



Summary of YES! 2009-2010 Team Goals and Energy Action Projects

ATWATER-COSMOS-GROVE CITY YES!

Mission/Goals: Continue energy awareness strategies throughout the community and school, monitor our recycling efforts, implement school lunch waste composting, and reduce our energy usage and carbon footprint through energy-efficient lighting and solar energy.

Energy Action Project: Increase energy awareness in our school and community; continue to encourage and expand recycling at our schools; implement school lunch waste composting; work with local electrician for advice on modifications to reduce hallway and restroom lighting as well as the timing of security lights; and research the potential for solar panels for our school.

Community Supporters: ACGC School District, Glenn Barker (local electrician), City of Grove City, Councilman Bill Houselog

BIRD ISLAND, OLIVIA, LAKE LILLIAN YES!

Mission: To make a greener school and community by cutting energy usage and costs.

Goal: To educate the community on ways to use less energy and conserve natural resources that are depleting by setting a good example for future projects, and motivating other businesses and schools to do the same.

Energy Action Project: Install energy efficient exit signs; purchase true power meters to test areas around the school on how much energy is being used and try to reduce that amount; and use meters for educational event having students take them home to track home usage and encourage conservation.

Community Supporters: BOLD and St. Mary's Schools, Renville County HRA/EDA, Community Earth Council, Olivia Kiwanis, local business to install exit signs

EDEN VALLEY-WATKINS YES! (CARBON CUTTING EAGLES)

Mission: To reduce the community's carbon footprint.

Goals: Educate the community about various low-energy alternatives and energy usage, establish behavior changes that encourage conservation, and purchase equipment that uses less energy.

Energy Action Project: Develop activities for all grades at the elementary level and lead students through activities and games to learn about carbon reduction, renewable energy and energy conservation; work with local businesses and the local newspaper to encourage the purchase of energy-efficient and renewable products and conservation; engage students and staff in behavior changes such as car-pooling, biking, turning off appliances, etc.; and research the potential for solar energy.

Community Supporters: Darryl Thayer (local certified solar installer), John McCann (community volunteer), EVW School District, Local newspaper, other local businesses

GIBBON-FAIRFAX-WINTHROP YES! CARBON REDUCTION TEAM

Mission: To reduce GFW Schools carbon footprint, research energy alternatives and provide educational outreach to our communities.

Goals:

- Provide students with relevant opportunities that prepare them for life outside of high school.
- Enhance the working relationship with our partners
- Provide educational opportunities to all of our schools in GFW
- Develop energy projects for GFW High School that assist students with learning, the reduction of pollutants, and provide energy savings to the district

Energy Action Project: Research Alternative Energy Solutions (specifically wind and solar), Green Roof's, Compositing and Educational Outreach. Students have joined groups based on these four projects. Each group will research specifics in their area, work with experts in the field, design a system for GFW and then present information about the projects to our communities. An energy audit has already been completed and energy usage data collected. They plan to implement a green roof and a composting program within the current season.

Community Supporters: GFW School District, Winthrop EDA, City Council. Experts for the alternative energy solutions are still under consideration.



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HUTCHINSON FFA YES!

Mission/Goals: Reduce the number of dumpsters used at the High School and reduce the waste being disposed of at the landfill, diverting it to recycling and composting facilities.

Energy Action Project: Increase the number of composting bins and recycling containers located throughout the school; build a recycling roll-off container to reduce the space needed for storage; develop and present educational programs for students, staff and faculty, including tours of CreekSide's Organic Material Processing Facility; develop a student program to monitor and prevent contamination; and include educational components about waste reduction Ecology, Health, Wildlife and Natural Resources, Agricultural Leadership, Horticulture, and Forestry and Natural Resources.

Community Supporters: HHS School District, FFA, CreekSide Soils, McLeod County Waste Management, City of Hutchinson

LAC QUI PARLE VALLEY YES!

Mission/Goals: Complete the installation of solar panels on school property, implement a large scale composting project (both begun through last year's YES! team) and educate the community.

Energy Action Project: Work with a solar company to complete installation of solar panels; expand the current composting project; conduct a "Change a Light, Change the World" project in conjunction with Otter Tail Power (delivering over 400 CFL bulbs to residents); and conduct a "Phantom Load Forum" to teach community members about the sources of Phantom Loads and how to reduce their effect on energy consumption.

Community Supporters: Minnesota Ag Education Leadership Council, Otter Tail Power Company, City of Milan, Milan Sustainable Energy Unit, Lac qui Parle Economic Development Authority, entity to purchase/install solar panels

LITCHFIELD YES!

