



YES! Update 11.7.2016

Program Announcements

- We are excited to partner with Sauk River Watershed District to continue to support teams in the Central Region. Erin Nordquist will be the new YES! Central Coordinator. Help us welcome her to the team! You can read more about her on our blog [here](#).
- November 17 marks Give to the Max Day in Minnesota. Show your support for YES! by promoting our [GiveMN page](#) in your community, which helps raise funds for the winter workshops.
- Team reminders
 - If you haven't already, be sure to work with your coordinator to submit your team's \$500 participation fee for the year. Checks should be made out to PWELC with YES! in the memo. Refer to the [Team Registration Form](#) for further instructions on where to send it.
 - Submit a [guest blog post](#) on our website! Not only does this spread the word about what your team is working on, but it also looks good to our judging panel during spring competitions.

Regional Highlights

Northeast: The YES! team at Cherry High School was very interested in learning about how Electric Vehicles work. Instead of researching information on the internet or test driving one, they decided the best way to learn how they work is to build one! With the realization that a full blown passenger car would be too big of an undertaking, not to mention the expense and space needs, they decided to construct an electric go-cart. Check out the future blog on the YES! website for more details.

Northwest: Students at Discovery Woods Montessori in Brainerd are grabbing onto the theme of water conservation this year. Excited to start after having a fun time at the Fall Summit, the students are learning how to teach water conservation. They will then use their skills to teach the younger students in the school about conserving water both at school and at home.

Central: The Central region is excited to have a new coordinator in place to help support the teams. Help welcome Erin to the team by connecting with her at erin@srwdmn.org!

West Central: All the teams are off to a great start after hearing ideas at the Fall Summit. Lac qui Parle Valley is planning on helping their watershed create charts and graphs of water quality data from the previous years as well as planting in their green house. Other greenhouse updates: Yellow Medicine East broke ground constructing their LED green house! New London-Spicer is working on reducing food waste in their cafeteria including meeting with the school nutritionist for new meal taste testing this month. Atwater-Cosmos-Grove City's tree trench has been completed for the fall with planting of shrubbery to occur in the spring.

Southern: The Glencoe-Silver Lake team is gearing up for its annual winter workshop in December and is seeking input on dates from all teams interested in solar boat, solar car, electric car, or supermileage.

Contact Katelyn at katelyn@youthenergysummit.org if your team is considering any of these projects and would be interested in attending this workshop!

State & National Grants & Other Opportunities

- **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

- Forest Lake team: [Environmental club says YES! to community improvement projects](#)
- Westbrook-Walnut Grove team: [WWG students giving back to their community: Fifty-two youths participate in Earth YES program](#)
- Westbrook-Walnut Grove team: [WWG volunteer day, written by YES! students](#)

