

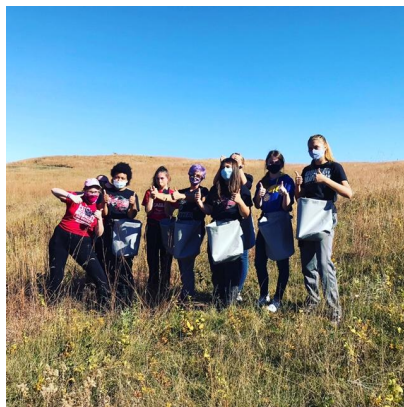


YES! Quarterly - Summer 2021

YES! concluded its 14th season, which included 11 teams and 176 students.

This school year, YES! students:

- Worked on 35 different projects
- Impacted an additional 7,403 students and community members
- Volunteered for over 388 hours
- Worked with 55 local resource experts
- Served over 70 Minnesota communities
- Organized and participated in 35 educational events in their schools and communities
- Leveraged over \$15,000 for action projects in their schools and communities



Thank you to everyone who helped with another great year of YES!

YES! Teams in Action

This year YES! teams completed a variety of projects that addressed environmental education, climate change, energy conservation, habitat



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YES! empowers youth to create solutions to today's ecological challenges through community-based hands-on projects to fulfill community needs and build life-long skills.

restoration, water quality, waste reduction, soil health, and local foods. Among their amazing accomplishments were:

Carlton

Worked with a local organization, school administration, and custodial staff to explore composting as a way to recycle organic waste from their school.

Lac qui Parle Valley

Collected and recycled over 40 pounds of holiday lights and 25 pounds of markers.

Mankato West

Created an informational video on the potential of solar energy in their school and community for the Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs) Solar on Schools Video Contest and received 1st place.

Minnewaska Schools

Assessed the energy usage of each classroom at their school and then educated staff and students about how to reduce their energy use.

New London-Spicer Middle School

Completed the Lights! Water! Action! Home Energy Kits at their homes to increase energy efficiency and water conservation awareness.

New London-Spicer High School

Harvested and spread native prairie seeds in their rain garden.

Royalton

Built a stand-alone 12-volt DC solar power system that was deployed to a school in Uganda in partnership with We Share Solar.

Sleepy Eye

Presented lessons for all K-3rd graders to raise environmental awareness in their school.

Springfield

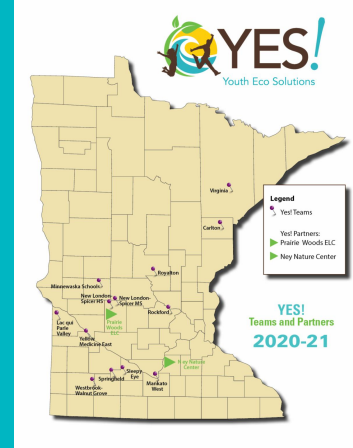
Collected and recycled 500 pounds of holiday lights from the community.

Westbrook-Walnut Grove

Hosted a week of school-wide activities to teach other students about the impacts of carbon emissions from vehicles and promote less polluting transportation choices.

Yellow Medicine East

Continued work on their community garden and



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orchard with the help of their elementary students.

Click [here](#) to see more!

2021 YES! State Award Winners

The judges were blown away by how much the YES! teams accomplished this school year despite COVID-19 restrictions and changes. One judge stated, "It was fun to see how well the teams collaborated even during a pandemic."

[Read our blog to find out more!](#)

Congratulations to these award winners!

1st Place State Champion Award (\$500):

Westbrook-Walnut Grove High School



2nd Place Award (\$250 each): Tie
between Mankato West High School & Sleepy Eye Schools



A special thank you to our major supporters including Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF), LYFT Career Pathways, and Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs).



We are ready to kick off our 15th season!

The 15th annual YES! Fall Summit will be taking place Wednesday, September 29th at Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center in Spicer, MN. [Email us](#) to let us know if you'd like to stop by the event and we will give you more details!

Help YES! Grow

YES! is gearing up for its 15th season! We invite YOU to be part of the solution to today's ecological challenges by becoming a YES! team or letting us know what school might benefit from having a YES! team; click [here](#) to find out more. If you would like to support a YES! team please donate [here](#)!



Did You Know...

Shelli-Kae Foster, YES! Program Director was one of 3 panelists for the U of MN School of Medicine's Climate Justice Lecture series on April 28. The focus of the lecture was "Youth Action: Health & Climate Change."

Read our [blog post](#) to find out more about the event!



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
Driven to Discover®

Climate Health Action Program (CHAP) Climate Justice Lecture Series

April 28th, 2021, 12-1pm:
UN Sustainable Development Goal 4: Quality Education



SHELLI-KAE FOSTER
Program Director,
YES! program at Prairie Woods
Environmental Learning Center



AARON ROSENBLUM
3rd year student, UMN Medical School;
Climate Smart Health Care Co-Chair,
Medical Students for a Sustainable Future



AKILAH SANDERS-REED
Oil Free Organizer,
Power Shift Network

The **Climate Health Action Program (CHAP)** is a group within the UMN School of Medicine with a mission of protecting the health of our patients from climate impacts and delivering healthcare sustainably.

The **CHAP Lecture Series** has been developed to build community, raise awareness about the intersection between climate change and social determinants of health, highlight those community groups leading the way in climate efforts, and showcase actions those in academia can take to bridge the gap. Community and climate justice groups in urban regions of Minnesota will be invited to speak about areas of climate advocacy such as food justice, renewable energy, and clean transportation, among other cutting edge topics. We will hold one lecture a month and align with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

z.umn.edu/CHAP



*It all
+ adds up*