Mission/Goals: Make students and community members more aware of green issues, increase recycling in the school district and work toward improvements in the energy efficiency and conservation of our school.

Energy Action Project: Host weekly "green" activities such as announcements, games and articles in the local press; hold a "Green Week" at all school buildings complete with contests, widespread communication, and assembly with a guest speaker; add recycling containers and increase recycling in the schools through education and student involvement; and research ways to decrease the energy used in school buildings.

Community Supporters: Litchfield School District and staff, Meeker County staff, West Central Sanitation, local press

MARSHALL FFA YES!

Mission: To make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premiere leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education.

Goals:

- To provide wind energy education opportunities to 5th and 6th graders in the Lyon County Area
- To develop a showcase activity that will promote energy efficiency by home owners and renters in the Marshall area
- To clean up the Redwood River with the help of the Marshall community on Earth Day 2010
- To begin Phase 1 of the Marshall Green Park by planting dormant wild prairie grass seeds along the Redwood River in downtown Marshall

Energy Action Project: Work with the Lyon County Extension Service 4-H to teach wind energy curriculum to 5th and 6th graders that not only educates about wind energy but also teaches the children problem solving and critical thinking skills; work with area organizations on the "Biggest Reducer", a project showcasing 6 households in the Marshall area as they go through an energy audit, track their energy usage for a month, and local press helps us show community members what can be done to reduce energy usage and save money; plan a community Earth Day activity including a clean up of the



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Redwood River; begin Phase 1 of the Marshall Green Park by planting dormant wild prairie grass seeds along the Redwood River in downtown Marshall; and create an internship opportunity for a high school student who is interested in a career as a agricultural educator (this student will lead the activities of the YES! team and serve as a community liaison).

Community Supporters: Lyon County Extension Service/4-H, Marshall Area Environmental Education Team, Southwest Minnesota State University, Marshall Municipal Utilities, Lyon-Lincoln Electric, Southwest/West Central Service Cooperative, Marshall Independent, Marshall Public Access, Western Community Action Agency

MORRIS STUDENT ENERGY LEADERSHIP TEAM

Mission: The Student Environmental Leadership Team (SELT) YES! approaches the growing energy problem from different directions, with the goal of having an impact in their community. Education is included as the key to making real change.

Goals: SELT addresses Reducing, Recycling, Reusing and Cleaning of the Earth's resources through projects with monthly Environmental Education, Action, and Political components around recycling, protecting the river, energy monitoring, and electronic waste collection.

Energy Action Project: Implement a district wide recycling program, with students collecting and sorting the materials on a surprise rotational basis; a county wide free electronic waste recycling day; a shoreline restoration project for a local park that includes education for the community and students working with local and state political leaders to help ensure that the river system is protected; and identify energy spikes in the school district using a Web based energy monitoring software and then identify ways to reducing those spikes allowing the school to save money on its energy costs, reduce the schools carbon usage, and positively affect our environment.

Community Supporters: Stevens County Soil and Water Conservation District, University of Minnesota Morris, Department of Natural Resources, Pomme de Terre River, Ottertail Power, Morris School District, Morris Area Community Education, Stevens County Environmental Services Department, Morris City Council, Jack's Recycling

NEW LONDON-SPICER YES!

Mission: Employ innovative technology to reduce energy use at the New London Little Theatre, using demonstration projects, educational methods, and local labor to achieve our goals.

Goals:

- Install solar thermal panels on New London Little Theatre
- Facilitate school and home composting
- Plant food-producing perennials on school grounds
- Implement an elementary school environmental/energy education Outdoor Science day

Energy Action Project: Work with a local business to install a passive solar thermal system to cut the fuel needed to heat the Little Theatre; research donated, recycled, and inexpensive designs for composting school waste and creating home composting units; work with our school's food and janitorial services to demonstrate the amount of school waste that could be composted and recycled; set up more appropriate waste management processes; help students and other community members create composting units for their home; using compost created from school waste, research appropriate food plants, purchase them, and plant them on school grounds; and carry out a day-long environmental education Outdoor Science project with 1st-3rd grade students to help them understand environmental/energy issues.

Community Supporters: Little Theatre Little Crow Players, Three Seasons & More, NLS School and Staff, NL Township, American Legion, Spicer Lion's Club, Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs)

NEW ULM HIGH SCHOOL YES! TEAM

Mission: To create a healthy and educated community, raise environmental awareness and become an energy efficient society.

Goals: Educate the community and students on reducing carbon emissions, saving energy, and utilizing alternative energy sources.

