

## 2007-2008 Program Highlights



### *A Sampler of Energy Action Projects*

Overall goals of YES! energy action projects were to conserve energy, to generate clean and renewable energy, or to reduce climate change emissions within their own communities.

The **Montevideo** team used a grant to display solar-powered holiday lights in downtown Montevideo. Team members also created three short films to enter into the inaugural Green Carpet Film Festival and post on YouTube. The team supported alternative energies at a public hearing to, and researched energy audits for their community.

The **Morris** team approached the growing energy problem from different directions, with the goal of having an impact in their community. Education was included as the key to making real change. Their four main projects included: 1) a district-wide recycling program, with students collecting and sorting the materials on a surprise rotational basis, 2) a county-wide free electronic waste recycling day, 3) a shoreline restoration project for a local park, and 4) solar panels placed on their elementary school building, which is a project that the team will continue into next year.

The **New London-Spicer** team improved energy efficiency at New London's Little Theatre by installing CFLs, researching recycling options, and doing the research and background work involved in the installation of insulation using "green" materials. The team pursued grants to help pay for insulation. They also researched a wind turbine appropriate for use on the Little Theatre. Finally, they developed an educational program called BUG—Buy Local, Use less, and Go Green—for use with elementary-aged students in their district .

The **New Century Charter School (Hutchinson)** team increased community awareness of the benefits of composting, to divert compostable garbage from landfills. The team undertook school and community education via tours and presentations at Creekside Composting Facility. The team also planned and held an Earth Day event at their school, including a "black-out" of electrical use.

The **Willmar** team worked with consultants and many community partners to undertake the renovation of a greenhouse. The greenhouse is being developed as a functioning model site for year-round food production. The team explored many heating options for the greenhouse, insulated the facility, did significant renovation, and began raising greens for the school cafeteria. An experimental biomass burner and recycled solar thermal panels are in place to heat the greenhouse. Community partners will assist in furthering the project, along with different departments at Willmar High School.

## **2007-2008 YES! Award Summary**

Cash awards are to be used for a project that furthers the mission and spirit of the YES! program.

Grand Prize Award (\$1000) ..... Morris  
Community Engagement Award (\$500) ..... Willmar  
Long-term Vision Award (\$500) ..... Willmar  
Carbon Footprint Award (\$500) ..... Morris  
Energy Conservation Award (\$500) ..... NLS  
Economic Impact Award (\$500) ..... New Century Charter School (Hutchinson)