



# 2023- 2024 Activity Checklist



## Directions:

Complete three or more items from the following checklist. Choose a minimum of two activities and one research project. Submit photos and descriptions to [kalley@yesmn.org](mailto:kalley@yesmn.org) and YES will supply donuts to celebrate YOUR Teams' accomplishments.

Deadline for checklist items: **March 15, 2024**

## BUILDING COMMUNITY WITHIN YES & BEYOND

- Activity:** Connect with YES Director to plan an in person visit and local activity such as hiking, gardening, team building, etc.
- Activity:** Connect and build relationships with other YES teams throughout the state.
- Activity:** Raise money or do a food drive for a local food shelf.
- Research:** Listen to an environmental podcast and share your favorite episodes with YES to post on the Website under 'Resources'.
- Activity:** Connect with your local DNR and be prepared to ask him or her questions.
- Activity:** Attend YES Fall Summit

## ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

- Activity:** Engage younger students through environmental education.
- Activity:** Teach younger students the importance of pollinators by making bee condos out of recycled cans and paper.
- Research:** Research Keystone species in Minnesota, observe how climate change and human life has impacted their populations and discover how this has impacted Minnesota's ecosystem.
- Activity:** Plan a local workshop for your YES team to learn about something you are interested in, such as: water conservation, land restoration, waste reduction, climate change, green careers, environmental justice, local foods & gardening, solar energy and/or energy conservation.

## WATER CONSERVATION

- Activity:** Calculate daily water use at school.
- Activity:** Start a rain water collection - using water to help local plants and/or your school garden thrive.
- Research:** How do plastics affect local waterbodies?
- Activity:** Dedicate a time to clean up local beaches and waterbodies.
- Activity:** Test local waterbodies to determine quality and brainstorm ideas for improvement.

## LAND RESTORATION

- Activity:** Campus clean up.

## WASTE REDUCTION

- Activity:** Observe the recycling process in your school, brainstorm improvements and share with leaders.
- Activity:** Create recycled paper.
- Activity:** Visit the local recycling center.

## CLIMATE CHANGE

- Research:** Watch "[Minnesota Stories in a Changing Climate: Where Art Meets Air](#)"
- Research:** Watch "[Minnesota Stories in a Changing Climate: Where Cattle Meets Climate](#)"
- Research:** Watch "[Minnesota Stories in a Changing Climate: Where Climate Meets Community](#)"
- Activity:** Complete the En-ROADS Climate Workshop, an interactive group exercise guided by a trained facilitator from UMN.

## GREEN CAREERS

- Activity:** Connect with a local green career professional to mentor your YES team throughout the season.
- Research:** Choose a green career and learn how to pursue beyond high school.
- Activity:** Connect with YES Alumni and ask about their careers and how they got there.
- Research:** Watch "[Green Careers for a Changing Climate Documentary](#)"

## LOCAL FOODS & GARDENING

- Activity:** Start a school garden.
- Research:** Watch "[Minnesota Stories in a Changing Climate: Where Food Meets Farming](#)"

## ENERGY CONSERVATION

- Activity:** Connect with your regional CERTs (Clean Energy Resource Team) representative.
- Research:** Learn about [Energy Store](#)
- Research:** Learn about [Energy Assessment and Benchmarking](#)
- Research:** Learn about [Energy Efficient Lighting](#)
- Research:** Help your local food shelf save energy; learn more [here](#)
- Research:** Learn about [Energy Saving Equipment on the Farm](#)
- Research:** Learn about [Reducing the Energy Burden for All Minnesota Families](#)

## SOLAR ENERGY

- Research:** Learn about the [Simple Steps to Solar](#)
- Research:** Encourage your [School to Go Solar](#)
- Research:** Learn about [Minnesota's Renewable Energy](#).
- Research:** Watch "[The Power of Minnesota](#)"