Energy Action Project: Purchase energy saver meters to be checked out at the school and public libraries to help community members understand their energy use and



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encourage conservation; hold “Dress Warm Wednesdays” to turn the heat down in the school each Wednesday; put up weekly posters with energy/carbon reduction facts; hold kid days at the elementary schools on energy conservation using games and a video made by the team; help sixth grade students build solar panel kits to educate them on alternative energy; and hand out CFLs and sapling trees to the elementary students.

Community Supporters: New Ulm Public Utilities Commission, the New Ulm Public Library, Brown County REA, Rivercreek Nursery, Soil Conservation Service

NEW ULM PUTTING GREEN YES!

Mission: To “raise awareness, make our future brighter, and clean up the mess we are leaving behind”. In working towards this goal, we will help create a more sustainable school and community. Sustainability means managing our natural resources to not only meet our needs today, but to meet the needs of future generations.

Goals: Through the “Eco-Cool Café” implement food composting and improve the energy efficiency of the cafeteria; Raise student and community awareness about energy issues related to food through community events, presentations, and field trips.

Energy Action Project: The “Eco-Cool Café” will include collecting food waste from the school cafeteria and transporting it to Putting Green EcoCenter, where compost will be used on the “Growing Green Mini-Farm”; replacing plastic utensils in the cafeteria with reusable metal silverware purchased from area second-hand stores; acquiring appliance timers for the cafeteria vending machines and kitchen appliances; and changing the lighting in the school lunchroom to fluorescent of LED light bulbs to save energy. Education to raise student and community awareness about energy issues related to food will involve holding a student assembly to reach 1,000 students; posters and flyers to encourage change; a field trip for 300 elementary kids; a booth at the New Ulm Farm; a community event to talk about food and energy; and writing a weekly newspaper column on energy for the local newspaper.

Community Supporters: Putting Green, New Ulm Public High School, MRCI WorkSource, New Ulm Journal

ORTONVILLE YES!

Mission: To make our school and community more ecologically responsible by increasing our recycling efforts, decreasing our electricity usage, and educating our student body and community about the importance becoming environmentally responsible citizens.

Goals: Increase recycling efforts in our school, decrease electricity usage, and educate the student body and community.

Energy Action Project: Increase recycling by purchasing more recycling containers, developing a student monitoring program, and educating staff and students on recycling; decrease electricity usage by purchasing energy misers for vending machines, programming computers in labs for central shutdown, encouraging behavior changes for individual computer shutdown and turning off lights; and educate staff, students and community through presentations to elementary classrooms, articles in the local newspaper, appearances on local radio, and a booth at the local Sports and Leisure Show.

Community Supporters: Ortonville School District, Ortonville Independent Newspaper, KDIO Radio, Big Stone County Environmental Office, Ortonville Chamber of Commerce, local businesses for purchase of energy misers and recycling bins

REDWOOD YES!

Mission: To reduce the carbon footprint of the Redwood Area School District and area citizens.

Goals: Reduce the amount of potential fuels lost at school, construct a greenhouse powered by renewable fuels, develop after school renewable educational programs to increase the awareness of youth’s impact on energy, and educate community members on their roles in conserving energy.

Energy Action Project: Reduce potential fuels lost by collecting and utilizing them before they reach the landfill; construct a greenhouse utilizing a ground source heat pump, a biofuel boiler burner using a local fuel source derived from school waste, and potentially a wind turbine for electrical needs; collaborate with the County 4-H program on an after school youth program on energy



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conservation; and work with local businesses to market energy saving devices.

Community Supporters: Free Source Energies, Varidity Energy, Redwood Area Development Corporation, Redwood County 4-H, Redwood Area School District, ABioNova, local businesses with energy saving devices

SPRINGFIELD YES!

Mission/Goals: To reduce energy usage and carbon emissions in our school and community by developing creative projects, educating and inspiring others, spreading awareness of energy issues, and being examples of energy-conscious citizens.

Energy Action Project: Install solar lights on the Springfield Community Trail; initiate a cafeteria waste composting system using red worms, site analysis and installation of a green roof (linked to curriculum development and community education; begin an Energy Monitoring Patrol (EMP) squad and training program in the Springfield Elementary School; expand our recycling programs at school buildings; participate in Project Greenfleet; develop a Christmas light recycling campaign; publicize YES updates in the Springfield Advance Press; organize “Forget the Fuel Fridays” where students and teachers win prizes for walking/carpooling to school; continue our text-messaging campaign to inform residents of energy-smart options; and install motion detectors on light fixtures in the high school locker rooms.

Community Supporters: Springfield Public Schools, Springfield Advance Press, L&S Electric, Clean Energy Resource Teams, architect/landscape firms for green roof

ST. JAMES YES!

