

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
2017 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

Project Title:

Youth Convening Minnesota

ENRTF ID: 081-C

Category: C. Environmental Education

Total Project Budget: \$ 310,008

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: 2 years, July 2017 – June 2019

Summary:

Climate Generations Youth Convening Minnesota (YCM) will partner with 10 communities with youth clubs to engage 5,000 youth with the recognition that their voices are powerful motivators in community conservation.

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Sponsoring Organization: Climate Generation: A Will Steger Legacy

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Location

Region: Statewide

County Name: Statewide

City / Township:

Alternate Text for Visual:

We developed a logic model to clearly show a road map of objectives, activities and outcomes of Youth Convening Minnesota.

_____ Funding Priorities	_____ Multiple Benefits	_____ Outcomes	_____ Knowledge Base
_____ Extent of Impact	_____ Innovation	_____ Scientific/Tech Basis	_____ Urgency
_____ Capacity Readiness	_____ Leverage	_____ TOTAL	_____ %



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)
2017 Main Proposal
Project Title: Youth Convening Minnesota

PROJECT TITLE: Youth Convening Minnesota

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

Using lessons learned and partnerships gained from the implementation of two statewide ENRTF projects, Climate Generation: A Will Steger Legacy will partner with 10 communities with afterschool youth clubs to empower and engage Minnesota youth with the recognition that their voices are powerful motivators in community conservation. Clubs may include outdoor, environmental, service or other socially focused clubs. Youth Convening Minnesota (YCM) will engage 5,000 high school youth and their communities throughout Minnesota in building a conservation ethic for climate solutions. Climate Generation will:

- Visit each school and provide a school-wide climate change assembly and class visits
- Meet with the afterschool youth club and mentor educator to provide training on community engagement using our mentorship model and the Climate Minnesota convening model
- Coach clubs as they plan convenings, and return to the community to help with implementation of a community convening
- Host summer summits for educators and youth to share successes and lessons learned.

Climate Generation has implemented two ENRTF projects, engaging more than 10,000 individuals, 5,000 educators and 5,000 students in every corner of Minnesota. Educators that participated in Minnesota’s Changing Climate cited increased student engagement and understanding of how climate change was impacting their backyards. Climate Minnesota: Local Stories, Community Solutions empowered individuals of all ages from Crookston to Mankato to engage and innovate solutions to climate change in their own communities. Engaged youth voices were powerful elements of both projects through inspiring their peers and engaging their families and communities in action-based conservation. The ultimate goal of this project is to extend the impact of afterschool clubs beyond the school to the larger community. Working in partnership with other youth organizations, we will connect youth and community to build a long-lasting and action-based conservation ethic. Youth Convening Minnesota will:

- Make climate change impacts and solutions locally relevant to youth and their communities through presentations and connections with community mentors
- Empower youth to be leaders in their communities for climate change solutions
- Engage a diverse representation of Minnesota communities, both adult mentors and youth, in building climate resilient communities with a long-lasting and action-based conservation ethic.

II. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

Activity 1: Plan and Implement School Visits and Convening Training, Fall 2017/18 **Budget: \$65,345.20**

Working with our partners we will identify 10 communities with afterschool youth clubs around the state to engage in school wide assemblies, climate literacy and mentorship workshops, and convening planning for their communities. We will visit ten schools and afterschool youth clubs total fall 2017 and 2018.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Identify and recruit 10 schools statewide with afterschool youth clubs	December 2018
2. Develop and implement 10 school-wide assembly presentations for 5,000 students and their teachers	December 2018
3. Develop and implement convening training for clubs	December 2018

Activity 2: Coach and Facilitate Planning of Spring 2018/19 Community Convenings **Budget: \$120,376.80**

We will meet virtually with clubs monthly, helping with selection and coaching of speakers, creation of outreach materials and planning of convenings. We will return to communities to assist, evaluate and document convenings.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Conduct virtual meetings, connect clubs with community mentors and coach clubs on convening planning	June 2019



2. Assist clubs in community convenings	June 2019
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Activity 3: Youth-Educator Summits, Summer 2018 and 2019 **Budget: \$80,280.00**

