest Initiative Foundation. Cheryl Glaeser's (A.R.T. Consulting) services have been engaged through financial support from the McKnight Foundation to explore potential partnerships, develop funding strategies and implement aspects of the Fund Development Plan. We have completed exploratory conversations with the Department of Education/STEM, Clean Energy Resources Teams (CERTs), University of Minnesota's Institute on the Environment and plan to continue to research and invite conversations with other like organizations as well as implementing fundraising opportunities.

Activity 3 Status as of January 31, 2018:

Outcome 1: All 26 YES! teams have identified local sustainability challenges and needs, formulated goals and created action plans for the 2017-18 season. Each team is working on 2 to 3 hands-on action projects as detailed in Outcome 2.

Outcome 2: Below please find a list of the projects teams are currently working on. Projects will be completed by the Final Status Update report.

Atwater-Cosmos-Grove City (ACGC)

- Installing energy efficient hand dryers in the middle school bathrooms

Carlton

- Hosting a MN Youth Climate Convening in May
- District-wide recycling program implemented
- Food waste education and monitoring in the cafeteria
- Rebuilding their school garden

Discovery Woods Montessori

- Collecting data on food waste in lunchroom
- Looking at ways to be more energy efficient by evaluating cost effective lighting in the school library

Forest Lake

- Planning a movie night to show "Before the Flood"
- Arranged to have a share table at lunch to reduce food waste

Glencoe-Silver Lake

- Planning a winter conference about solar and auto design
- Building a portable solar charging station
- Designing and building super-mileage vehicles
- Designing and building a solar boat

Hutchinson

- Designing and building another tiny home!

Lac qui Parle Valley

- Continuing to plant and harvest in their deep winter green house

Mankato West

- Hosted a showing of “An Inconvenient Truth” along with a discussion
- Looking at feasibility of the school installing a wind turbine

Melrose

- Selling LED light bulbs provided by their local utility for a Watts & Drops fundraiser
- Investigating switching out old power strips in their school for energy efficient smart strips

Moorhead – Youth Educational Services – New team in 2017/18

- Researching solar options
- Visited the Moorhead Solar Garden and visited with the director there! The students definitely want to purchase panels there!
- Purchased a smaller solar panel for doing hands on work with it in class.
- Currently have a Bake Sale planned and a GOFUNDme Page.
- Researching how students can make an impact at the Moorhead State college campus

New London-Spicer Middle School

- Installing energy efficient hand dryers in the restrooms
- Continuing to plant and harvest in their deep winter greenhouse – produce from the greenhouse is served in the lunch line

New London-Spicer High School – new team in 2017-18.

- Plan to do water quality for aquatic invasive species surveying on local lakes this summer.
- Planning a Youth Minnesota Convening with the assistance of Climate Generation that will be held this spring.

New Prague ALC

- Installed rain barrels
- Created pollinator gardens at the school
- Planted apple trees
- Installed compost bins
- Created play-scape equipment for Ney Nature Center

New Ulm

- Improving the signage on hallway recycling bins
- Collecting classroom recycling each Friday and sorting out non-recyclables
- Monitoring waste and recyclables to ensure items get in the correct receptacles in the cafeteria

Northern Lights Community School

- Planning a Youth Climate Convening in Spring
- Raising trout in the classroom for release in an area stream
- Water quality monitoring of the trout stream
- Planting of a school garden/green house
- Waste monitoring and educational presentation to the student body

ROCORI

- Investigating solar panels for their school courtyard
- Continuing school wide recycling each Friday after school

Royalton

- Creating a new recycling system for our school. Recently almost doubled the size of our school structure and are now in the process of redesigning our recycling system
- Creating a natural area for students to study a variety of native and non-native plant types

- Planning an overnight trip to Deep Portage near where they will look at alternative energy designs, do project planning and participate in winter survival activities

Sartell-St. Stephen Middle School

- Creating peer educational lessons on waste reduction to be used in the month of April at the school.
- Working on a "larger" multi-part project which will include linking lessons as an outreach to other schools via a website that students are designing.
- They will also be focusing on waste reduction of paper use (both students and staff) and food waste reduction in the lunch room.
- As part of food waste reduction, students are hoping to "lobby" for a milk machine to replace paper cartons.

Sleepy Eye

- Setting up the park for the LED holiday lights display
- River monitoring through the River Watch program
- Updating the outdoor security lighting to energy efficient fixtures and LED lighting
- Creating a pollinator garden at local public complex

Springfield

- Collecting pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House
- Collecting old Christmas tree lights
- Placing recycling bins for plastics in the hallway, computer labs and common areas

Staples-Pillager-Motley

- New team starting January, 2018

Virginia

- Continuing to compost school food waste
- Shoreline restoration project continued on Silver Lake
- Storm water education presentation planned for the local community

Westbrook-Walnut Grove

- Hosting a Black Out Day

Wrenshall

- Building a recycling center for the local community
- Designing and building a solar boat for the Solar Boat Regatta this spring
- Designing and building a solar car for the high mileage competition at Brainerd Raceway

Yellow Medicine East

- Continuing last year's project of installing hydration stations outside of school gym
- Securing matching funds from the Health and Wellness Center
- Selling homemade ice cream to school students before holiday break
- Designing an educational sign for their community garden for all to read
- Researching the feasibility of starting a solar garden in our community for the school and other community members

4-H Pilot Team

- New team in 2017-18

Outcome 3: Data will be collected from the YES! Final Reports in May and be reported on in the next Final Status Update.

Outcome 4: YES! completed a fall sponsorship campaign with the guidance of Cheryl Glaeser, Achieve Results Consulting. We continue to look at how to best sustain this valuable project moving forward. We are encouraged by the student's enthusiasm for the program and by other like-minded organizations and individuals who continue to support the program by providing local resources. However, we are still analyzing how to keep the program going for future generations without being heavily dependent on grants.

Activity 3 Final Report Summary:

Outcome 1: YES! teams identified local sustainability challenges and needs, formulated S.M.A.R.T. goals and created action plans to complete 264 energy actions projects during the time of the grant (2016-17 and 2017-18 seasons).

