

YES! Update 2.19.2016

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?** Public Health Risks! Increased heat wave intensity and frequency, increased humidity, degraded air quality, and reduced water quality will increase public health risks.
* **So what can YOU do about Climate Change** Could you walk, bike, carpool, or take public transit? We drive a lot in this country and much of our CO2 output comes from transportation.

Grants and Opportunities

* **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)
* **Due March 15th:** 2016 Grants in Place. The Rural Schools Collaborative is now accepting applications for its 2016 [Grants in Place](http://ruralschoolscollaborative.org/news/keep-up-with-our-grants-in-place-projects) program. Teachers of all grade levels (K-12) and content rea are eligible. **Grants in Place** proposals should feature the basic tenets of [place-based education](http://ruralschoolscollaborative.org/place-based-education): The application process is quite simple. Applicants should submit via email a concept letter not to exceed 250 words. **Grant requests should not exceed $1,000.** For more information click [here.](http://ruralschoolscollaborative.org/support-for-teachers)
* **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).
* It is not too early to start thinking about next year. Do you anticipate differences with this group of students? Let your coordinator know if there are they can help plan and smooth the transition! And as always, don’t forget to utilize the many great resources on the Coaches Corner**!** 
  + **Coaches Corner password:** yes2015