

YES! ENERGY ACTION PROJECT REPORT

Springfield High School



WE ARE THE SPRINGFIELD YES! TEAM

- Our team advisor is Amanda Meyer.
- 7 students were members of our YES Team throughout the year.
- 18 Ecology students also worked on a YES Team project this year.



COMMUNITY PRIDE SHOWCASE



We received an award from InCommons and were able to present about YES projects at the State Fair in September.



MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

Mrs. Meyer on stage, receiving the Community Pride Award!



Springfield YES! team honored and celebrated at Minnesota State Fair

Each day in Minnesota, courageous communities and their members work collaboratively to improve their towns and neighborhoods. On Saturday, Sept. 3, at the Minnesota State Fair, a Springfield group was honored in the 2011 Minnesota Community Pride Showcase, part of the Fair's Community Pride Day at Carousel Park.

The Springfield High School Youth Energy Summit Team was honored as "Best of the Minnesota Community Pride Showcase" and received a \$500 cash award from the Minnesota State Fair.

Minnesota Community Pride Showcase kicked off in June when it asked individuals and groups statewide to share "the story of a way that your community is coming together to improve Minnesota towns and neighborhoods." The Showcase is sponsored by the Minnesota State Fair, MinnPost.com and InCommons, which is hosting the challenge as part of its overall mission to connect and support individuals and groups statewide to solve community.

MRS. MEYER IS INTERVIEWED AT THE STATE FAIR



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nMgez1N2eow&feature=youtu.be>

RECYCLING



Riverside Park
(baseball, softball,
football fields)



Springfield Community Center



Springfield High School
and Elementary School



EARTH TUB COMPOSTER BIN



We visited Carleton College this summer to check out their Earth Tub composter.

We transported it to Springfield in the fall.



HOLIDAY LIGHTS

Nearly
500 lbs.
collected!

YES! A bright idea!

Holiday lights recycling serves two purposes

Your outdated or tangled holiday lights can go in the trash. Or they can go to a local collection site to be recycled.

It's not as simple as a landfill, but the program spares the environment while providing jobs for adults with disabilities.

Approximately 400 lbs. of lights were collected in Springfield this season by the YES! team from Springfield High School.

"Our community definitely is willing to participate and provide opportunities for people who do not have jobs," said Aaron Fleischer, a senior team member.

Around Thanksgiving, people began to ask whether or not the local YES! team would be recycling lights again, said Colby Feser, also a senior member of the team.

The YES! team provided recycling bins at Tauer's SuperValu and Runnings Farm & Fleet stores where people dropped in lights. Some families sent lights to school with their children, and others dropped lights off at the home of YES! team members.

The lights are transported to Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center for recycling.

The Prairie Woods Environmental Center and the Recycling Association of Minnesota work together in an effort to encourage people to recycle unused strings of lights.

At various centers, workers separate the bulbs from the wire and send the components off separately to be recycled with the money from the wire paying for the workers' wages.



YES! team advocates — Aaron Fleischer, Advisor Amanda Meyer, Colby Feser, Taylor Milbrath and Hailey Wester are pictured with the holiday lights collection.

Every part of the light string is recycled, providing employment training and job opportunities through industries where workers who have social, economic and physical barriers are taught basic employment skills.

Copper is the most valuable product of the recycling, said Amanda Meyer, YES! advisor and science teacher at Springfield Public School.

Last year, approximately 300 pounds of lights were collected in Springfield, Meyer said.

Last year, the program collected and recycled over 100,000 pounds of holiday lights, and this year's goal is to reach 200,000 pounds.

"We don't earn money in this project. It's a matter of keeping them out of the landfill and making sure they're taken care of responsibly," Meyer added.

The Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center is a nonprofit education center, committed to providing outstanding environmental education and outdoor experiences to people of all ages.

YES! will accept old lighted yard decorations and electrical cords as well as strings of holiday lights.

"We received a lighted snowman and a big candy cane," said Meyer. One local family was also able to replace a bulb in their light-

ed yard decoration through the program. The bulb that needed replacement was obsolete, but the family found a suitable light in the local collection, said Meyer happily.

The 2011 - 2012 Christmas light recycling program will be concluding for the season on Thursday, Jan. 19. If you have lights to recycle, get them to the YES! team today. The program will reopen next fall. Thank you for participating in the Holiday Lights recycling program.

GREEN SNEAKERS

MARCH 26 TO APRIL 20



A screenshot of the Springfield Public Schools website. The URL is www.springfield.mntm.org/springfield/site/c. The page title is "Springfield Public Schools". The navigation menu includes Home, Our District, Elementary School, High School, Media Center, and Community. There is also a "Calendar" link. The "Announcements" section contains several items: "No SCHOOL on Fri., April 6th and Mon., April 9th. Midterms 4th qtr. are Wed., April 11th.", "Notice to parents SchoolView will have a new look April 9th (Parent/Student Grade Book) > New menu > Mobile and tablet friendly, > New Messages link, > New login screen", and "Green Sneakers project has started for YES Group. Please donate new or gently-used sneakers-collection box located by HS office." The "Green Sneakers" announcement is circled in brown. Below it is an announcement for "Summer Recreation" and an "RSS Feed" link.

