



Youth Eco Solutions (YES!) empowers MN youth in grades 7 - 12 to create solutions to today's ecological challenges through hands-on action projects.

YES! students:

- Learn about **energy, waste reduction, local foods, soil health, habitat restoration, water quality issues, climate change** and more
- Become **community advocates and leaders**
- **Solve** real-life challenges, **fulfill** community needs, and **build** lifelong skills

Through YES! team projects, students have:

- Cleaned up local lakes and rivers, restored shorelines, built rain barrels, and planted rain gardens
- Installed a \$25,000 tree trench
- Reduced school electricity costs by \$5,000 annually
- Reduced cafeteria food waste by over 50%
- Operated a passive solar greenhouse
- Restored native prairies
- Created a new vehicle that achieves 425 miles per gallon
- Taught elementary students and community members about environmental issues
- Hosted community events including Youth Covering Minnesota
- Impacted 345,850 additional students and community members



School administrators, teachers, businesses, and community members play a key role in the success of YES! team projects. Since 2007, more than 7,250 local businesses, organizations, and community members have been involved with YES!

I think one of the best things about YES! is that the kids learn that they are not observers of the system, they are part of the system...and for us it's really being part of the community.

~Yes Coach

A Year in the Life of a YES! Team

	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun - Aug
Attend Fall Summit	★	★								
I.D. Community Needs & Assets	★	★								
Plan Team Projects	★	★	★							
Develop Community Partners		★	★	★						
Implement Team Projects			★	★	★	★	★	★	★	
Collect Evidence of Projects Impacts			★	★	★	★	★	★	★	
Attend YES! Workshop/Tours			★	★	★	★	★			
Assemble Final Report							★	★		
Present Work for YES! Competition								★	★	
Attend YES! Awards Ceremony									★	
Showcase Team in Community										★
Optional: Summer Activity or Project										★

Students have opportunities to interact with students from other YES! teams.

Funding Resources for YES! Teams

- The YES! program provides project seed funds to teams. Each team is eligible for district expense reimbursement, like transportation & substitute teacher fees. (Amount available varies from year to year.)
- By participating in the YES! program, teams compete for YES! awards and cash prizes.
- YES! coordinators assist teams with seeking additional support from local organizations and businesses, fundraisers, and grants.

Choose a YES! format that works best for you and your team!

- YES! as an Elective Course
- YES! as part of an Existing Class
- YES! as an Extracurricular Club
- YES! as a Community Council

Visit the [Start a YES! Team Page](https://yesmn.org) on our website (yesmn.org) to learn more and access the Team Registration Form!

Questions? Email sayyes@yesmn.org or reach out to staff directly.



INSTITUTE ON THE
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