



# YES! Accomplishments 2016-2017

This year marks 10 years of YES! We are excited to celebrate the 2016-2017 season, which included 28 teams and 534 students working on 118 projects across the state. This school year, YES! students directly worked with 697 non-YES! students and 78 local businesses and organizations to impact an additional 13,076 students and 8,392 community members.

This means that since its inception, YES! has supported 2,672 students in working with 4,533 local businesses, organizations and community members to impact an additional 82,795 students and 116,004 community members.



It is exciting to think about all of the great accomplishments of teams during the 10th season of YES!

During the 2016-2017 season, teams:

- Worked on 118 different energy action projects
- Diverted over 7,000 pounds of waste from landfills
- Represented 63 communities
- Engaged volunteers who contributed 8,075 hours of service
- Organized and participated in over 133 educational events in their schools and communities
- Completed 54 community events

Celebrate with us as we lift up the impact of the work of these amazing young people!



*YES! empowers youth to partner with their community to create economic and environmental vitality through hands-on learning and team-based projects.*

[www.youthenergysummit.org](http://www.youthenergysummit.org)

## 2016-2017 YES! Teams

### Atwater-Cosmos-Grove City

#### 9<sup>th</sup> year team

Completed a tree trench project with Arbor Day climate change educational event as part of a \$25,000 grant from the Middle Fork Crow River Watershed District. Collected holiday lights for recycling and over 130 pounds of shoes for reuse. Replaced parking lot lights with LEDs.



### Belle Plaine

#### 1<sup>st</sup> year team

Held a night hike to gain appreciation for creatures and nature at night. Organized a sleep-out to raise awareness of homelessness. Aided Ney Nature Center with improvements.

### Carlton

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> year team

Provided recycling education to their peers while expanding their recycling program. Implemented a school garden.

### Cherry (Iron)

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> year team

Designed and built an electric go-kart to better understand the concepts that drive electric vehicles.



### Discovery (Alexandria)

#### 1<sup>st</sup> year team

Worked in their school garden and planned for future projects.

### Discovery Woods (Brainerd)

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> year team

Learned how to teach water conservation to younger students and built rain barrels for use in their school garden.

### Forest Lake

#### 1<sup>st</sup> year team

Planted a pollinator garden. Focused heavily on waste reduction through education, recycling (4 large bins in common areas and 48 small bins for classrooms), and reducing plastic utensil use in their cafeteria. Educated peers at Earth Day and Ag Day events. Recycled holiday lights. Participated in Lobby Day to encourage environmental funding.



### Glencoe-Silver Lake

#### 5<sup>th</sup> year team

Built a supermileage vehicle to compete in the 29<sup>th</sup> annual Supermileage Challenge. Built a solar boat to compete in the 25<sup>th</sup> annual Solar Boat Regatta.



### Hutchinson

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> year team

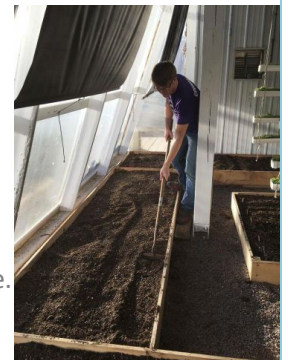
Built a tiny house with solar panels that will be put up for sale. Built a solar boat to compete in the 25<sup>th</sup> annual MRES Solar Boat Regatta.



### Lac qui Parle Valley

#### 9<sup>th</sup> year team

Helped their watershed district to create graphs of water quality. Worked on a device to collect precipitation from their greenhouse roof to use for watering. Planted and harvested in their school green house. Collected holiday lights and used shoes for reuse and recycling.



### Mankato West

#### 6<sup>th</sup> year team

Helped their local elementary and middle school switch from Styrofoam to compostable trays in their lunch rooms. Created a composting education video for their younger peers. Sorted waste and waste reduction education.



### Melrose

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> year team

Built bat boxes to raise awareness of declining populations of Northern Long-Eared bats. Continued to recycle in their school. Distributed new light bulbs and examined the use of power in their classroom lighting.

### Minnesota New Country (Henderson)

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> year team

Educated elementary students using Xcel Energy kits. Collected data on how much waste the school is generating and created an education program to reduce this amount including a recycling program. Worked on a greenhouse.





## New London-Spicer

10<sup>th</sup> year team

Reduced food waste. Successfully planted and harvested in their greenhouse and planted apple trees. Completed a vitality week with awareness days and trivia. Constructed bat houses as an integrated pest management system. Helped to build up the AquaHunter App by documenting aquatic invasive species in their area.



