



# YES! Project Guide

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## TIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL YES! PROJECTS

Compiled by YES! Coaches

- After completing project proposal - when applicable, must obtain metrics before, during and after project
  - Examples:
    - Surveys
    - Energy Consumption Reports
    - Waste Volume
    - Customized Metric Sheet
    - Number of people affected
  
- Establish Important Relationships/Approvals
  - Examples
    - School Board
    - Administration
    - City Council
    - Faculty/Staff
    - Partner Organizations (Ney Nature Center, Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center, Lake Country Service Coop, Laurentian Environmental Center)
    - Community Resources (Meet your community assets without asking for anything - at least the first time)
      - Service Organizations
      - Business Groups
      - Utilities/Cooperatives
      - Climate Generation
      - CERT's
      - State and Local Environmental Centers/Parks
      - Watershed Districts
      - Service Cooperatives
  
- Establish Effective Communication Skills
  - Examples
    - Etiquette and Netiquette
    - Professional Emails/Phone Calls
    - Meeting new people
    - Interviews/conversation

- YES! Communications
  - Post YES! Blogs regularly
  - Visit Coaches Corner
  - Communicate with YES! Coordinator and utilize resources
  - Communicate publications and successes with coordinator
  
- Public Outreach
  - Education
  - Establish project buy-in in the community
  - Contact local media
  - Public presentations of projects/impact
  - Create or utilize school communication pathways
  
- Prepare for judging throughout the year
  - Complete metric sheets
  - **Take a lot of pictures**
  - Collect media publications and numbers
  - Create PPT slides as projects get completed
  - Practice presentations
  
- Choosing Projects
  - Look at long term vs short term
  - How many years will project be maintained? Plan to maintain project.
  - Find a balance between short (lightening) projects and long term projects
  - Make sure projects reflect student and community interest
  - Pick one project that can also generate revenue
  - Do one or more projects that incorporate the YES! theme of the year