Outcome 2 result: YES! teams completed 264 projects in 150 communities (many greater MN communities serve as many as 9 communities), 25 of which were related to lake/prairie restoration, 69 involved waste reduction, 26 improved energy efficiency, 61 environmental education events were held and 83 additional projects from a range of categories including renewable energy, climate change, and local foods were completed.

Outcome 3 result: YES! team projects provided over 19,000 volunteer hours to assist in completing 264 energy action projects and 61 educational events. Our metro YES! Coordinator is a volunteer who has put in over 700 hours! The program engaged and educated over 25,000 students, 18,000 community members, diverted over 450,000 pounds of waste from landfills and leveraged over \$55,000 in local support during the time of the grant (2016-17 and 2017-18 seasons).

Here is a list of projects completed by YES! teams:

Atwater – Cosmos-Grove City:

- Completed a \$25,000 tree trench project and planted shrubbery
- Collected holiday lights for recycling
- Collected over 130 lbs. of shoes for WorldWear fundraiser.
- Planned an Arbor Day climate change education and tree trench dedication event
- Replaced 38 parking lot lights with LED
- Installed energy efficient hand dryers in the middle school bathrooms

Belle Plaine

- Inaugural night hike to gain appreciation for creatures and nature at night
- Organized a sleep out to raise awareness of homelessness in winter
- Assisted Ney Nature Center with hands-on improvements

Carlton

- Recycling education presented to entire district
- Expanded recycling program to district wide
- Organized and hosted YES! & Youth Convening Minnesota with Climate Generation
- Rebuilt school garden

Cherry (Iron)

- Designed an electric go-kart. You can find out more information about that project [here](#).

Discovery Middle School (Alexandria)

- Researched and built a school garden

Discovery Woods Montessori (Brainerd)

- Taught water conservation to younger students in the school and
- Provided tips on how to conserve water at school and at home
- Built rain barrels to use for watering school garden
- Collected data on food waste in the lunchroom
- Researched ways improve energy efficiency in school library

Forest Lake

- Stadium cleanup after homecoming football game
- Planted and maintained a pollinator garden
- Hosted a pollinator booth during Ag Day
- Organized a movie night to show “Before the Flood”
- Reducing plastic utensil use in the cafeteria
- Recycled holiday lights
- Grew plants in milk cartons to give away at their Earth Day table.
- Arranged a share table at lunch to reduce food waste
- Expanded the school recycling program to include 4 large bins in common areas
- Added 48 small recycling bins for classrooms
- Planted trees in the community
- Maintained hallway recycling bins

Glencoe-Silver Lake

- Built a supermileage car and competed in [29th Annual MTEEA Supermileage Challenge](#)
- Built a solar boat and competed in the [25th Annual MRES Solar Boat Regatta](#)
- Hosted a solar auto design workshop at school
- Built a portable charging station

Hutchinson

- Built a tiny house with off grid capabilities (i.e. solar panels) both years of the grant
- Built a solar boat to compete in the [25th Annual MRES Solar Boat Regatta](#).

Lac qui Parle Valley

- Created charts and graphs of water quality from previous years for local watershed
- Successfully planted and harvested produce in their greenhouse both years of grant
- Collected holiday lights for recycling
- Worked on a device to collect rain/snow from their greenhouse roof to use for watering plants to save money.
- Collected shoes for WorldWear fundraiser.

Mankato West

- Exchanged styrofoam plates with compostable trays at elementary and middle schools
- Exchanged plastic silverware for reusable silverware
- Hosted a showing of An Inconvenient Truth, An Inconvenient Truth Sequel, and A Sea Change along with discussion
- Participated in community awareness for composting at the local Plate to Garden event
- Gathered data through multiple waste sorts
- Produced and showed a composting education video for area elementary schools
- Worked to reduce waste in elementary schools in their region
- Created an automatically updating website to display data from the school's energy monitoring system
- Prepared for additional hydration station implementation

Melrose

- Built bat boxes and installed in their community
- Raised awareness of declining populations of Northern Long-Eared bats due to White Nose Syndrome.
- Participated in the CERTs Watts & Drops LED light bulb distribution program
- Examined the use of power in their classroom lighting
- Investigated switching out old power strips for smart strips
- Continued to recycle in their school

Minnesota New Country School

- Educated the elementary students with Xcel Energy kits
- Collected data to determine how much waste the school is generating
- Created an education program to impact and reduce their waste
- Worked on a recycling program and building a greenhouse for our elementary school

Moorhead- Youth Educational Services

- Researched ways to reduce the environmental footprint at the College Campus

New London-Spicer Middle School

- Worked to reduce food waste in their school by meeting with the school nutritionist for new meal taste testing
- Successfully planted and harvested produce in their green house
- Planted apple trees in the spring
- Completed a vitality week which included awareness days for water, recycling, local foods, and ending with trivia
- Constructed bat houses as an integrated pest management program
- Planned to construct an outdoor education teaching dock
- Installed energy efficient hand dryers in the bathrooms

New London-Spicer High School

- Continued aquatic invasive species survey on local lakes (started as a middle school project)
- Planned and hosted a Youth Minnesota Convening with Climate Generation during Earth Day at Prairie Woods ELC
- Educated peers on aquatic invasive species during River Rally days in Kandiyohi county

New Prague ALC

- Designed a rain collection system to water pollinator garden and installed rain barrels
- Planned and installed pollinator garden for the new school.
- Facilitated orienteering course at local nature center to integrate nature into an educational activity
- Worked on energy conservation in New Prague schools by installing reminders to turn off lights when not in use
- Raised funds for a rain garden by making and selling candles.
- Established a rooftop garden by building and placing garden boxes on the roof of the high school
- Sold hot chocolate and seed bombs. Recycled pop cans for cash.
- Researched where local recyclables go
- Created and distributed informational pages around their school.
- Facilitated a shoe drive to be both donated and recycled depending on their condition
- Looked into replacing disposable silverware and installing milk dispensers in the high school cafeteria
- Collected old cell phones for recycling
- Implemented a common recycling station along with an informative slideshow
- Researched feasibility of a simple compost bin at their school
- Created playscape equipment for Ney Nature Center
- Installed 3 indoor garden boxes and built 2 outdoor garden boxes
- Used up-cycled pallets to build multiple furniture pieces
- Arranged a "Community Green Day" for the New Prague

