



2024- 2025 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 jake@yesmn.org and YES will supply doughnuts to celebrate YOUR Teams' accomplishments.

Deadline for checklist items: **April 15, 2025**

Animal Habitat & Health

- Activity:** Visit Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center in Spicer, Minnesota, and further expand your knowledge of Minnesota wildlife through their "Mammals" or "Eco-Connections" class.
*Virtual option available
- Activity/Research:** Learn about wolves by visiting Minnesota's [International Wolf Center](#) located in Ely and/or sign up and attend one of their webinars.
- Activity/Research:** Learn about bears by visiting the North American Bear Center located in Ely, Minnesota, and/or explore the center's [educational resources](#).
- 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. Write a blog for the YES Website highlighting your findings.

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:** Participate and complete the five day En-ROADS Climate Workshop, an interactive group exercise guided by a trained facilitator from UMN.

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](#)

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

- Activity:** Engage younger students through environmental education and activities.
- 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.

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](#)"

LAND RESTORATION

- Activity:** Campus clean up.
- Research:** Take steps in learning how to restore prairie and/or create a pollinator habitat on school grounds.

LOCAL FOODS & GARDENING

- Activity:** Start a school garden....Raise money/volunteer at community food shelf
- Research:** Watch "[Minnesota Stories in a Changing Climate: Where Food Meets Farming](#)"

RECYCLING & UPCYCLING

- Activity:** Teach younger students the importance of pollinators by making bee condos out of recycled cans and paper.
- Activity:** Study the recycling process in your school, brainstorm improvements and share with leaders.
- Activity:** Create recycled paper.
- Activity:** Visit the local recycling center.
- Activity:** Schedule and participate in an Upcycling Workshop with YES Staff

SOLAR ENERGY

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

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.
- Activity:** Schedule and participate in an AIS Workshop with DNR expert or YES Staff.
- Activity:** Conduct a survey of AIS in a local waterway.
- Research:** Research aquatic invasive species in Minnesota and discover how they have impacted Minnesota's ecosystem. Write a blog for the YES Website highlighting your findings.