

YES! Update 2.5.2016

Announcements

* **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?** Climate change means some good news, but mostly bad news for Minnesota’s farmers. Longer growing seasons are a blessing for farmers, but severe weather and heat-loving pests, invasive species and plant diseases could wipe out their gains. Extreme heat is another factor, which causes stress, illness and even death in livestock
* **So what can YOU do about Climate Change?** Heating and cooling accounts for almost half your energy bill--about $1,000 a year! There is a lot you can do to drive down this cost. Simple steps like changing air filters regularly, properly using a programmable thermostat, and having your heating and cooling equipment maintained annually by a licensed contractor can save energy and increase comfort, while helping to protect the environment. Depending on where you live, you can cut your annual energy bill by more than $200 by replacing your old heating and cooling equipment with [ENERGY STAR](http://www.energystar.gov/)-qualified equipment.

Grants and Opportunities

* Here is a great potential opportunity for some of our YES! Students**! Climate Generation** is seeking a team of five young people in specific communities across the state of Minnesota to join our Youth Policy Cohort in support of a strong and just State Implementation Plan for the Clean Power Plan. This is a 5-month position, February-June 2016, approximately 2-4 hours per week, with a stipend of $500 for each team member. Click [here](https://docs.google.com/a/willstegerfoundation.org/document/d/1tGcjepf5X7G8Obrqw54yLzsGpcaom958ugZMj2gPO3Y/edit?usp=sharing) for more information!
* **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 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).
* **Due December 31, 2016: Walmart and the Walmart Foundation have identified hunger relief & healthy eating and sustainability as two of their core areas of giving through the Community Grants. Awarded grants range from $250-$2,500, and applications may be submitted at any time. For more information about the grant process, click** [here](http://corporate.walmart.com/article/community-grant-guidelines)**.**

Coach Tips

* **Please help the YES program grow!** Do you know of teachers, students, or administrators at other schools in the area you think would make great YES! coaches or participants? If so, we would appreciate an introduction. Please let your coordinator know!
* **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!
* **Be sure to check out the newly updated project resources on the Coaches Corner!** Topics include Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Educate, and Green Fundraising.
  + **Coaches Corner password:** yes2015