New Ulm Middle School

- Improved signage on recycling bins in all hallways
- Collected classroom recycling each Friday and sorted out non-recyclables
- Monitored cafeteria recyclables to ensure proper recycling and installed signage
- Developed food preference surveys to all students in an effort to reduce food waste
- Raised awareness of how much recycling currently happens in their school and what they can do to improve recycling rates
- Researched and set up worm bins to create an alternative destination for food waste

Northeast Range (Babbitt)

- Planned several environmental education activities and presented to area elementary schools

Northern Lights Community School (Warba)

- Planned water education events for younger student
- Organized and hosted Youth Convening Minnesota with Climate Generation
- Raised trout in the classroom for release in area stream
- Water quality monitoring of the trout stream
- Planted school garden

- Monitored waste reduction efforts school-wide

Pillager

- Participated as a pilot project with the new Metier Method of teaching

ROCORI

- Collected recycling for the middle and high school on a weekly basis
- Installed 2 hydration stations closer to their gym
- Installed solar panels and visible monitoring device for whole school to watch the energy savings

Royalton

- Helped influence the interest in adding in STEM designated teaching facility at their school.
- Created green classrooms within their school through recycling and energy improvements.
- Travelled to Italy to share their sustainability story and successes with a small community in Italy and learned new technologies and opportunities to bring back to their community

Sartell- St. Stephen Middle School

- Developed a water quality curriculum they will use to teach younger students
- Created peer educational lessons
- Linked peer educational lessons to other schools via a website designed by students
- Started paper waste reduction initiative in classrooms

Sleepy Eye

- Participated in local community events including Party in the Park and Community Days to spread awareness of the YES! team and to educate the community on important environmental topics
- Planted trees in community
- River monitoring through the River Watch Program
- Collected school supplies at locker clean out day that can be reused
- Monitored the staff appliances in the school district using Kill-o-watt meters to determine a fair cost per appliance based on energy use
- Educated staff and administration about energy consumption of various appliances
- Recycled holiday lights
- Worked to reduce and eventually eliminate styrofoam use in the cafeteria
- Organized a movie and pizza night with the showing of Leonardo DeCaprio's recent documentary
- Participated in the high school paper recycling pickup
- Entered B3 benchmarking data and determined which buildings need assistance with reducing resource waste
- Recycled shoes through World Wear

- Utilized TerraCycle to recycle items that aren't accepted into their current recycling
- Provided education using an energy trailer from Get Into Energy for Earth Day
- Visited classrooms to educate students using energy kits for Earth Day
- Sold dirt cups and solar power made popcorn for Earth Day
- Created pollinator gardens as landscaping at the new convention center
- Created a team Facebook page

Springfield

- Recycled holiday lights
- Conducted a pop tab drive and donated all pop tabs collected to the Ronald McDonald House in Minneapolis, MN
- Researched the feasibility of installing milk dispensers at their school
- Added recycling bins to each classroom and made an educational video to be shown to the school on using them properly. Signs will also be made to insure proper use
- Created multiple videos on a variety of environmentally important topics for peers to view in class.
- Facilitated a 5K Fun Run with a trail that winds along past YES! projects and informational signage. Proceeds from this run went to water.org.

St. Cloud North Junior High

- Planted a native prairie/pollinator habitat on their school grounds that will also serve as an outdoor classroom. Funding and education were provided through the [Peasants Forever Youth Pollinator Habitat Program](#)

Staples-Motley

- Participated as a pilot project with the new Metier Method of teaching

Virginia

- Restored 200 feet of lakeshore on Silver Lake
- Presented storm water education to the community
- Continued the composting project with the school food waste

Westbrook-Walnut Grove

- Maintained wind turbine and oil recycling
- Sorted through and documented the school's recycling efforts
- Added recycling bins in the school
- Hosted a volunteer day in their community where they raked leaves.
- Gave presentations to elementary students about water use and conservation
- Continued their [solar pop can heater project](#) from 2015-16 and are testing different colors of paint to see which is more effective
- Researched how to run a diesel engine on vegetable oil
- Worked on creating a recycling depot where members of their community can recycle plastic bags, aluminum cans, and oil
- Met with local service organizations to see what need the community has for sustainable projects

- Expanded pop tab collection into their community. There were currently 5-6 sites in the school and students placed 5 more in the community at local businesses
- Inherited the city's can recycling to expand their existing oil and plastic bag recycling station
- Conducted tire pressure checks on teachers' cars and left a note indicating the environmental impact and gas wasted from improperly inflated tires
- Hosted a Black Out Day at the school
- Collected Holiday lights
- Recycled pop tabs, plastic bags, cans, and bottles
- Up-cycled old lights and bottles into planters
- Built a Surrey Bike to transport students between school campuses

Wrenshall

- Provided labor to construct a recycling center that will serve over 500 rural residents in Carlton County
- Built a solar boat for the spring regatta
- Built a solar car for the high mileage competition

Yellow Medicine East

- Harvested crops from the LED green house to the lunchroom
- Installed a hydration station outside of gym by securing matching funds
- Designed an educational sign for the community garden
- Researched starting a solar garden in the community for the school and others
- Researched composting with worms from agriculture classes.
- Collected shoes for WorldWear fundraiser

4-H Pilot Program – Washington County

- Due to capacity challenges, the pilot was initiated, but did completed

Outcome 4: A Fund Develop Plan was completed in August of 2016 to assist with transitioning YES! from ENRTF funds to private and public sector partnerships. Funding for the Plan came from Southwest Initiative Foundation. Cheryl Glaeser's services were engaged through financial support from the McKnight Foundation to explore potential partnerships, develop funding strategies and implement aspects of the Fund Development Plan. We completed exploratory conversations with the Department of Education/STEM, Clean Energy Resources Teams (CERTs), University of Minnesota's Institute on the Environment. YES! is a key partner in the development of the University of Minnesota's GreenStep Schools pilot project. We are implementing a partnership model of empowering each region to raise support for the program from local resources.

