

YES! Teams Shine Bright Across the State!



The Wrenshall YES! Team won the 26th annual Minnesota Renewable Energy Society (MRES) Solar Boat Regatta. The students used their knowledge of science, technology, engineering, and math to design and build a boat powered solely by the sun!



The Second Annual YES! State Competition Award Ceremony was held at Target Field on May 20th, attended by over 100 YES! students, coaches, staff, and supporters. YES! works hard to bring opportunities for students to showcase their hard work. Students were escorted onto the Twins field near home base during the pregame show, where Northern Lights Community School was awarded the 2018 State Champion Award for their dedication, outstanding teamwork, and focus on real world problems.



The 30th Annual Minnesota Technology and Engineering Educators Association (MTEEA) Supermileage Challenge was held May 14-15, 2018 at Brainerd International Raceway. The Glencoe-Silver Lake YES! Team entered 4 vehicles in this year's challenge. Their modified vehicles (Blue and Red in the photo) achieved mileages over 200 MPG and finished in the top ten. Their E-85 vehicle, Pink Cadillac, achieved a highest mileage of 250 MPG and also finished in the top ten. The purple Electric vehicle finished in 3rd place using an average of 9 watts of electricity per mile. Congratulations to the GSL YES! Team!

2017-2018 YES! Teams

Atwater-Cosmos-Grove City

10th year team

Installed energy efficient hand dryers in school bathrooms. Collected and recycled holiday lights and shoes. Educated elementary students at an Earth Day event. Collected 103 pounds of food through a food drive. Conducted a survey on food waste. Helped build up the AquaHunter App of aquatic invasive species.



Carlton

3rd year team

Hosted a Climate Convening with Climate Generation. Continued their composting project, collecting 5-10 pounds of food waste each day from their cafeteria. Organized a community cleanup and mentored younger students during this event.

Discovery Woods (Brainerd)

3rd year team

Collected data on their school food waste. Completed waste reduction projects with 4th-6th graders. Researched ways to make their school library lighting more energy efficient and cost effective. Applied for grants to pay for the lighting. Educated their community about energy savings.



Forest Lake

2nd year team

Hosted a screening of *Before the Flood* to educate others on climate change. Planted trees in their community. Collected 400 pounds of holiday lights for recycling. Maintained school recycling bins.

Glencoe-Silver Lake

6th year team

Designed and built two portable 120 volt solar chargers for students and staff to use in an out of school and to power their electric vehicles. Raised funds for their projects by recycling over 6,000 pounds of scrap metal. Entered 4 vehicles into the annual MTEEA Supermileage Challenge. Designed and built a boat to compete in the MRES Solar Boat Regatta. Displayed their vehicles at the MN State Fair and local expos.



Hutchinson

4th year team

Built another tiny house.

Lac qui Parle Valley

10th year team

Continued to plant and harvest in their school deep winter green house.

Mankato West

7th year team

Hosted screenings of *An Inconvenient Truth*, *An Inconvenient Sequel*, and *A Sea Change* and discussed the films with their peers. Worked to switch back to using reusable silverware in the cafeteria rather than plastic utensils. Made a sculpture to showcase what a week of plasticware looks like (2378 utensils) to help students visually understand the magnitude of the issue.



Melrose

3rd year team

Sold LED light bulbs provided by their local utility and educated their community about energy savings. Used the money generated to purchase smart power strips for teachers and increase the number of school garbage stations. Designed signs for these garbage stations. Worked on Hemker zoo animal enrichment research. Planned Earth Day activities for local 2nd graders.



Moorhead Youth Educational Services

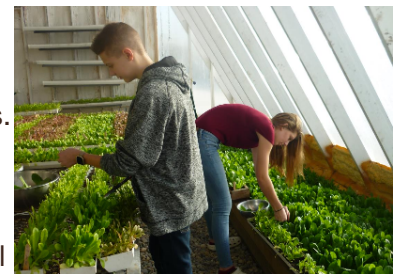
1st year team

Researched ways to impact the college where they meet. Completed clean energy education.

New London-Spicer Middle School

11th year team

Installed energy efficient hand dryers in their school bathrooms. Continued to plant and harvest in their deep winter green house and supply their school cafeteria with fresh vegetables. Promoted local foods in their community and sold products they harvested. Presented to each middle school classroom during Energy Week. Taught 300 elementary students about water quality, worm composting and gardening, wind energy, insect adaptation, and integrated pest management.