Climate Generation will host annual summits for participants and other interested educators and youth to share successes, lessons learned, and develop deeper climate literacy.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Invite educators and youth club members to summer summit	June 2019
2. Coordinate with club members to share stories and develop summit sessions	June 2019
3. Develop and implement three-day summit program	June 2019

Activity 4: Evaluation and Dissemination **Budget: \$42,006.00**

Climate Generation will conduct an evaluation that measures the knowledge, awareness and skills developed by youth clubs, behavior change, demographics of participants engaged, and number of partnerships built.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Develop evaluation tool and focus group questions to measure climate literacy and behavior change in assemblies, convenings and summits	November 2017
2. Implement evaluation	June 2019
3. Final evaluation report, recommendations and dissemination	June 2019

III. PROJECT STRATEGY

A. Project Team/Partners

Climate Generation: A Will Steger Legacy: 6 staff plus a contract webmaster will provide program development, project management and implementation, outreach, and evaluation.

Project Partners will help with identifying schools and afterschool youth clubs to include as well as provide community connections. They include:

Youth Environmental Summit (YES!), YEA! MN, a high school leadership program of Climate Generation, Minnesota School Energy Project (MnSEP), Audubon Center of the Northwoods (will receive funds for hosting summits), Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships of the University of Minnesota, RiverWatch Program, CERTS, RREAL, Department of Education, Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center, 4H, Girl Scouts

B. Project Impact and Long-Term Strategy

Utilizing previous partnerships and lesson learned from prior ENRTF projects, Youth Climate Convenings will build the capacity of youth service and/or environmental clubs and communities to address the issue of climate change. This project supports Climate Generation’s mission of educating and empowering individuals to engage in solutions to climate change. Organizationally, we will use lessons learned and partnerships made to extend our work beyond this funding. At a community level, this project will elevate the importance and effectiveness of youth voices and their role in building a long-term conservation ethic. Future support from diverse revenue sources will sustain this program.

C. Timeline Requirements

Summer/Fall 2017: Program Planning, Outreach, Assembly/Workshop Scheduling, Evaluation Research

Late Fall 2017: 5 school visits in Metro, NE, NW, SE, SW, including assembly and convening planning workshop

Winter/Spring 2017-18: Virtual Coaching and Planning of Convenings

Spring 2018: 5 Convenings in Metro, NE, NW, SE, SW

Summer 2018: Summer Summit to share successes and lessons learned

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2017 Detailed Project Budget

Project Title: *Youth Convening Minnesota*

IV. TOTAL ENRTF REQUEST BUDGET 2 years

<u>BUDGET ITEM</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Personnel:	
Director of Education: Manage, coordinate and evaluate (2 years .5, .25benefits)	\$ 61,568
Education Coordinator: Plan and implement convening trainings and coaching (2 years, .75, .25 benefits)	\$ 60,840
Curriculum Coordinator: Plan and implement schoolwide assemblies and youth club support (2 years .75, .25 benefits)	\$ 60,840
Programs Coordinator: Logistics and project coordination (2 years .10, .25 benefits)	\$ 12,064
Communications Coordinator: Outreach and dissemination (2 years .10, .25 benefits)	\$ 8,736
Youth Mentorship Coordinator: Youth mentorship and coaching (2 years .50, .25 benefits)	\$ 32,760
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts:	
Webmaster: David Riviera, technology support, webpage integration	\$ 4,200
Graphic design: Convening Outreach Materials	\$ 5,000
Equipment/Tools/Supplies:	
Printing (workshop materials, convening planning manual, convening outreach)	\$ 15,000
Web-based Meeting Tools	\$ 2,000
Workshop Supplies (makers, paper)	\$ 5,000
Travel:	
Travel for Climate Generation to Schools, Communities and Summit Location for Assembly and Convenings	\$ 20,000
Additional Budget Items:	
Dissemination	\$ 2,000
Facility: Board and Lodging for Summer Summits- 50 individuals/summit for 3 days (2017 and 2018)	\$ 20,000
TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST =	\$ 310,008

V. OTHER FUNDS *(This entire section must be filled out. Do not delete rows. Indicate "N/A" if row is not applicable.)*

<u>SOURCE OF FUNDS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>Status</u>
Anonymous Donor	\$ 5,000.00	Secured
McKnight Foundation	\$ 75,000.00	Secured
Conley Family Foundation	\$ 10,000.00	Secured
Rahr Foundation	\$ 10,000.00	Secured
<i>Source of Funds sub-total</i>	\$ 100,000.00	