V. DISSEMINATION:

Description: Information, updates and reports will be made available via the YES! website (www.youthenergysummit.org), YES! e-newsletter, Prairie Woods ELC, Laurentian Environment Center, Lakes Country Service Cooperative, Ney Nature Center and Sauk River Watershed newsletters and websites, 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. Project accomplishments are recognized and publicized via website, newsletters, conference presentations and local, regional and statewide news media.

Status of Dissemination as of January 31, 2017:

YES! E-Newsletter

- The Fall edition of the YES! E-Newsletter was sent on November 15th to 669 people
- The Summer edition of the YES! E-Newsletter was sent on August 25th to 498 people

Print Media:

- November 18, 2016: Sleepy Eye YES! team participates in 10th Annual Fall Summit (The Sleepy Eye Herald-Dispatch) <http://www.sleepyeyenews.com/news/20161118/sleepy-eye-yes8200team-participates-in-10th-annual-fall-summit>
- November 8, 2016: Area teams participate in 'YES! Fall Summit' (Pine Journal) <http://www.pinejournal.com/life/youth/4151439-area-teams-participate-yes-fall-summit>
- November 6, 2016: Youth Energy Summit teams gather for fall summit (West Central Tribune) <http://www.wctrib.com/life/4153679-youth-energy-summit-team-gather-fall-summit>
- November 4, 2016: Area teams participate in third annual northeast YES! fall summit (Herald Review) http://www.grandrapidsmn.com/schools/area-teams-participate-in-third-annual-northeast-yes-fall-summit/article_075c8578-a2c3-11e6-9fe5-073c34f4ca03.html
- November 4, 2016: Area students participate in YES! Fall Summit (Hometown Focus) http://www.hometownfocus.us/news/2016-11-04/Features/Area_students_participate_in_YES_Fall_Summit.html
- October 26, 2016: WWG volunteer day, written by YES! students (Sentinel Tribune) http://www.stpn.net/view_article.html?articleId=103565321243486816248
- October 19, 2016: W-WG students giving back to their community: Fifty-two youths participate in Earth YES program (Daily Globe) http://www.dglobe.com/news/education/4140676-w-wg-students-giving-back-their-community-fifty-two-youths-participate-earth#.Waku_t3UrE1.email
- September 22, 2016: Environmental Club Says YES! to community improvement projects (Forest Lake Times) <http://forestlaketimes.com/2016/09/22/environmental-club-says-yes-to-community-improvement-projects/>

Newsletters:

- Prairie Woods Environmental Newsletter "Warbler" featured a YES! article in the fall edition - reaching over 1,400 people.
- Ney Nature Center Newsletter, including a YES! feature each month:
 - July: Sent to 477
 - August: Sent to 478
 - September: Sent to 48
 - October: Sent to 494
 - November: Sent to 551
 - December: Sent to 544

Television/Video:

- July 2, 2016: (VIDEO) Youth Energy Summit (YES!)-Royalton High School (National Joint Powers Alliance) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wwH0YX1GtCc&feature=youtu.be>

Web presence from July 1 to December 31, 2016:

- 22 blog posts written and posted
- 2,624 users accessed the youthenergysummit.org website resulting in 4,046 sessions and 10,491 page views. 63.49 percent of those accessing the website were new users.

- Website continues to be updated with a Coach's Corner containing relevant information to YES! coaches.

Status of dissemination as of July 31, 2017:

E-newsletter: YES! E-newsletter was sent to 703 people on June 27, 2017 and on April 28th, 2017 to 701 people.

The YES! program was recently featured in McKnight Foundation's grantee spotlight. Read "[Minnesota Youth Say YES! to Energy Solutions](https://www.mcknight.org/grant-programs/grantee-spotlights/youth-energy-summit)" at <https://www.mcknight.org/grant-programs/grantee-spotlights/youth-energy-summit>

Print features:

- **May 18, 2017:** [Sleepy Eye YES! Team Receives Awards and Continues Work](http://www.sleepyeyeonline.com/goodnews/yes-team-receives-awards-continues-work/) <http://www.sleepyeyeonline.com/goodnews/yes-team-receives-awards-continues-work/>
- **May 18, 2017:** [How small of a house could you live in?](http://www.crowrivermedia.com/hutchinsonleader/news/education/how-small-of-a-house-could-you-live-in/article_464e1a14-b01c-5e03-b44f-98682d3c188b.html) http://www.crowrivermedia.com/hutchinsonleader/news/education/how-small-of-a-house-could-you-live-in/article_464e1a14-b01c-5e03-b44f-98682d3c188b.html
- **May 10, 2017:** [WWG Y.E.S. Team wins big in Region](http://www.stpns.net/view_article.html?articleId=103565332143310516341) http://www.stpns.net/view_article.html?articleId=103565332143310516341
- **May 1, 2017:** [MOUNTAIN IRON ADDRESSES PLAZA 53 PARKING LOT](http://www.virginiamn.com/news/local/mountain-iron-addresses-plaza-parking-lot/article_2d4da9bc-2edf-11e7-b509-b39362b66ab8.html) http://www.virginiamn.com/news/local/mountain-iron-addresses-plaza-parking-lot/article_2d4da9bc-2edf-11e7-b509-b39362b66ab8.html
- **April 20, 2017:** [Solar energy disparity emerges among Minnesota schools](https://www.mprnews.org/story/2017/04/20/solar-energy-disparity-emerges-among-minnesota-schools) <https://www.mprnews.org/story/2017/04/20/solar-energy-disparity-emerges-among-minnesota-schools>
- **May 19, 2017:** [YES! Teams Compete for Awards](http://www.hometownfocus.us/news/2017-05-19/Features/Youth_Energy_Summit_YES_teams_compete_for_awards_a.html) http://www.hometownfocus.us/news/2017-05-19/Features/Youth_Energy_Summit_YES_teams_compete_for_awards_a.html
- **May 14, 2017:** [The 9th annual Earth Fest: An event-packed day in Mt. Iron](http://www.hometownfocus.us/news/2017-04-14/Features/The_9th_annual_Earth_Fest_An_eventpacked_day_in_Mt.Iron) http://www.hometownfocus.us/news/2017-04-14/Features/The_9th_annual_Earth_Fest_An_eventpacked_day_in_Mt.Iron
- **March 3, 2017:** [West High School Club Helps Schools Reduce Waste \(Mankato Free Press\)](http://www.mankatofreepress.com/news/local_news/west-high-school-club-helps-schools-reduce-waste/article_2b4493e2-0031-11e7-90fe-c3d2930a6589.html) http://www.mankatofreepress.com/news/local_news/west-high-school-club-helps-schools-reduce-waste/article_2b4493e2-0031-11e7-90fe-c3d2930a6589.html
- **March 2, 2017:** [Belle Plaine High School Students Among Those Who Attended Youth Energy Summit](http://www.belleplaineherald.com/Content/News/News/Article/BPHS-Students-Among-Those-Who-Attended-Youth-Energy-Summit/7/48/9100) <http://www.belleplaineherald.com/Content/News/News/Article/BPHS-Students-Among-Those-Who-Attended-Youth-Energy-Summit/7/48/9100>
- **February 28, 2017:** [Wrenshall YES! Team receives grant for local climate change mitigation project](http://www.pinejournal.com/news/education/4223920-wrenshall-yes-team-receives-grant-local-climate-change-mitigation-project) <http://www.pinejournal.com/news/education/4223920-wrenshall-yes-team-receives-grant-local-climate-change-mitigation-project>

