

YES! Update 2.12.2016

Announcements

* A great event is coming up soon, come if you can! **Climate Minnesota: Albany Convening!** The event is Tuesday, February 23rd from 6:00-8:45 at Albany High School. More information can be found [here](http://www.climategen.org/what-we-do/education/public-outreach/climate-minnesota/climate-minnesota-convenings/albany/).
* Our lending libraries have been updated! If your team is located in Southern or Central Minnesota, click [here](http://www.youthenergysummit.org/resources-2/yes-kits/). If your team is located in Northeast Minnesota, click [here](http://www.youthenergysummit.org/resources-2/yes-kits-for-ne-teams/). We hope you take advantage of these wonderful resources!
* **How is Minnesota being impacted by Climate Change?** The composition of the region’s forests is expected to change as rising temperatures drive habitats for many tree species northward. The role of the region’s forests as a net absorber of carbon is at risk from disruptions to forest ecosystems, in part due to climate change.
* **So what can YOU do about Climate Change?** Use EPA's [Household Carbon Footprint Calculator](http://www3.epa.gov/carbon-footprint-calculator) to estimate your household greenhouse gas emissions resulting from energy use, transportation, and waste disposal. This tool helps you understand where your emissions come from and identify ways to reduce them.

Grants and Opportunities

* **World of 7 Billion Student Video Contest!** Deadline: February 25, 2016  
  Back by popular demand, the World of 7 Billion student video contest can help you bring technology and creativity into your middle and high school classes. The contest challenges your students to create a short (60 seconds or less) video illustrating the connection between world population growth and one of three global challenges dealing with either Deforestation, Public Health, or Water Scarcity. Students can win up to $1,000 and their teachers will receive free curriculum resources. Full contest guidelines, resources for research, past winners, and more can be found [here.](http://www.worldof7billion.org/student-video-contest)
* **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 [here.](http://www.jeffersfoundation.org/school-gardens.php)
* **March 29 is Youth Day at the Capitol:** Register by March 18 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 April 1, 2016:** Vehicle exhaust is the single largest source of air pollution in Minnesota.  One source of this pollution is diesel engines, which consume approximately 900 million gallons of fuel every year in Minnesota and can emit significantly more sooty particles than gasoline engines. To address this issue, Minnesota became the first state in the nation to require nearly all of the diesel fuel sold here to contain biodiesel, a cleaner-burning alternative fuel made and sold close to home.  Diesel fuel sold in Minnesota now contains a 10 percent blend of biodiesel in the warm weather months, and a five percent blend in the cold months. Using higher blends of biodiesel helps to clear the air and protect lung health, which is why the American Lung Association in Minnesota supports biodiesel as a Clean Air Choice®.  The Minnesota Soybean Research and Promotion Council sponsors the annual Biodiesel Essay Scholarship contest to help raise awareness of this important and emerging alternative fuel in our state. It is open to all high school seniors in Minnesota who wish to continue their education after high school.  For more information, click [here](http://www.cleanairchoice.org/fuels/scholarship2016.cfm).
* **Due May 1, 2016:** Your team can request a total of 1: up to $650 for District Expenses and 2. up to $700 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/Updated-YES-Coach-and-Project-Expense-Form-ENRTF-LCCMR-2015-2016.pdf).
* **Find additional funding opportunities on the Coaches Corner!**

Coach Tips

* **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.
* **Prairie Wetland Learning Center Workshops**: The Prairie Wetland Learning Center has announced their 2016 Workshops for educators and the general public. For a complete list [click here](http://www.fws.gov/uploadedFiles/2015%20events,%201%20column.pdf).
* Need ideas on how to best fundraise for next year’s program fees? Please contact your coordinator, and view the many great resources on the fundraising portion of the **Coaches Corner!** 
  + **Coaches Corner password:** yes2015