

YES! Update 2.26.2016

Announcements

* 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 Midwest has a highly energy-intensive economy with per capita emissions of greenhouse gases more than 20% higher than the national average. The region also has a large and increasingly utilized potential to reduce emissions that cause climate change.
* **So what can YOU do about Climate Change?** Eat local! Plant a garden at home or talk to school officials about creating a garden on your campus.

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 15, 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%2C%201%20column.pdf).
* Let us know what you thought of your Winter Workshop! Did it give you ideas about something you would love to have students learn about next year? If you haven’t already, let us know by taking the survey [here](http://www.youthenergysummit.org/teams-2/2015-2016-yes-winter-workshop-survey/)! And as always, don’t forget to utilize the many great resources on [the Coaches Corner!](http://www.youthenergysummit.org/resources-2/yes-coaches-corner/)
	+ **Coaches Corner password:** yes2015