- **February 23, 2017:** [YME students visit ‘Don’t Throw it Away, Recycle for Another Day’](http://www.granitefallsnews.com/news/20170223/yme-students-visit-dont-throw-it-away-recycle-for-another-day) <http://www.granitefallsnews.com/news/20170223/yme-students-visit-dont-throw-it-away-recycle-for-another-day>

Ney Nature Center Newsletter included a YES! feature article in each edition.

- January sent to 583 people; February sent to 600 people; March sent to 612 people; April sent to 628 people, May sent to 654 people; June edition sent to 710 people and July sent to 715 people.

Radio story on MPR news: <https://www.mprnews.org/story/2017/04/20/solar-energy-disparity-emerges-among-minnesota-schools>

Status of dissemination as of January 31, 2018:

July 1 to January 31, 2018

YES! E-Newsletter

- The Fall 2017 edition of the YES! E-Newsletter was sent on November 14 to 729 people

Ney Nature Center E-Newsletter includes a YES! feature each month:

- July: Sent to 715
- August: Sent to 749
- September: Sent to 767
- October: Sent to 799
- November: Sent to 841
- December: Sent to 856

Print Newsletters:

- Prairie Woods Environmental Newsletter “Warbler” featured a YES! article in the fall editions - reaching over 1,400 people.

YES! in Outside News Sources

- November 20, 2017 [Fall Summit Prepares YES! Students for Success with Interactive Sessions](#)
- October 28, 2017: [Blackout Day Shines Light on Student Learning](#)
- October 25, 2017: [Teachable Donation Aids Hurricane Harvey Victims](#)
- The YES! program was featured in the McKnight Foundations grantee spotlight. Read [“Minnesota Youth Say YES! to Energy Solutions”](#).
- August 2, 2017: [School district’s first gardener growing into the job](#)

Television/Video: NA for July 1 to Dec. 31, 2017

Web presence from July 1 to December 31, 2017:

- 13 blog posts written by staff and students and posted
- Website continues to be updated with a Coach’s Corner containing relevant information to YES! coaches.

Presentations & Exhibitor Tables:

- MN Science Teacher Association’s Conference on Science Education, November 10 – 11. YES! Staff and volunteer Tom McDougall attended a booth at this event.
- MN State Fair, August 24. YES! Staff participated in STEM day with a booth set up with interactive activities.

- SciMathMN 2nd Biennial Conference. Staff members Ali Dahmes and Michelle Isaacson presented the session “Say YES! to STEM!”. Tom McDougall (YES! Volunteer Coordinator) maintained a booth with interactive activities and information.
- YES! Staff will be volunteering and we plan to have a booth at the annual CERTs conference on March 28.

Dissemination Final Report Summary:

January 1 to June 30, 2018

YES! E-Newsletter

- The Winter 2018 edition of the YES! E-Newsletter was sent on March 12 to 1043 people.
- The Spring 2018 edition of the YES! E-Newsletter was sent on April 24th to 966 people.

Ney Nature Center E-Newsletter includes a YES! feature each month:

- January: sent to 861
- May: sent to 962
- June: sent to 989

Print Newsletters:

- Prairie Woods Environmental Center’s Spring Newsletter, the “Warbler” featured a YES! article reaching over 1,400 people

YES! in Outside News Sources

- June 6, 2018: YES! Team Awarded for Efforts, Keep on Working
- May 18, 2018: Cleaning up Carlton
- March 2, 2018: Forest Lake YES! Coach honored by MAEE (Minnesota Association for Environmental Education)
- February 16, 2018: Local YES! team receives McKnight Foundation project funding

Television/Video/Radio:

- Ali Dahmes, YES! West-Central Coordinator along with YES! Students from New London-Spicer were on the local radio to promote Earth Day and the Youth Convenings Minnesota event

Web presence from January 1 to June 30, 2018:

- 33 blog posts written by staff and students and posted
- Website continues to be updated with a Coach’s Corner containing relevant information to YES! coaches.