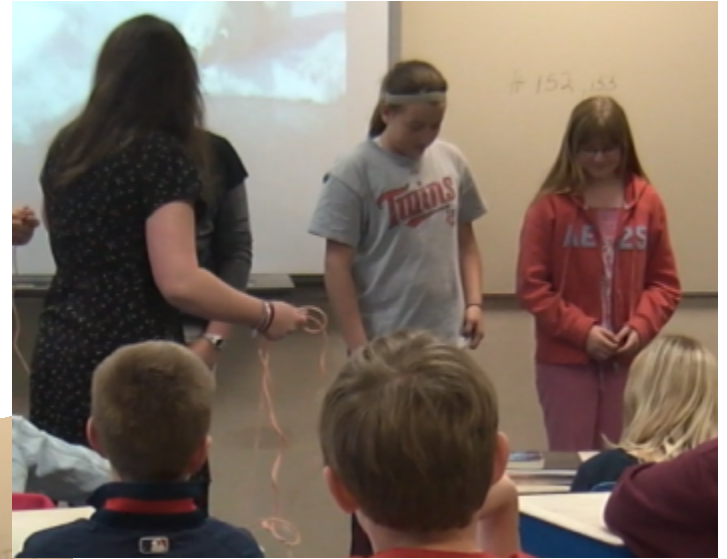
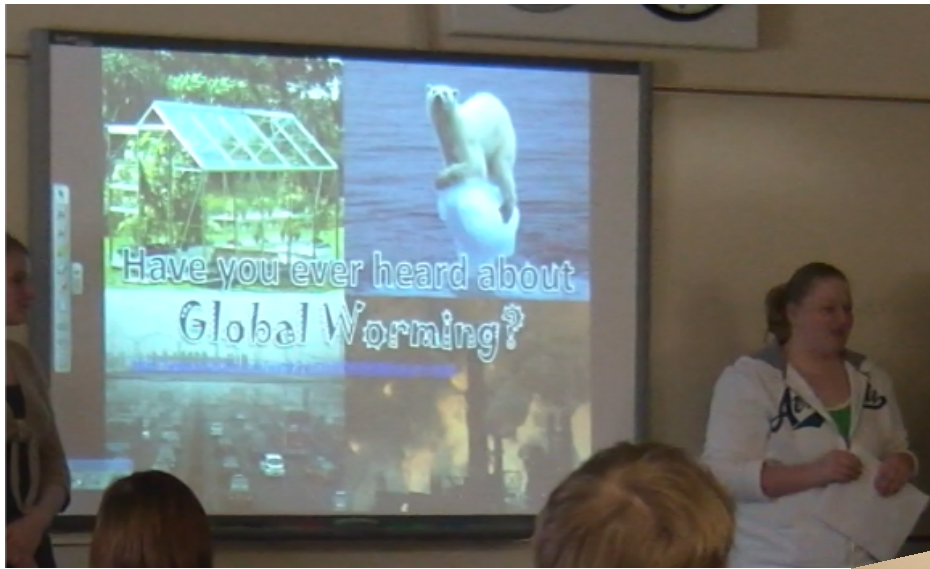
Green Sneakers collection box at Tauer's Super-Valu.

ELEMENTARY ENERGY LESSONS

Lesson Topics

- Oil Spills
- Climate Change
- Wind Energy
- Solar Thermal Energy
- Ethanol Production
- Energy Conservation

Short video of Ecology students' activity on oil spills: <http://screencast.com/t/0uWppWIT>



Ecology lesson on climate change: Sixth-graders experimented with ice in their hands and jumped through "ice floes" simulated by circles of twine.

ENERGY BIKE

We put this in our weight room so when you pedal, it powers a TV!



School receives grant for greenhouse project

SCHOOL GREENHOUSE

Springfield Public Schools is the recent recipient of a \$20,000 grant from the Monsanto Fund for a greenhouse educational project.

The greenhouse will be a collaborative effort between the High School Agriculture Program, Science Department, Youth Energy Summit (YES) initiative and the Solar Drive-In restaurant.

The greenhouse would serve the agriculture program and science department by augmenting classroom lessons with hands-on learning activities. "We believe students retain new information better when they learn by doing," said Springfield High School Agriculture Instructor T.J. Brown and Science Teacher Amanda Meyer, who wrote the grant application. "It also creates a memorable opportunity that will potentially be discussed outside of class with students' parents and/or friends, reflecting positively on science and agriculture and

drawing in more students to careers in these fields."

The agriculture program's horticulture class, science department house to carry on sexual and a propagation, hydrotechnology, soil media production, light physiology and lar technology : energy monitoring

The greenhouse serve the YES a location for 1hibit ways to mcommunity's cprint. The miSpringfield HiYES Team is energy usage emission in our community by developing creative projects, educating and inspiring others, spreading awareness of energy issues, and being examples of energy-conscious citizens, according to the educators.

Greenhouse Project — Page 2



Dana Jacobs, representative from the Monsanto Company of Redwood Falls, recently presented a check for \$20,000 from the Monsanto Fund to Springfield Public Schools to be used for a teaching greenhouse. Jacobs, left, is pictured with Agricultural Education Teacher T.J. Brown and Science Teacher Amanda Meyer, who collaborated in doing the research and writing the grant application. The Monsanto Fund lists four priorities it considers when awarding grants: improving nutritional well-being through agriculture, the environment, science education and communities.

SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In one school year...

- 160 hours of lighting saved through motion detector installations.
- 280+ bags of plastic and aluminum recycled.
- 492.4 pounds of holiday lights recycled.
- 40 Elementary Students taught about energy issues.
- 100 pounds of tennis shoes collected...and counting.
- \$21,960.00 in grants/awards.

Making a REAL difference in our community...
PRICELESS!