

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund  
2018 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

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**Project Title:**

Youth Convening Minnesota

**ENRTF ID: 111-C**

**Category:** C. Environmental Education

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**Total Project Budget:** \$ 300,000

**Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested:** 2 years, July 2018 to June 2020

**Summary:**

Educating and engaging youth is critical to maintain and improve our heritage in natural resources. We will mentor youth and youth leaders to work with communities to address environmental issues.

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**Name:** Kristen Poppleton

**Sponsoring Organization:** Climate Generation: A Will Steger Legacy

**Address:** 2801 21st Ave, South Suite 110  
Minneapolis MN 55407

**Telephone Number:** (612) 278-7147

**Email** kristen@climategen.org

**Web Address** www.climategen.org

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**Location**

**Region:** Statewide

**County Name:** Statewide

**City / Township:**

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**Alternate Text for Visual:**

Youth Convening Minnesota Logic Model

_____ 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)

### 2018 Main Proposal

#### Project Title: Youth Convening Minnesota

#### PROJECT TITLE: Youth Convening Minnesota

##### I. PROJECT STATEMENT

Educating and engaging our young people is critical for MN to maintain and improve our rich heritage in natural resources. Using lessons learned and partnerships gained from the successful implementation of two statewide ENRTF projects, Climate Generation: A Will Steger Legacy will partner with 10 Greater MN communities to educate and engage people for greater stewardship. Providing education, mentorship and local stewardship resources will encourage youth to invest time and energy in helping to lead their local community. Youth Convening Minnesota will engage 5,000 high school youth and their communities throughout Minnesota in building a conservation ethic. We will:

- Visit each school and provide a school-wide assembly and class visits on local environmental issues
- Meet with afterschool youth clubs
- Equip youth with environmental content expertise, adult mentorship and leadership skills needed to facilitate multi stakeholder meetings, and host public forums on pressing environmental issues
- Host summer summits for educators, community leaders and youth to share evaluation results from public forums, including successes and lessons learned.

We have implemented two ENRTF projects, engaging more than 10,000 individuals, 5,000 educators and 5,000 students across MN. Educators who participated in our past projects cited increased student engagement and understanding of how to build a conservation ethic and to equip communities with the skills and knowledge to respond to and prepare for environmental pressures. Additionally, we empowered individuals of all ages from Crookston to Mankato to engage in opportunities in their local community by building knowledge, problem-solving skills, and solutions. Youth environmental leadership development was a key element in both projects. When youth inspire their peers and engage their families and communities, it results in lasting conservation solutions. This project will extend the impact of afterschool clubs beyond school to the community by supporting youth to work with and lead their community to address environmental issues. In partnership with other organizations, Youth Convening Minnesota will:

- provide career pathways, mentorship, and resources for high school age youth to lead local communities in environmental stewardship.
- provide youth with the practical knowledge necessary to spur local environmental solutions.
- provide leadership skills and opportunities that encourage youth to invest time and energy to bring their community together for positive change.

##### II. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

#### Activity 1: Implement School Visits and Youth Leadership Training, Fall 2018/19

**Budget: \$65,345.20**

Working with partners, we will visit 10 communities, including: Brainerd, Rochester, Mankato, Eden Prairie, Willmar, Moorhead, St. Cloud, Hibbing, Leech Lake Reservation, and Albert Lea to engage in environmental education, mentorship training, and public forum planning. We will visit ten schools and afterschool youth clubs total fall 2018 and 2019.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Identify and recruit 10 schools statewide with afterschool youth clubs	December 2019
2. Implement 10 school assembly presentations for 5,000 students and teachers	December 2019
3. Facilitate training and leadership skills workshops and forum development for youth clubs	December 2019

#### Activity 2: Development Support for Spring 2019/20 Public Forums

**Budget: \$120,376.80**

Using various electronic mediums, such as; webinars, social media, phone to “virtually” meet monthly, helping with selection and preparation of speakers, outreach materials and planning of public forums. We will return to communities to assist, evaluate and document public forums.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Conduct virtual meetings to connect youth, support relationship development	June 2020



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between youth clubs/schools and community mentors and provide youth with skills to lead multi stakeholder meetings and forum planning	
2. Assist clubs in hosting public forums	June 2020

#### **Activity 3:** Youth-Educator Summits, Summer 2019 and 2020

**Budget: \$80,280.00**

We will host annual summits for participants and other interested educators, community leaders and youth to share successes, lessons learned, and develop deeper environmental stewardship.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Invite educators, community leaders, youth club members to summer summit	June 2020
2. Coordinate with club members to share stories and develop summit sessions	June 2020
3. Develop and implement three-day summit program	June 2020

#### **Activity 4:** Evaluation and Dissemination

**Budget: \$42,006.00**

We will conduct an evaluation to measure knowledge, awareness, and skills development for youth, and community; demographics of forum participants, and number of partnerships built.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Develop evaluation tool and focus group questions to measure knowledge and behavior change in youth assemblies, multi stakeholder meetings and forums	November 2018
2. Implement evaluation	June 2020
3. Final evaluation report, recommendations and dissemination	June 2020

### III. PROJECT STRATEGY

#### A. Project Team/Partners

**Project Team:** 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. **Partners include:** Youth Environmental Summit (YES!), YEA! MN, Minnesota School Energy Project (MnSEP), Audubon Center of the Northwoods (will receive funds for hosting public forums), Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships of the University of Minnesota, RiverWatch, CERTS, RREAL, Department of Education, Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center, 4H, Scouts

#### B. Project Impact and Long-Term Strategy

Utilizing previous partnerships and lesson learned from prior ENRTF projects, Youth Convening Minnesota will build the capacity of youth and communities to address environmental pressures. This project supports our mission to empower individuals and their communities 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 increase the visibility and effectiveness of youth to bring multiple stakeholders together and build a long-term conservation ethic and community investment. Future support from diverse revenue sources will sustain this program.

#### C. Timeline Requirements

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

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

Winter/Spring 2017-18: Virtual assistance to support in the development and implementation of public forums

Spring 2018: 5 Public Forums in Metro, NE, NW, SE, SW

Summer 2018: Summer Summit to share successes and lessons learned

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## 2018 Detailed Project Budget

**Project Title:** *Youth Convening Minnesota*

### IV. TOTAL ENRTF REQUEST BUDGET 2 years

<u>BUDGET ITEM</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
<b>Personnel:</b>	
Director of Education: Manage, coordinate and evalaute (2 years .5, .25benefits)	\$ 61,568
Education Coordinator: Plan and implement convening trainings and coaching (2 years, .75, .25 benefits)	\$ 60,840
Public Engagement Manager: 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)	\$ 4,728
<b>Professional/Technical/Service Contracts:</b>	
Webmaster: David Riviera, technology support, webpage integration	\$ 4,200
Graphic design: Convening Outreach Materials	\$ 3,000
Youth Mentorship Coordinator: Youth mentorship and coaching (2 years .50, .25 benefits) 1FTE	\$ 32,760
<b>Equipment/Tools/Supplies:</b>	
<b>Printing</b> (workshop materials, convening planning manual, convening outreach)	\$ 12,000
Web-based Meeting Tools	\$ 1,000
Workshop Supplies (makers, paper)	\$ 5,000
<b>Travel:</b>	
Travel for Climate Generation to Schools, Communities and Summit Location for Assembly and Convenings	\$ 20,000
<b>Additional Budget Items:</b>	
Dissemination	\$ 2,000
Facility: Board and Lodging for Summer Summits- 50 individuals/summit for 3 days (2017 and 2018)	\$ 20,000
<b>TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST =</b>	<b>\$ 300,000</b>



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