Presentations, Exhibitor Tables & Volunteer opportunities:

- 3 ROCORI YES! students and their coach worked and promoted YES! at Summertime by George, St. Cloud

VI. PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY:

A. ENRTF Budget Overview:

Budget Category	\$ Amount	Overview Explanation
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Personnel:	\$165,220	1 program manager at 100% FTE each year for 2 years; 1 regional coordinator at 65% FTE for 2 years to coordinate 13 teams.
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts:	\$ 109,525	<p>1 Contract with Laurentian Environmental Center to coordinator 6 teams in the Northeast region each year for 2 years (\$ 47,715);</p> <p>1 Contract with Lakes Country Service Cooperative to coordinate and support 5 teams in the Northwest and upper West-Central regions each year for 2 years and Communications/Data and curriculum research and development for 18 months for a total of \$20,797.</p> <p>1 Contract with Sauk Rapids Watershed District to coordinate 6 teams in central Minnesota for one year for a total of \$7,404.</p> <p>1 Contract with Ney Nature Center to coordinate 10 teams in Southern Minnesota (\$27,450) for 18 months.</p> <p>Aleta Kolan, Data/Communications Specialist: \$ 6,159 total.</p>
Travel Expenses in MN:	\$14,737	<p>Coordinators at 50% FTE (2) receive \$500/year for meals for a total of \$1,000 for 2 years. Staff at 25% FTE (3) receive \$250/year for meals for a total of \$1,500 for 2 years. Program Manager at 100% FTE receives \$350/year for meals for a total of \$700 for 2 years.</p> <p>Mileage will be distributed among staff at .535 mile for 23,704 miles for a total cost of \$12,600 for 2 years. (Required for serving widely dispersed rural communities).</p>

Other: Project Seed Funds	\$26,950	Allowed teams to purchase materials and services needed to start and often complete energy action projects. Dollars were dispersed amongst participating teams each year.
Other: District Allowance	\$16,212	Provided 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. Expenses met M.L. 2016 Allowable Expenses guidelines.
TOTAL ENRTF BUDGET:	\$332,644	

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 = 1 (100% FTE per year x 2 years) = **2 FTE**; 1 (25% FTE per year x 2 years) = **.5 FTE**; 1 (75% FTE per year x 2) = **1.5 FTE** for a grand total of **4.0 FTE**

Number of Full-time Equivalents (FTE) Estimated to Be Funded through Contracts with this ENRTF Appropriation: Contracts funded with ENRTF Appropriations = 3 (50% FTE per year x 2 years) = total of **1.5 FTE**

B. Other Funds:

Source of Funds	\$ Amount Proposed	\$ Amount Spent	Use of Other Funds
Non-state			
Laurentian Environmental Center	\$10,000	\$5,238	Funds to cover travel (meals and mileage) for Northeast coordinator for 2 years
Southwest Initiative Foundation	\$10,000	\$20,000	Funds to support funding development plan, core staff and project seed funds (2016-18)

McKnight Foundation	\$132,500	\$132,500	Funds for climate literacy through educational events and some core staff support, 25% of 1 year grant (\$50,000) starting on Nov. 1, 2015 and \$ 120,000 for 2016-18 seasons.
Supporters including: Kandiyohi Power Company, Waste Management, Sauk River Watershed District, Bush Foundation, MVEC Project Round Up, United Way of West Central MN, Kandiyohi County, Lakes Country Power, Geronimo Energy, Initiative Foundation & Meeker Coop	\$5,000	\$30,026	Funds to support travel (meals and mileage), core staff, project seed funds, events, etc.
Team Participation fees	\$22,000	\$18,700	\$ 550 per team yearly for participation (45 teams) to cover cost of events (Fall Summit, Winter Workshops, Spring Judging) for 2 years
Prairie Woods Environmental Center (In-kind)	\$55,000	\$55,000	Office space, computers, Executive Director oversight, office manager and accounting support, host site for events for 2 years
Ney Nature Center (in-kind)	\$12,000	\$12,000	Office space, computers, Executive Director oversight for 2 years
Resource professionals and industry experts (in-kind)	\$20,000	\$25,600	32 experts and professional technicians on renewable energy, food systems, energy efficiency and more provided support to teams at events and on a per project basis (32/ppl x 8/hrs x \$ 50/hr x 2 years)
Laurentian Environmental Center (in-kind)	\$10,000	\$8,807	Office space, computers, Executive Director oversight, host site for events for 2 years
TOTAL OTHER FUNDS:	\$276,500	\$307,871	

A.

VII. PROJECT STRATEGY:

A. Project Partners:

YES! 2016-2018 was implemented by the core partners of YES! Including; Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center, Laurentian Environmental Center, Lakes Country Service Cooperative

and Ney Nature Center. Each partner supported a part-time coordinator at their location by providing office space, computers, space for events, and program oversight. Prairie Woods ELC spent \$165,220.06 to support 1 (100%) program manager, 1 (65%) west- central MN coordinator and 1 part-time administrative position. Laurentian Environmental Center spent \$47,715.49 for the 2 -year grant period to support 1 (50% FTE) northeast coordinator who served 6 teams in the region. Lakes Country Service Cooperative spent \$20,797.11 over the 2-year grant period to support approximately 1 (25% FTE) coordinator who served 5 teams in the northwest and upper West-Central region and provided communications/data and curriculum support. Ney Nature Center spent \$27,450 for 18 months to serve teams in southern Minnesota. Sauk River Watershed District spent \$7,404.37 for 1 (50%) central coordinator to support 8 teams in the central region for 1 year. Aleta (Kolan) Wild spent \$6,159 for communications/data/marketing services in the first year.

Key collaborators include: Iron Range Partnership for Sustainability, the Southwest Initiative Foundation, Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs), University of Minnesota Regional Sustainable Partnerships, Climate Generation: A Will Steger Legacy and 34 YES! teams in communities throughout Minnesota. Prairie Woods ELC, Laurentian Environmental Center, Ney Nature Center, and Lakes Country Service Cooperative received funding to support staffing and each participating team (sponsored by a school district or community organization) submitted for reimbursement for eligible project-related expenses and program participation expenses such as transportation and substitute teacher costs. (Expenses met the LCCMR eligible and ineligible guidelines).

Please note that Prairie Woods ELC and Laurentian Environmental Center secured additional funding to increase the amount of funds for supporting team projects and other YES! activities. In addition, each participating community became a partner towards building environmentally and economically strong communities. Teams received significant voluntary and in-kind support from local businesses and community organizations including Master Gardeners of the Grand Rapids area, North Central Research and Outreach Center (U of M research facility), MN Farmers Market Association, Western Lake Superior Sanitary District, Duluth Entertainment and Convention Center, NE Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs), Fat Chicken Farm, Olcott Park Green House, North St. Louis County Solid Waste and Recycling Facility, MN DNR School Forest Program, Silicon Energy of Mt. Iron, Hibbing Community College - Solar Program and many, many more across the state.