New London-Spicer High School

1st year team

Continued aquatic invasive species survey on local lakes. Planned and hosted a youth climate convening for their community with Climate Generation. Educated peers on aquatic invasive species. Replaced old light fixtures in the high school parking lot with LED lights.

New Prague Alternative Learning Center

2nd year team

Created 2 pollinator gardens and planted 2 apple trees. Composted over 300 gallons of waste. Installed rain barrels and collected and used 200 gallons of water. Created 5 natural playscapes for the Ney Nature Center. Received the "Outstanding Volunteer of the Year" award from Ney Nature Center. Planned the first "Community Green Day" in their town. Planted over 500 vegetable plants for their school and community gardens.



New Ulm

2nd year team

Improved the signage on hallway recycling bins. Collected and sorted classroom recycling weekly. Set up worm bins and allowed classes to check them out. Removed invasive buckthorn and garlic mustard.

Northern Lights Community (Warba)

4th year team

Hosted a Climate Convening including resource tables, solutions workshops, and climate change storytellers. Raised trout and released them into an area stream. Built an aquaponic tank. Adopted Ice Lake and cleaned up garbage and debris around the lake. Continue to collect, weigh, and keep data on the amount of lunch waste produced, which has decreased to zero! Cultivated and planted their school greenhouse. Participated and presented at community events.

Pillager and Staples-Motley

1st year teams

Organized a clean energy/energy efficiency workshop.

ROCORI

6th year team

Worked to install a 4-panel solar project for their school courtyard. Continued to compile weekly recycling. Collected shoes throughout their district for the World Wear Project and partnered with the ROCORI Community Closet to provide clothing for those in need. Ran a trial composting project.



Sartell-St. Stephen

3rd year team

Helped educate 1300 students on waste reduction. Researched and lobbied for bulk milk in the lunch room to replace paper cartons, to be trialed in the fall. Tracked school paper usage, challenged school to use less. Placed recycling bins in all classrooms and lunchroom. Made a video to train peers on proper recycling in the lunchroom.

Sleepy Eye

7th year team

Participated in river monitoring through the MN Valley River Watch Program. Updated outdoor security lighting to energy efficient fixtures and LED lighting. Created a pollinator garden at a local apartment complex. Promoted proper recycling and energy efficiency. Hosted interactive booth at local summer events. Entered energy benchmarking data. Created bee boxes.



Springfield

10th year team

Collected 250 pounds of pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House and 700 pounds of holiday lights for recycling.

Virginia

2nd year team

Continued their shoreline restoration on Silver Lake including presenting at a City Council meeting about their progress. Presented posters at their local EarthFest and won a People's Choice Award.

Westbrook-Walnut Grove

9th year team

Collected and recycled holiday lights. Worked to build a Surrey Bike to transport students. Recycled 33,000 plastic bags. Recycled 2,700 cans, plastic, and glass bottles. Collected 65,000 pop tabs for recycling through the Ronald McDonald House. Up-cycled lights and bottles into planters.

Wrenshall

2nd year team

Finished building their community recycling center. Designed and built a solar boat and a high mileage vehicle for the Supermileage Challenge.

Yellow Medicine East

8th year team

Installed a hydration station. Designed an educational sign for their community garden. Researched starting a solar garden.



11th Season of YES!

We are excited to celebrate the 2017-2018 season, which included 26 teams and 435 students working on 150 projects across the state. This school year, YES! students directly worked with 1,500 additional students, local businesses and organizations to impact an additional 10,000 students and 5,000 community members.

Since its inception, YES! has supported 3,580 students in working with 6,582 local businesses, organizations and community members to impact an additional 110,484 students and 139,176 community members.



During the 2017-2018 season, teams:

- Volunteered for over 8,000 hours
- Worked on 150 different projects
- Served 150 communities
- Organized and participated in 49 educational events in their schools and communities
- Completed 35 community events
- Hosted 3 community Climate Convenings with Climate Generation



YES! is supported in part by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Natural Resources. Major funding is also provided by McKnight Foundation, Waste Management, and Southwest Initiative Foundation (SWIF).