YES! **Update** 7.5.2016

Program Announcements

* Is your city a [Minnesota GreenStep City](http://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/allCities.cfm)? If so, see if your team can partner with the city to help it accomplish best practices. Inquire whether one of your students can gain further experience by serving as an intern utilizing the [Internship Manual](http://www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org/blog/new-manual-helps-minnesota-greenstep-cities-structure-great-internships?mc_cid=fe823b421c&mc_eid=dd3e6c19d6) recently published by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.
* YES! has been awarded a major grant from the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund! This funding enables YES! to expand statewide to include up to 45 YES! teams and launch our first ever statewide YES! competition.
* YES! is one of the top 18 finalists for the Bush Prize award for Community Innovation! The next step in the process is a site visit, which will take place during the next several weeks.

Regional Highlights

* 1. **Northeast:** Northeast Clean Energy Resource Team’s (CERTs) Coordinator Bill Mittlefeldt recently retired, and Brian Bluhm is filling his place starting September. Brian will be working part-time as the Northeast CERTs Coordinator and part-time as the Iron Range Partnership for Sustainability Executive Director. If your team is in the Northeast cohort, be sure to welcome Brian to his new role!

**West Central**: The Smithsonian’s Water/Ways will be on view June 25th through August 7th at [Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center](https://www.facebook.com/prairiewoodselc/). Along with a traveling exhibition from the Smithsonian’s Museum on Main Street program, the Water/Ways exhibit includes local exhibits from a host of state and local partners, and special events. Find more information online at [www.prairiewoodselc.org/](http://www.prairiewoodselc.org/)

**Central**: The St. Cloud North Jr. High school got some extra seeding this week to continue the establishment and growth of their new rain garden. YES! contributed $200 for native seed, and Bre Bauerly from Minnesota Native Landscapes donated a large amount of native grass seed left over from a different project. A crew will be heading to the site on Friday for a weed control visit, and the seeds will be planted at the same time.

* 1. **Southern**: The Ney Nature Center’s solar panels have been installed! These will be a great educational tool in the fall. Contact the Ney Nature Center at (507) 248-3474 if your team is interested in scheduling a field trip to see the panels in action.

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

* Children’s Environmental Health Network (CEHN) is seeking nominations for its [2016 Nsedu Obot Witherspoon (NOW) Youth Leadership Award](http://www.cehn.org/nsedu-obot-witherspoon-youth-leadership-award/). The organization encourages submissions of youth ages 12-21 who are young leaders involved and committed to environmental health, participate in community action, and have strong leadership skills. Nominations are due July 15, 2016.
* Hike in Glacier National Park with two of Climate Generation’s staff through Climate Hike Glacier! Over the course of 4 days, you’ll see majestic 500-year old cedar forests under threat of wildfires and glaciers in fast retreat. More information [here](http://www.climateride.org/events/climate-hike).

YES! in the News

* [Sleepy Eye YES! Team wins awards for accomplishments](http://www.sleepyeyenews.com/news/20160623/yes-team-wins-awards-for-accomplishments)
* [Award-winning efforts: Albany environmental group recognized](http://www.albanyenterprise.com/articles/2016/06/01/award-winning-efforts)

