

YES! **Update** 1.3.2017

Program Announcements

* YES! has been awarded a grant from the McKnight Foundation to add capacity for a Development Specialist and to offer additional project seed funds to teams for the next 2 years! --Shelli-Kae Foster/YES! Program Manager
* Team Reminders
	+ If your team has not already done so, please submit your selection of Winter Workshop your team is attending [here](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KP8MCDD)
	+ Please communicate with your coordinator about what your team identifies themselves as (YES! team, Earth YES! team, Green team, etc.)
	+ Please communicate with your coordinator if you’re interested in doing a community event with Climate Generation

Focus on Water Quality

* Install a greywater reuse system in the school to collect water from sinks, showers, etc.…for use in toilet flushing or irrigation. This would be a huge project and also would probably require a lot of extra grant dollars, but it would be SO COOL. Maybe the project could be fundraising to get one installed.
* Collecting water quality data for the local watershed district or environmental organization.

Regional Highlights

**Northeast:** Plans are underway for two YES teams in the NE to teach environmental lessons to elementary students. It fits well with the Chinese Proverb of: "I hear and I forget. I see and I remember. I do and I understand." It's exciting to have teams take on the role as educators because that means that they really understand the importance of spreading the word about taking care of our environment.

**West Central**: Mark your calendars! Sleigh Fest at Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center is occurring Sunday, February 12th, 2017 from 11am till 4pm. Free for Sleigh Event and the chilli feed; only $5/person ($15 max/family) for cross country skiing, snowshoeing, and indoor rock climbing. Learn more [here](http://prairiewoodselc.org/cushyfiles/Sleigh%20and%20Ski%20Festival_9_1115458621.pdf).

**Central:** Royalton is having YES! team members work with teachers at their school to develop a plan for green classrooms. They will be working to make environmentally friendly changes in each classroom while involving the teachers that work in those spaces.

**Southern**: Mankato West is working to educate elementary students in their region by producing a video that will help improve composting in the elementary schools. They plan to conduct a waste sort with assistance from Matt Domski of MnTAP before and after launching the video to determine the effectiveness of their efforts.

Regional Grants

* Include one grant specific to your region. Omit if there are none at the time of the update.

State & National Grants & Other Opportunities

* **February 1, 2017:** Green Teacher Webinar on Place-based Education presented by Amy Demarest. The presentation will include examples and discussion about what constitutes excellent place-based curriculum and student work and how these authentic products inspire deep learning. [Register here.](https://www.universe.com/events/place-based-education-tickets-T5YRWV)
* **February 11, 2017:** Teaching with Lake Superior Conference: Nature as a Resource at Great Lakes Aquarium. Full day conference is $20 and includes Aquarium admission, parking, coffee, snacks, and lunch. Find out more information [here](http://glaquarium.org/learning/for-teachers/professional-development/).
* **Deadline February 23, 2017:**Population Education is conducting the World of 7 Billion Student Video Contest.  Create a short video-up to 60 seconds-about human population growth that highlights one of the following global challenges: Climate Change, Ocean Health, or Rapid Urbanization.  Find out more information [here.](https://www.worldof7billion.org/student-video-contest/)
* **May 20, 2017:**The [25th Annual Solar Boat Regatta](https://www.mnrenewables.org/solar-boat-regatta/) is happening at Riley Lake in Eden Prairie, MN.  Build a solar boat and race against dozens of other teams from Minnesota!

YES! in the News

* [Fueling Appetites for Efficient Vehicles at Glencoe Winter Workshop](http://www.youthenergysummit.org/fueling-appetites-for-efficient-vehicles-at-glencoe-winter-workshop/)
* [Winter brings a salty issue to our ecosystem](http://www.youthenergysummit.org/winter-brings-a-salty-issue-to-our-ecosystem/)