Mission: To foster an awareness of environmental issues within the school and local community and through education and action, develop a mindful and lifelong commitment to be involved in important issues and think globally by acting locally, making our campus and community more eco-friendly.

Goals: Develop a network and contribute to a better understanding of energy usage; Create and provide strategies and opportunities to implement energy

efficiency; Improve recycling; and Develop energy audit kits and a compact fluorescent program.

Energy Action Project: Increase the number of recycling bins and recruit additional students to work with recycling program; coordinate with food service and Ag/Horticulture classes to compost food waste; assemble energy audit kits for school and community use and use kits to complete energy audits of classrooms, offices and great spaces to determine potential for energy savings; develop a compact fluorescent awareness program, setting up a recycling program with the local hardware store and offering refunds through the City of St. James; install vending misers on vending machines; and work on starting a tree nursery, community garden and green teams working with energy audits for senior citizens and local churches.

Community Supporters: St. James School District, City of St. James, Public Access Channel, Agriculture Department, local hardware store, other local businesses

TRACY YES!

Mission: To promote environmental awareness, energy conservation, and to provide an education to fellow students on environmental issues.

Goals: Work towards helping our school and community become a more eco-friendly environment through the development of a recycling program, “green topics” education program, and campus tree planting program.

Energy Action Project: Work with waste management to increase recycling, placing additional bins around school and determining logistics of sorting, washing, etc; provide student education on green topics and waste including developing curriculum, handouts, and activities on energy topics; organize a tree planting day; and broadcast energy tips on local cable channel to bring energy efficiency and environmental awareness into homes in our community and to encourage use of alternative energy.

Community Supporters: Jeff Orren with Waste Management, Tracy Ag Department, Tracy School District, Garvin Nursery, Greenwood Nursery, Tracy Bakery, Tracy Kiwanis, Tracy Cable Channel



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WESTBROOK-WALNUT GROVE YES!

Mission: To increase awareness of energy issues in the future generation. We believe that by engaging and empowering young people in the area of energy consumption and energy production, we can change the world for the better.

Goals: Begin by increasing awareness through education at the elementary school, with plans to expand education to other area schools.

Energy Action Project: Develop energy modules to teach energy concepts at the elementary level. These modules will include areas covering "What is Energy?" with definitions and units of energy, along with comparisons of both basic forms of energy and units, "Energy Conservation" showing the difference between energy consuming objects using human pedal power, the effects of Vampire Energy, the effect of good insulation, and composting, and "Alternative Energy Production" with modules showing wind power, solar power, hydrogen fuel cars, and mass transit.

Community Supporters: WWG School District, local FFA Chapter, Building Trades classes, others to be determined

WILLMAR COMMUNITY GREENHOUSE YES!

Mission: to promote renewable energy by maintaining a year round greenhouse and gardens, and to advocate for locally grown produce. Our work is focused on the youth and based on community involvement/collaboration, environmental stewardship, and sustainable practices.

Goals: Collaborate with community groups and businesses for the purpose of growing local produce year round. This project will demonstrate the energy saving and health benefits of growing produce at the local level. Produce will be purchased by the school district food service and donated to the local food shelf.

Energy Action Project: Grow local food for the community, expanding a food share CSA type of model; monitor and test feedstocks in the biomass burner; maintain current hybrid heating system using passive solar heating, hot water solar collectors, and the biomass burner; continue to renovate the existing greenhouse; and maintain landscaping at MinnWest Technology Campus as part of our lease agreement for the greenhouse.

Community Supporters: Willmar School District, MinnWest Technology Campus, Aquatherm, Empire Plumbing and Heating, City of Willmar, Willmar Area Food Shelf, David Frey, ANEZ Consulting, Carmike Cinemas Kandi 6, Jon Lussenhop Farms, Mark Ranney, Chris Olson, Willmar Home Depot, Growing Power, Andrew Hendrickson, Sunrise Agrafuels, Runnings Farm and Fleet.

WINDOM YES!

Mission: We are a team-oriented group striving to enhance our community's usage and awareness of green energy while committing to eco-projects that increase the efficiency of Windom Area Schools.

Goals: Increase school and community awareness through a web page and forum; Research various forms of renewable energy options for energy at the school's greenhouse.

Energy Action Project: Create an energy web site to use as forum on energy tips, phantom load, recycling, carbon foot-print, legislation, energy facts, and do-it-yourself projects; develop educational activities at elementary school; and research and implement alternative energy to power school greenhouse so it may be used year-round with minimal energy costs.

Community Supporters: Windom School District, Toro Company, other local energy businesses to be determined as research on alternative energy is conducted