Youth Convening Minnesota

<u>Objectives</u>	<u>Resources</u>	<u>Activities</u>	<u>Short-term Outcomes</u>	<u>Medium and Long-Term Outcomes</u>
<p>Empower and engage Minnesota youth as spokespeople for community conservation and climate solutions</p> <p>Elevate the importance and effectiveness of youth voices in building climate resilient communities with a long-lasting and action-based conservation ethic</p> <p>Develop connections between youth and community conservation mentors</p> <p>Increase the capacity of schools and environmental clubs to connect with their communities on conservation issues</p>	<p>ENRTF Funding</p> <p>Contract and Paid Staff</p> <p>Partnerships Built through past ENRTF projects and Climate Generation</p> <p>Climate Minnesota Model of Community Engagement</p> <p>Climate Generation Model of Youth Mentorship</p> <p>Climate Generation curriculum resources, especially Minnesota's Changing Climate</p> <p>Climate Generation professional development experience</p>	<p>Visit 10 schools and communities and provide a school-wide climate change assembly and class visits</p> <p>10 trainings with environmental clubs and mentor educators to provide training on community engagement using our mentorship and Climate Minnesota model</p> <p>Coach 10 clubs as they plan convenings</p> <p>10 return visits to help with implementation of a community convening</p> <p>2 summer summits for educators and youth to share successes and lessons learned</p>	<p>Increased awareness of climate change impacts in Minnesota by students, teachers and communities</p> <p>Increased connections between youth, schools and communities</p> <p>Increased awareness of local solutions and resources to mitigate and adapt to climate change</p> <p>Increased youth leadership on campus and in their communities</p> <p>Increased local engagement in local conservation efforts</p>	<p>Developed social networks in communities around conservation resources and climate solutions</p> <p>Increased capacity of schools and environmental clubs to connect with their communities on conservation issues</p> <p>Increased capacity of communities to respond to climate change and connect with actionable solutions</p> <p>Increased inclusion of youth in community planning and events</p>

Project Manager Qualifications

Project Manager, Kristen Iverson Poppleton, is the Director of Education at Climate Generation: A Will Steger Legacy. She has successfully managed and reported on both of Climate Generation's ENRTF projects, as well as numerous other grant funded initiatives. Kristen has spent the last 12 years researching and sharing what constitutes effective climate literacy, especially through the lens of environmental education. She began her work with Climate Generation as a participant in their first Summer Institute for Climate Change Education in 2006. She has authored several of Climate Generation's curricula resources, implements professional development opportunities for educators, and coordinates local and national collaborations around climate literacy. In addition to her work with Climate Generation, Kristen has taught graduate courses at Hamline University. She is a member of the North American Association for Environmental Education's Climate Change Education Professional Learning Community and serves as a curator for the National Science Teacher's Association. Kristen has a MEd, from the University of MN (Environmental Education) and a MS, from the University of MN (Conservation Biology with a focus on climate change education).

Organization Description

For 10 years, Climate Generation has been building climate literacy and action among educators, youth and the broader public, with tangible results, reaching over 35,000 youth, 17,000 educators and over 75,000 people through our programming and public engagement efforts. The White House recognized our work to advance climate change education and Environmental Initiative recognized both our education and youth programming for its partnership-based approach.

Climate Generation is a recognized leader locally, regionally and nationally for developing climate change curriculum and delivering sound professional development for educators on climate change from an interdisciplinary perspective. We are also the go-to organization for connecting youth leaders to climate and clean energy solutions across the state and the Midwest region. Climate Generation's Education Program supports educators, students and the public with science-based interdisciplinary resources on climate change, its implications and solutions to achieve climate literacy. Climate Generation's Emerging Leaders Program engages high school and college-age youth on climate change solutions locally and across the Midwest region. Our Youth Environmental Activists Minnesota (YEA! MN) program supports a network of high school environmental clubs working together across the Twin Cities metro to empower student leadership on sustainability, facilitate shared skills and strategies, and build environmental stewardship on campus and in the wider community.