



YES! Update 1.21.2020

Program Announcements

YES! is excited to be a resource organization and partner with **GreenStep Schools**. I encourage your school to sign up for the MN GreenStep Schools Pilot Launch "50 by 50!" The goal is to have 50 schools sign up by the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day.

Click [here](#) to find out more and to join! ~Shelli-Kae, YES! Program Director

Regional Highlights

Northeast (Laurentian Environmental Center) – Last Monday, I was able to meet with the Voyageurs Expeditionary School where their team came up with some great projects to take on this year. The Carlton YES! team will be attending the "Race 2 Reduce Summit" on January 21st to learn about current issues surrounding water in Minnesota. ~Sam Horner

West Central (Prairie Woods ELC) – The NL-S High School YES team is planning on doing a district-wide Eco Art Competition to raise environmental awareness surrounding our 50th Earth Day Anniversary coming up! The finalists will display their art at the Prairie Woods ELC Earth Day event on April 18th where community members will get a chance to vote for their favorite piece. ~Taylor Templer

Southern (Ney Nature Center) – Thank you to Compeer Financial for supporting our YES! teams in the Southern and West Central regions! Compeer recently announced that YES! will receive a grant for \$4,500; these generous funds will help support ag-related projects and education. ~Deb Groebner

Metro – The Rockford Middle School YES! Team has developed a number of energy and environmental projects for the year including planting a pollinator garden, conducting a B3 Benchmarking analysis to identify opportunities to save energy and reduce operating costs at their school, and developing methods to reduce food waste and improve recycling. Keep up the great work! ~Tom McDougall

Upcoming YES! Workshops

Central Prairies – February 26th at Southwest Minnesota State University in Marshall

Reduce Plastics and Keep Waste in its Place to Protect Our Waters! – March 4th at Crow Wing County Solid Waste & Recycling in Brainerd.

Help Our Waters – March 11th at Prairie Woods ELC in Spicer

Other Events/Opportunities

Climate Conversations: Ice Harvest January 25th 10 am-3 pm at the Richardson Nature Center, for more information click [here!](#)

Youth Climate Justice Summit 2020 February 26th 8:30 am-3:00 pm at the Good Neighbor Center, for more information click [here!](#)

YES! Blog

[Virginia YES! Team Visits St. Louis County Regional Landfill](#)

Other News

[Greta Thunberg Short Video](#)

[MCCOLLUM INTRODUCES MINING BAN NEAR BWCA](#)

[Five Environmental Consequences of Australia's Fires](#)