



YES! Update 11.21.2016

Program Announcements

- Good news! YES! was awarded a \$ 10,000 grant for being a finalist for the Bush Prize Award for Community Innovations! Although we were not selected as one of the 6 award winners, we learned a lot through the process and hope to continue partnering with the Bush Foundation in the future. -- Shelli-Kae Foster/YES! Program Manager
- Team reminders
 - Remember to submit at least one project idea through the YES! website by December 1! Read more about the process, and submit your ideas [here](#).
 - Winter Workshops are right around the corner! Start thinking about what topics your team wants to learn about, and send ideas to your coordinator as soon as possible.

Focus on Water Quality

- Looking for project ideas focusing on water quality? Replace school toilets, faucets, dishwashers, etc. to low-flow, energy star devices. Install faucets with automatic shut-off. If toilets or faucets can't be replaced, add aerators to faucets and toilet dams to toilets.

Regional Highlights

Northeast: With the Thanksgiving Holiday upon us, I want to challenge everyone to be thankful for our local foods community. Local growers work hard to provide us with nutritious food that is grown in a way that is beneficial to our communities and more importantly to our global environment. I would also challenge everyone to reduce the food waste this holiday season. Limit your portions and take seconds on what you want/need, use the leftovers for future meals, cook down the turkey carcass for soup just to offer a few ideas. Enjoy your holiday week!

West Central: Lac que Parle Valley YES! team has been hard at work planting their greenhouse. They are now in the process of discussing different ways to water their produce. They are working on devising a way to collect rain/snow from the green house roof to use instead of their only other choice, softened school water. I hope everyone has a great holiday week!

Southern: The Minnesota New Country School team is educating elementary students in their community about energy with kits received from Xcel Energy. They are also collecting data at their school to determine how much waste they are producing. Once the data is collected and analyzed, the team will create an education program to impact and reduce their waste.

State & National Grants & Other Opportunities

- **November 19, 2016 – January 1, 2017:** *Water/Ways* Exhibit has officially made its way to the Audubon Center of the North Woods. *Water/Ways* is a traveling exhibition and community engagement

initiative of the Smithsonian Institution's Museum on Main Street program. For more information please visit their [website](#).

- **Deadline November 25, 2016:** Project Polar Bear challenges student groups across the globe to take action on climate change. With the guidance of an advisor, middle and high school groups compete for a grant by creating a plan for a project that will help reduce reliance on fossil fuels and engage their communities. The top three high-scoring teams receive a grant of \$1,000, \$750, and \$300, respectively, to continue their projects. More information available on their [website](#).
- **Deadline December 8, 2016:** USDA Farm to School Grants are available to assist eligible entities in implementing farm to school programs that improve access to local foods in eligible schools. For application instructions and additional information, visit their [website](#).
- **Deadline December 22, 2016:** The [Green Ribbon Schools Awards](#) from the U.S. Department of Education are available to all prek-12 schools, school districts, and post-secondary institutions. They honor schools that:
 - Reduce environmental impact by conservation of energy, water and waste
 - Improve health and nutrition through gardens, food service and outdoor activities, and
 - Provide effective environmental education

YES! in the News

- [Area teams participate in 'YES! Fall Summit'](#)
- Cherry team: [Designing an Electric Vehicle](#)
- [Amazon Smile](#)
- New London-Spicer team: [NL-S YES! Team Highlights Local Food/School Gardening Project](#)
- Atwater-Cosmos-Grove City team: [ACGC switches to LED lights in School Parking Lot](#)

