YES! **Update** 4.18.2016

Program Announcements

* Final reports and presentations are due on April 25! Make sure you have yours turned into your coordinator by then. As an added convenience this year, you may submit your presentation and final report to us through [Coaches’ Corner](http://www.youthenergysummit.org/resources-2/yes-coaches-corner/).
* Thanks to the generosity of the Southwest Initiative Foundation (SWIF), YES! is launching into a Strategic Funding Development Plan with Vela Strategies. The staff are excited about the possibilities that lie ahead for securing a solid funding base for YES!.
* [YES! welcomes coordinator Kristine Madsen](http://www.youthenergysummit.org/yes-welcomes-coordinator-kristine-madsen/)

Regional Highlights

* 1. **Northeast**: Northern Lights Community School has finished construction of their green house and are in the process of designing and building a hydroponic system to be installed in the greenhouse. They will also be starting traditional plantings to go into the school garden by mid-May.

**West Central:** Atwater-Cosmos-Grove City and New London-Spicer YES! teams are working with the Middle Fork Crow River Watershed District on major projects at their schools. These projects will involve over $25,000 worth of work to improve water drainage and filtering ultimately reducing time, energy, money, and other natural resources currently used to deal with these issues.

* 1. **Central:** The Little Falls Middle School YES! team sponsored a ‘dark lunch’ on Wednesday, April 6 in their school building. While participation was optional, the team encouraged students, staff, and teachers to participate by turning off lights and electronics for the class period that included lunch in order to reduce the amount of electricity used by the school. Team members produced a video and handout to educate students and staff on how to participate in the event.
	2. **Southern**: The Springfield YES! Team is hosting a run on April 30, 2016 at 8 am entitled “Say Yes to Running Green 5K.” The route will wind through past team projects to showcase how the team has impacted the community, and team members will be at each stop to further explain the projects. Participants are encouraged to wear green to bring awareness to “green” living.

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

* Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships is seeking partners in Greater Minnesota for Deep Winter Greenhouses. They will provide half the cost to build one at your site. More info and application [here](http://www.extension.umn.edu/rsdp/statewide/deep-winter-greenhouse/). Submit application by **May 3, 2016**.
* Minnesota Youth Council is accepting applications for 2016-17 for young people between 8th and 12th grade who are passionate about issues facing youth in Minnesota. Application available [here](https://mnyouth.net/work/council/myc-application/).
* Discounted rates for the Climate Generation Summer Institute during the week of April 18-22. Register [here](http://www.climategen.org/summer-institute) today!
* Walmart offers $250-2,500 in grants through its [Community Grant Program](http://giving.walmart.com/walmart-foundation/community-grant-program). Deadline to apply is December 31, 2016.

YES in the News

* [Westbrook-Walnut Grove YES! Team works to complete their trombe walls](http://www.youthenergysummit.org/wwg-yes-project-trombe-wall/)