Project Partners Not Receiving Funds:

- Southwest Initiative Foundation
Contact: Nancy Fasching
15 3rd Avenue NW, Hutchinson, MN 55350 website: www.swifoundation.org
ph: 320-587-4848
- Iron Range Partnership for Sustainability. Contact:
Brian Bluhm website: www.ironrangeearthfest.org
ph: 320-295-1637

Project Partners Receiving Funds:

- Prairie Woods ELC, 12718 Tenth Street NE, Spicer, MN 56288
Contact: Dave Pederson Ph: 320-354-5894 website: www.prairiewoodselc.org
- Laurentian Environmental Learning Center, 8950 Peppard Road, Brit, MN 55710
Contact: Jim Devries website: www2.moundsvIEWSchools.org/laurentian/
ph: 218-749-1288
- Lakes Country Service Cooperative, 1001 E Mt Faith Ave, Fergus Falls, MN 56537
Contact: Jane Eastes website: www.lcsc.org
ph: 218-739-3273

- Ney Nature Center, 28238 Nature Center Lane, Henderson, MN 56044
Contact: Rebecca Pollack website: neynaturecenter.org
ph: 507-357-8582

- Sauk River Watershed District, Sauk Center, MN 56378

Contact: Scott Henderson website: <http://www.srwdmn.org/>
ph: 320-352-2231

Project partners actively collaborated with the U of M Extension, Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs), rural electric power cooperatives, private business, conservation groups and others to ensure project success of youth-led action projects. Prairie Woods ELC served as the fiscal host for this grant with Laurentian Environmental Center, Ney Nature Center, Sauk River Watershed District, Aleta (Kolan) Wild, and Lakes Country Service Cooperative providing contract services.

B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy:

This project expanded a successful model and initiated youth-led energy and waste conservation projects in 152 communities throughout Minnesota. The project mobilized public and private partnerships while raising awareness of issues and opportunities related to sustainable living practices for Minnesotans; and produced lasting economic benefits for schools, businesses, and communities through energy conservation and efficiency. Students participating in YES! gained valuable hands-on learning experiences which led them to contribute to the environmental and economic health of our state and exposed them to valuable employment and training opportunities. Through YES!, students learn 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. 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 last two years YES! staff and participating organizations have made great strides in identifying regional allies in the private, public, and non-profit sectors which have a shared interest in supporting the continuation and expansion of YES! Teams. For example, both the McKnight and Bush Foundations have provided significant support, along with Waste Management, local service organizations, and utilities. YES! teams have done fundraisers including metal, clothing and shoe collections, selling LED lightbulbs, and more.

YES! staff worked with Vela Strategy with funding from the Southwest Initiative Foundation (SWIF) to create a development plan. Segments of the Plan have guided our efforts to increase regional support and to implement corporate sponsorship levels. In addition, support from SWIF enabled YES! to upgrade its website (see www.yesmn.org) and to do the necessary research to rebrand from Youth Energy Summit to Youth Eco Solutions.

C. Funding History

Funding Source and Use of Funds	Funding Timeframe	\$ Amount
Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund - M.L. 2014, Ch. 226, Sec 2, Subd. 09b: Appropriation of cash funds to Prairie Woods ELC, Laurentian Environmental Center, and Saint John's University to complete over 100 youth-led sustainability action projects in over 40 communities in southwest, southeast, central and northeastern Minnesota.	July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2016	\$350,000

McKnight Foundation - funding to increase climate literacy through YES! events and community gatherings, includes t-shirts and some core staffing	November 1, 2015 to November 15, 2016	\$50,000
Henderson Fire Department - support for regional spring awards	November 1, 2015 to May 2016	\$1,000
Southwest Initiative Foundation - funding for data/communications specialist	July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015	\$14,000
Central Regional Sustainable Partnership - support for staff and team action projects	Dec. 2014 to January 2016	\$6,000
Northeast Regional Sustainable Partnership - support for staff and team action projects	August 15, 2015 to August 15, 2017	\$10,000
Initiative Foundation - core staff and regional project seed funds	March 1, 2015 to February 29, 2016	\$5,000
Great River Energy - support for regional spring awards	Spring, 2015	\$500
Xcel Energy - support for regional spring prize awards	Spring, 2015	\$500
Kandiyohi Power Company - funds for spring prize awards	Spring, 2015	\$500
Gannett Foundation - support to incentivize new team participation in the St. Cloud area	June 2015 to May 2016	\$1,000
Eastside Oil Company - support for spring prize awards and core staff	December. 2014 to January 2016	\$1,000
Matching funds and support from local communities to complete team energy projects, 2014-15 season	July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015	\$239,162
Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund - M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art.3, Sec. 2, Subd. 08a: Appropriation of cash funds to Prairie Woods ELC resulting in over 300 completed energy conservation and renewable energy projects in over 30 communities in southwest, southeast and central Minnesota.	July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2014	\$246,000
Southwest Initiative Foundation - staff support (Data/Communications) and coordinator support, project seed funds and website maintenance	July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014	\$44,000

University of MN Central Regional Sustainable Development Partnership - regional staff support and project seed funds	January 31 to February 15, 2013, 2014	\$4,000
Matching funds and support from local communities to complete team energy projects for 2013-14 season	July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014	\$226,395
Participation fees \$ 350 collected per team for 2013-14 season) - funds used for event expenses	July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014	\$8,050
Participation fees (\$ 400 collected per team for 2014-15 season) - funds used for event expenses	July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015	\$12,800
Participation fees (\$ 400 collected per team for 2015-16 season) - funds used for event expenses	July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016	\$12,000
Southwest Initiative Foundation - core staffing, project seed funds, marketing, website maintenance, data and communications	July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013	\$196,300
AgStar - core staffing, project seed funds and spring awards	July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013	\$10,000
McKnight Foundation - funding to support core staff and work towards sustainability	July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013	\$40,000
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation - project seed funds	July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013	\$30,000
Initiative Foundation - funding for project seed funds and core staff	July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013	\$5,000
Center for Energy & Environment	July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013	\$1,500
University of MN Southwest Regional Sustainable Development Partnership	July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013	\$20,000
Participation fees (\$ 300 collected per team for 2011-12 and 2012-13 seasons) - funds used for event expenses	July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2013	\$17,100
Matching funds and support from local communities towards team projects for energy action projects	July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2013	\$112,430.92
Southwest Initiative Foundation - core staffing, project seed funds, marketing, data and communications	July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012	\$72,174