## New Prague Alternative Learning Center

1<sup>st</sup> year team

Designed a rain collection system. Planned a pollinator garden. Facilitated an orienteering course. Installed reminders to turn off lights. Established a rooftop garden. Collected shoes and cell phones for reuse and recycling.

## New Ulm

1<sup>st</sup> year team

Worked on food waste. Raised awareness of recycling. Secured larger recycling bins for classrooms. Researched and set up worm bins for food waste.

## Northeast Range (Babbitt)

2<sup>nd</sup> year team

Planned several environmental education activities for area elementary schools.

## Northern Lights Community (Warba)

3<sup>rd</sup> year team

Provided water education to younger students. Worked on their school garden.

## ROCORI

5<sup>th</sup> year team

Collected recycling from middle and high schools weekly. Worked to install another hydration station.



## Royalton

6<sup>th</sup> year team

Created green classrooms throughout their school through recycling and energy improvements. Went to Italy to learn about alternative energy methods and present about their past projects and experience with YES!

## Sartell-St. Stephen

2<sup>nd</sup> year team

Developed a water quality curricula they will use to teach younger students.

## Sleepy Eye

6<sup>th</sup> year team

Planted trees. Recycled shoes, holiday lights, and more. Educated community and peers. Worked to eliminate Styrofoam use in school cafeteria. Entered energy benchmarking data to determine which buildings need to reduce use.



## Springfield

9<sup>th</sup> year team

Recycled holiday lights. Conducted a fundraising pop tab drive. Added recycling bins to each classroom. Made educational videos about the new recycling bins and other environmentally important topics for their peers. Facilitated a 5K Fun Run past previous projects with proceeds donated to a water organization.

## St. Cloud North

2<sup>nd</sup> year team

Planted a native prairie pollinator habitat on their school grounds that will also serve as an outdoor classroom. Funding and education were provided through the Pheasants Forever Youth Pollinator Habitat Program.

## Virginia

1<sup>st</sup> year team

Researched and began plans related to restoring the shoreline of local Silver Lake and starting a composting program in their school lunchroom.

## Westbrook-Walnut Grove

8<sup>th</sup> year team

Added recycling bins in their school and documented recycling efforts through waste sorts. Gave presentations about water use and conservation. Hosted a volunteer day in community where they raked leaves. Continued previous projects including their solar pop can heaters. Conducted tire pressure checks and educated about impacts of improper inflation.



## Wrenshall

1<sup>st</sup> year team

Constructed a recycling center that will serve over 500 rural residents in Carlton County.

## Yellow Medicine East

7<sup>th</sup> year team

Planned to transfer crops from their LED greenhouse to their lunchroom. Researched worm composting. Collected shoes for WorldWear.



## 2016-2017 YES! Awards

### Statewide YES! Award

The First Annual State Competition Award Ceremony was held at Target Field on May 21<sup>st</sup> where the winners were announced on field. Glencoe-Silver Lake was awarded the 2017 State YES! Award for their dedication to their project, their outstanding teamwork, and their work on a real world problem.

This event was attended by over 100 YES! students, coaches, staff, and supporters in recognition of the four YES! teams that won the All-Star Award in their region. Teams present represented the following communities: Glencoe-Silver Lake, Wrenshall, Westbrook-Walnut Grove, and St. Cloud.



### Regional YES! Awards

At the end of each school year, YES! teams present their projects to a panel of local experts who act as judges. Awards are presented to teams who excelled in each award category. \$4500 was awarded to this year's award winners from each of the four YES! regions:

- **Project Impact Award:** Atwater-Cosmos-Grove City, Sartell, Sleepy Eye, Virginia
- **WOW Factor Award:** Carlton, Hutchinson, Sartell, Westbrook-Walnut Grove
- **Community Leadership & Education Award:** Lac qui Parle Valley, Melrose, Sleepy Eye, Virginia
- **Goal Setting & Teamwork Award:** Melrose, New London-Spicer, Westbrook-Walnut Grove, Wrenshall
- **All-Star Team Award:** Glencoe-Silver Lake, St. Cloud North, Westbrook-Walnut Grove, Wrenshall

### An Award-Winning Program

YES! teams aren't the only ones winning awards. The YES! program was recently recognized at the Character Recognition Awards Ceremony at the Minnesota State Office Building. This ceremony was made possible by the Synergy & Leadership Exchange as directed by Governor Dayton. The event focused on recognizing organizations and schools who have gone above and beyond in order to promote good character and ethical leadership.

The YES! program was one of three awardees to be presented with the Minnesota Ethical Leadership Award, as the panel was impressed with the character and ethical leadership development YES! provides to students.



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