



Youth Energy Summit 2010-2011 Awards and Projects

YES is administered by the following Program Partners: Southwest Initiative Foundation, Prairie Woods ELC, Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation and Eagle Bluff ELC. As a program, YES! empowers youth to partner with their community to create economic and environmental vitality through hands-on learning and team-based projects.



ACGC YES! team

Over 200 students participated in YES! this year.

An additional 6,800 students were impacted by their work.



EVW YES! team displays their tracking solar panel.

2011 Overall Awards

Grand Prize

Atwater-Cosmos-Grove City

- Grew fresh produce in their garden, for over 800 students
- Designed and constructed mid-scale composting bin
- **Converted 96 school exit signs to LED's**
- Hosted creative and engaging educational events for 350 elementary students

Westbrook– Walnut Grove

- Distributed 200 home energy kits
- Checked the tire pressure of cars at their school and community, and educated drivers on the energy and gas savings associated with proper tire inflation
- Saved \$21 on energy bills in one day alone by hosting a 'Blackout Day' during which as many lights as possible were shut off in the school

2nd Place

Lac qui Parle Valley

- Hosted worm composting classes and an e-waste recycling event in their community
- **Gathered support for "Light the Path" project, installing solar-powered lights along the Appleton Bike Trail**

Springfield

- Completed installation of solar powered lights along park trail
- Reduced cafeteria food-waste by half, by first educating the students then hosting a competition
- Created a video highlighting their Energy Monitor Patrol program, which won \$50,000 in technology for their school through Samsungs' nationwide contest

3rd Place

Eden Valley—Watkins

- Completed solar PV system with one tracking panel and two stationary panels
- Presented at the Clean Energy Resource Teams conference
- Provided guidance on environmentally-conscious decisions for the school's upcoming building project

(Overall Awards continued on page 2)

Redwood Falls collected over 27 cubic yards of food waste this year.



ACGC YES team members construct a compost bin.

A total of 98 businesses assisted teams with their projects this year.



New London-Spicer constructed permanent outdoor recycling and trash bins. They partnered with a local business, their welding class, and their custodial staff to ensure a long-lasting, quality product. These bins will surely help improve recycling at outdoor events!

(Overall Awards continued from page 1)

Windom

- Standardized recycling school-wide with uniform bins and locations throughout the building
- **Worked with the PC's for People program to recycle or reuse old computers**
- Saved over 6,000 gallons of water by reducing team members' shower time in one month alone

Redwood Falls

- Thoroughly sought out resources and best practices before beginning school-wide composting
- **Created educational video with "Captain Compost" to teach elementary students about composting their lunch**
- Partnered with local farmer to collect nearly 30 cubic yards of compost, saving the school nearly \$2,000 through food-waste reduction

NOTE: two 3rd place award winners were chosen in the Southern region, Windom and Redwood Falls.

2011 Category Award Winners

Northern award winners are listed first under each category, followed by the Southern region award winners.

Goal-setting & Teamwork

Litchfield

Litchfield began the year with S.M.A.R.T. goals (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and timely), helping them host two community events and at least three activities for elementary students.

Gibbon-Fairfax-Winthrop

A multifaceted team that focused on individual strengths and interests for achieving succinct goals.

Energy Conservation

Atwater-Cosmos-Grove City

By installing an astounding 96 LED exit signs, ACGC can expect a savings of 15,473kWh/year. Their team also encouraged the conversion of 11 school buses to cleaner exhaust systems through the Green Fleet program.

Westbrook—Walnut Grove

WWG's commitment to conservation was evident in their projects. A school blackout day saved about 258 kWh, installing vending misers will cut energy use by nearly 50%, distributing 200 home energy kits will save over **75,000kWh from CFL's alone, and their tire pressure checks saved over 500 gallons of gasoline.**

Creativity & Innovation

New London-Spicer

NL-S showed their ingenuity by designing and constructing sturdy recycling/trash receptacles, a hoop garden and a watering system using rainwater.

New Ulm Putting Green

Designing and hosting their EcoEarth Night for 5th graders took a lot of ingenuity and creativity. The result was an engaging and educational evening about energy!



5th graders find out how far their food travels at EcoEarth Night event.

