

YES! Update 1.29.2016

Announcements

* **Let your coordinator know if your team will be using the remaining YES! funds for district expenses and project seed funds by February 1.** Because we are at the end of our grant cycle, we need to make sure these dollars are spent. If you will NOT be using your dollars, we will direct them to teams that are in need of additional dollars. Currently, each team is eligible to receive $500 in district expenses and $500 in project seed funds. Please refer to the [YES! Coach & Project Expense Payment Form](http://www.youthenergysummit.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/YES-Coach-and-Project-Expense-Form-2015-2016.pdf) for additional information.
* **Winter Workshops!** Remember that ALL students participating in YES! need a [Liability Release Form](http://www.youthenergysummit.org/wp-content/uploads/2008/09/YES-2015-2016-Liability-Release-Parent-Information-Form.pdf) signed. Please turn in all hard copies that you have to your coordinator at the winter workshops.
* **How is Minnesota being impacted by Climate Change?** In 2013, Minnesota had some of the highest weather-related disaster claims in the country, even topping some tornado- and hurricane-prone states. University of Minnesota economist estimate that electricity generation annually causes more than $2 billion in environmental and health damages, such as asthma aggravated by air pollutants.
* **So what can YOU do about Climate Change?** Talk to your parents about replacing your five most frequently used [light fixtures](http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=fixtures.pr_light_fixtures) or the [light bulbs](http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?fuseaction=find_a_product.showProductGroup&pgw_code=LB) in them with [ENERGY STAR®](http://www.energystar.gov/) qualified products. You will help the environment while saving $70 a year on energy bills. [ENERGY STAR](http://www.energystar.gov/) lighting provides bright, warm light; generates 75% less heat; uses about 75% less energy than standard lighting; and lasts from 10 to 50 times longer.

Grants and Opportunities

* **Due February 5, 2016:** The DuPont Challenge calls on students in grades 6 through 12 to research, think critically, and write a science essay that provides innovative ideas on our most pressing global challenges, or demonstrates an application of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) to our daily lives.  The DuPont Challenge, North America’s premier science essay competition, encourages you to delve deep into your interests in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) and express yourself with creativity and purpose. We live in a growing world that faces new challenges each day, and we want YOU to share your ideas.  Essays must be between 700 to 1,000 words in length, include a list of research sources, and fall under the designated annual categories.  For more information, visit <http://thechallenge.dupont.com/>
* **Due March 11, 2016**: “A Garden 4 Every School” is a program initiated by Jeffers Foundation to help promote school garden projects in Minnesota.  For elementary schools that are interested in starting a school garden, Jeffers Foundation is offering $500.00 starter grants to 15-20 schools or 501c3 organizations throughout the state to help with the initial start‐up costs. We then want to share your experiences with other schools in Minnesota.  Applications will be reviewed and grants awarded by Wednesday, March 23, 2016.  Forms and information can be found at <http://www.jeffersfoundation.org/school-gardens.php>
* **March 29th is Youth Day at the Capitol:** Register by March 18th for a full day of workshops, presentations, and opportunities to meet with legislators. The day will culminate with youth voice in action at the Capitol with a Minnesota Youth Council Committee Meeting. Participants are welcome to join for portions of the day or the full event. It’s open for all ages but is geared towards 5th-12th graders. For more information, click [here](https://mnyouth.net/work/policy/youth-day-at-the-capitol/).
* **Due May 1, 2016:** Your team can request a total of 1: up to $500 for District Expenses and 2. Up to $500 for Project Seed Funds for payment from Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center (PWELC) via the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF).  Remember to provide proof of payment for District Expenses and receipts for Project Seed Funds!  More information can be found [here](http://www.youthenergysummit.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/YES-Coach-and-Project-Expense-Form-2015-2016.pdf).

Coach Tips

* **Update your coordinator with what your team has been working on!** We love hearing about all of your projects, and our funders do too! And remember, we love posting action photos on our website, so please send those to your coordinator as well!
* **Are you having trouble finding students to join your club?** Contact your coordinator to troubleshoot and talk about marketing strategies. If your team is near a campus, consider reaching out to the sustainability club if it has one. College students can be a great role model for your sustainably minded students!
* **The World Wear Project process has been clarified!** Please see the updated [Green Fundraising](http://www.youthenergysummit.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Green-Fundraising.pdf) resource sheet under the Coaches Corner. A [customizable flyer](http://www.youthenergysummit.org/resources-2/yes-coaches-corner/) has been posted to help you promote the project in your school as well! Contact your coordinator to sign up today!
  + **Coaches Corner password:** yes2015