



# Youth Energy Summit (YES!)

## What is YES! ?

YES! is a team-oriented youth program that uses hands-on, experiential learning and energy action projects to address energy opportunities and issues in rural Minnesota communities.

The goal of YES! is to inspire widespread adoption of renewable energy technology and energy conservation practices which contribute to the environmental and economic health of rural Minnesota communities.

YES! has achieved this by developing the talents of young people – knowledge, networks, leadership skills related to renewable energy and has encouraged them to be inspired, innovative and entrepreneurial with our energy future.

Through team visits and events throughout the school year, YES! staff works intensively with teams to create action plans, assess community assets and needs, identify and involve community partners, and link teams with further funding resources in an effort to match students' passion with a real need and opportunity in their community.

## Why YES! ?

YES! provides a unique opportunity for students to learn by engaging directly in community efforts that lead to dramatic demonstrations of renewable energy technology and conservation practices and exposes them to how science is applied in real life. What results is a *dramatic return-on-investment!*

## 2010 Results

<b>Secured 24 teams, and engaged 275 students</b>	<i>20 active teams with 275 students directly involved 9,000 additional students impacted through teams' projects</i>
<b>Saved energy</b>	<i>ACGC YES! team alone saved 5% of the school's energy</i>
<b>Produced renewable energy &amp; local foods</b>	<i>Teams completed projects using solar, wind, green roofs, biomass burners &amp; developed greenhouses and community gardens</i>
<b>Engaged surrounding communities</b>	<i>Outreach and education for over 42,000 community members &amp; 100 businesses engaged</i>

## 2010-2013 Goals

<b>Expand current number of teams &amp; partnerships</b>	<i>Expand program adding to the existing West Central and SW regions &amp; build partnerships for statewide replication</i>
<b>Complete energy conservation and renewable energy projects.</b>	<i>YES! staff visits and hands-on learning help match student interests with local needs &amp; resources to implement energy projects</i>
<b>Engage Community</b>	<i>Professional partnerships and technical advice put teams in a position to achieve real results with energy projects</i>  <i>Expanded outreach, education and involvement of community members, businesses and organizations</i>

YES! projects have raised public awareness of renewable energy, energy conservation, and climate change. For example, the New London-Spicer YES! team initiated a \$45,000 energy efficiency upgrade of their community theatre. This included an innovative solar heating system which has inspired at least three other solar heating projects to date. Other YES! teams have achieved equally impressive outcomes including: a winter community greenhouse heated by solar and biomass; solar electric installations for schools; community-wide electronics recycling days; composting and waste-reduction programs in schools; and many more.

Guidance provided by YES! staff as well as the interactions with businesses and industry experts, leads to ambitious renewable energy and energy conservation projects that demonstrate an impact in the greater community beyond school walls. Over 80% of the teams this year used the skills and information they gained through YES! to expand awareness of renewable energy and conservation in their communities, impacting over 9,000 additional students and 42,000 community members.

### *We need your support...*

YES! is a proven youth education model that increased the knowledge and skills of 9,000 students and 42,000 community members in this season alone. The education provided through YES! and its students has helped communities build long-lasting and action-based demonstration projects that lead to increased awareness of caring for our natural environment while building on economic opportunities for rural areas. Students and community members are educated on conservation, efficiency, renewable energy, local foods and other energy topics that lead to sustainable living.

Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center (PWELC) and the Southwest Initiative Foundation (SWIF) partnered to pilot and develop the program in its first two seasons. This past season, the support of the Minnesota Renewable Energy Marketplace allowed the size of the program to double and add two new partners: Prairie Ecology Bus Center (PEBC), and the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF). With your support, YES! Teams will initiate youth-led renewable energy and energy conservation projects across the state of Minnesota and offer the YES! program as a strong statewide model which multiplies the impact of other public and private sector renewable energy and conservation programs.

Environmental learning centers, economic development agencies, and stakeholders in several areas of the state have committed their support to YES!. Your support will help to not only continue to expand YES!, but also keep the momentum moving forward to put energy into our future and help our rural communities be environmentally friendly and sustainable!

For more information, visit [www.youthenergysummit.org](http://www.youthenergysummit.org)  
or contact us at [sayyes@youthenergysummit.org](mailto:sayyes@youthenergysummit.org).