AgStar - core staffing, project seed funds and spring awards	July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012	\$7,500
McKnight Foundation - core staffing, project seed funds & project management	July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012	\$75,000

VIII. FEE TITLE ACQUISITION/CONSERVATION EASEMENT/RESTORATION REQUIREMENTS:

A. Parcel List: N/A

B. Acquisition/Restoration Information: N/A

IX. VISUAL COMPONENT or MAP(S): Attached

X. RESEARCH ADDENDUM: N/A

XI. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

Periodic work plan status update reports will be submitted no later than **January 31, 2017, July 31, 2017, and January 31, 2018**. A final report and associated products will be submitted between **June 30 and August 15, 2018**.

Final - Attachment A: Budget Detail for M.I. 2016 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Projects											
Project Title: Youth-Led Sustainability Projects in 50 Minnesota Communities – Phase III											
Legal Citation: M.L. 2016,Chp.186, Sec. 2, Subd. 05c											
Project Manager: Shelli-Kae S. Foster											
Organization: Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center											
M.L. 2016 ENRTF Appropriation: \$ 400,000											
Project Length and Completion Date: June 30, 2018											
Date of Report: August 15, 2018 revised 9.20.2018 and revised 12.11.2018											
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET	Revised Activity 1 Budget 7/31/2017	Amount Spent	Activity 1 Balance	Revised Activity 2 7/31/2017	Amount Spent	Activity 2 Balance	Revised Activity 3 Budget 7/31/2017	Amount Spent	Activity 3 Balance	Revised Total Budget 7/31/2017	TOTAL BALANCE
BUDGET ITEM											
Personnel (Wages and Benefits)	\$18,413	\$19,617	-\$1,206	\$59,666	\$38,289	\$21,377	\$99,762	\$110,691	-\$10,929	\$177,841	\$9,242
Shelli-Kae Foster, Project Manager: \$104,000 (75% salary, 25% benefits for 2 years); 100% FTE for 2 years			-\$1,204			\$0			\$0	\$0	
Administrative Support: \$ 14,841 for 18 months (75% salary, 25% benefits) Approx. 10 hours/week						\$0			\$0	\$0	
West-Central Coordinator: \$ 59,000 (75% salary and 25% benefits) : 75% FTE for 2 years						\$0			\$0	\$0	
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts						\$0			\$0	\$0	
Laurentian Environmental Learning Center(LEC) to coordinate and support up to 12 teams in the Northeast region each year for 2 years (\$ 48,000). Meals and mileage to be covered by LEC.	\$7,200	\$7,230	-\$30	\$14,400	\$15,371	-\$971	\$26,400	\$25,114	\$1,286	\$48,000	\$285
Lakes Country Service Cooperative to coordinate and support up to 12 teams in the Northwest and upper West-Central regions each year for 2 years_(37,596) and \$ 15,000 for communications/data support and curriculum development for a total of \$52,596.	\$7,968	\$3,202	\$4,765	\$16,262	\$6,623	\$9,639	\$28,366	\$13,998	\$14,368	\$52,596	\$28,772
Sauk River Watershed District to coordinator and support up to 6 teams within the region each year for one year for a total of \$4,503. Contract Complete	\$ 324	\$ 324	\$0	\$ 3,393	\$ 3,393	\$0	\$ 3,687	\$ 3,687	\$0	\$7,404	\$0
Ney Nature Center to coordinate and support up to 12 teams in the southern regions of Minnesota for 18 months (\$28,000).	\$3,900	\$4,379	-\$479	\$8,500	\$9,670	-\$1,170	\$15,600	\$13,401	\$2,199	\$28,000	\$550
Aleta Kolan, Data/Communications Specialist: \$ 6,159 total. Contract complete.	\$587	\$587	\$0	\$1,734	\$1,734	\$0	\$3,838	\$3,838	\$0	\$6,159	\$0
Travel expenses in Minnesota Coordinators at 50% FTE (2 staff) will receive approx. \$ 500/ year for meals for a total of \$ 2,000 for 2 years. Staff at 25% FTE (3 staff) will receive approx. \$ 250/year for meals for a total of \$ 1,500 for 2 years. Program Manager at 100% FTE will receive approx. \$ 350/year for meals for a total of \$ 700 for 2 years. Mileage will be distributed among staff at .54 mile for 23,704 miles for a total cost of \$ 12,800 for 2 years. (Required for serving widely dispersed rural communities). All travel expense reimbursements as per Minnesota State Commissioner plan. Additional meals and travel	\$2,550	\$2,947	-\$397	\$5,100	\$5,317	-\$217	\$9,350	\$6,702	\$2,648	\$17,000	\$2,034
Other: Project Seed Funds: 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 \$ 36,000. (For example: \$400 per team x 45 teams x 2 years= \$ 36,000). Project Expenses will meet the eligible/ineligible guidelines in M.L. 2016 Guidance on Allowable Expenses			\$0			\$0	\$36,000	\$26,950	\$9,050	\$36,000	\$9,050
Other: Coach/District Allowance: 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 offered equally to participating teams each year. Dollar amount may vary depending on number of teams - but will not exceed \$ 27,000. (For example: \$ 300 per team x 45 teams x 2 years = \$ 27,000) Expenses will meet the eligible/ineligible guidelines in M.L. 2016 Guidance on Allowable Expenses			\$0			\$0	\$27,000	\$16,914	\$10,086	\$27,000	\$10,086
COLUMN TOTAL	\$40,942	\$38,286	\$1,449	\$109,055	\$80,397	\$28,658	\$250,003	\$221,295	\$28,708	\$400,000	\$60,019
Notes: 1) Project Seed Funds were supplemented with funds from a variety of other sources											

2) Travel budget was supplemented by Laurentian Environmental Center through local foundations and grants.											
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