Economic Potential*

Willmar

The Willmar YES! Community Greenhouse has successfully persevered through a fourth season, selling CSA shares and produce at their local **farmer's market.** **With continued determination and support, they can be lifted up as a successful business model.**

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(Category Awards continued from page 2)

Redwood Valley

Students not only gained research and science skills through their composting project, but also have begun a process that holds the potential to save money through reduced waste for their school and lower fertilizer cost for their community garden.



Sara Liebel, of the Redwood Falls YES! team, demonstrates the pH levels of their compost pile.

Skills & Career Awareness

Eden Valley-Watkins

Students of the EVW team gained a great understanding of the skills and responsibilities associated with the solar industry and operating a business.

Community Involvement

Lac qui Parle Valley

Lac qui Parle hosted vermicomposting classes and an e-waste collection event in their community. They also garnered community support to install 36 solar-powered, motion-activated lights along a half-mile stretch of the Appleton Bike Trail.

Springfield

Springfield raised awareness not only in their community, but a multitude of others, as they generated thousands of votes in a nation-wide video contest. They also garnered support for a solar trail lighting project and gathered over 300 pounds of holiday lights for recycling.

* Due to noteworthy distinction between 'Economic Potential' and 'Career Awareness' in the northern region, two separate awards were given. Such a distinction was not made in the southern region, so this category was left as a single award.



Students gather at Prairie Woods ELC for the annual YES! Winter Workshop.

YES! teams collected over 1,972.6 pounds of holiday lights this year for the Recycle Your Holidays Campaign. All lights that were collected are properly recycled—copper, glass, and plastic coating—which saves energy by ensuring these elements are not newly mined or produced. Consumers are then encouraged to purchase more energy efficient LED bulbs as a replacement.

The Springfield YES! team competed in the nationwide video contest, Samsung: Solve for Tomorrow, in which they placed in the Top 10.



Springfield YES! team

In their award-winning video, Springfield highlighted their Energy Monitoring Patrol (EMP) program which educates 6th graders on energy reduction actions they can take and reinforces these actions by issuing 'tickets' to the energy 'offenders'! Springfield won \$50,000 worth of technology for their school by placing in the Top 10. They were able to purchase 28 laptops, software, a video camera and more.

" I like to know I'm making a difference! "



Lac qui Parle team members show off their compost at their vermicomposting community class.

Windom conserved 6,392 gallons of water by reducing their shower time in one month alone.



Fresh produce from the Willmar Community Greenhouse is display at the Becker Farmer's Market this past summer.

Greater than \$120,000 were leveraged by the teams this year alone.

Willmar has partnered with a nearby daycare to host 'Go Green' educational sessions at their Greenhouse.

Springfield's Energy Monitoring Patrol (EMP) program has reduced their school's energy use by 3% per year, which calculates to a savings of nearly \$2,000 per year.

WWG hosted a 'Blackout Day' during which they shut off *all* the lights in the school. By doing this for one day alone, WWG saved their school a calculated \$21 dollars. While they continue to use lights during the school day, the student body and staff alike have become more aware of their electricity use.

Similar YES projects:

- Windom YES team hosted a 'Lights Out Day' during their Energy Week in April.
- The Alexandria YES team worked with their custodial staff to remove 1/3 of their school's light bulbs.
- Replacing incandescent EXIT signs with LED signs they save ACGC's school 15,473 kWh/year, a savings of about \$1,547 per year.

Springfield hosted a cafeteria food-waste reduction day. By providing preliminary food-waste reduction education, the YES! students primed their school to reduce as much food-waste as possible. Students were encouraged to take only what they thought they would eat, share what they didn't and clean their plates.

Food-waste was weighed according to grade level, at the end of the day promoting the school-wide competition.

The results? A waste reduction (by weight) of an average of 54.7%!

Tire pressure? Check! Thanks to the WWG YES! class students and faculty alike have been updated on the status of their tire pressure.



Proper inflation of your car's tires ensures the optimum gas mileage and in turn saves you money. The school wide tire checks were supplemented with an educational session and contest making the event not only educational but fun! These were such a success, students continued their checks at the local gas station by informing patrons of their tire pressure and the benefits of proper inflation.

YES! Program Partners



SOUTHWEST INITIATIVE FOUNDATION



*Would your community like to join the growing number of YES! teams?
Please visit our website to learn more about the program, its partners and all the teams!*

www.youthenergysummit.org