

LETTER FROM OUR FOUNDER



The great changes I've seen in the climate and the conditions of the polar regions motivated me to form the Will Steger Foundation almost 10 years ago with the goal of educating people about the realities of our changing climate, as well as

what they can do to stop it. Just this past year, when the maps of the polar vortex appeared (see front cover), showing its impact on the Eastern and Midwestern U.S., I was stunned. I've never seen a map like this. The North Pole weather was over the Midwest. The reality of it was shocking; it felt so out of place. It was just unbelievable.

Lack of climate literacy is a major hurdle in affecting change, which is why education is central to the work of the Will Steger Foundation. This means not only giving people the facts about climate change, but also giving them the opportunity to tell their own eyewitness stories, as well as identifying ways we can adapt our everyday lives to solve this problem. The answer lies in people coming together and transitioning to a low carbon economy, away from fossil fuels.

While we are still small in size and operate with a fairly lean budget, we're making a big impact in many ways. Because of the urgency of climate change and its implications for our economy, for our environment, and for today's youth, we will continue to increase our impact every year. I believe the Will Steger Foundation gives hope and a vision for our children by providing a better climate and energy future.

Thank you for joining me in this important work.

Onward,

Will Steam

LETTER FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



The Will Steger Foundation is committed to addressing and engaging people in solutions to climate change, an issue that we realize can be overwhelming and challenging to address. We know that progress happens at various scales and at different points in

time. Sometimes our victories are incremental, such as providing an educator with climate and energy resources to use in the classroom. Sometimes we take a big step forward, such as when Will Steger's compelling testimony and powerful citizen input compelled the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission to vote unanimously to retire the state's largest coal-fired power plants.

We set ambitious goals for ourselves this past fiscal year and I am proud to say we met all of them, thanks to your continued support! This past year we revised our suite of curriculum resources, provided more professional development offerings for educators, held clean energy, climate and health forums with Will Steger, helped bring 200 Minnesota youth to the national climate summit Power Shift 2013, and built a stronger regional mentorship program between youth and climate nonprofit leaders.

This annual report highlights our impact from September 2013 through August 2014 and serves as a record of accomplishments, financial transparency, and as an illustrated guide to our successful programs.

Thank you for supporting our work! We look forward to sharing future successes with you. We encourage you to keep up with our activities via our monthly e-newsletter, website or social media, and as always we welcome your feedback and engagement in our work.

Sincerely,

Nicole Rom

Music dom

WILL STEGER FOUNDATION OVERVIEW

The Will Steger Foundation educates and empowers people to engage in solutions to climate change.

We strategically support emerging youth leaders and educators to foster climate literacy and action. We recognize that youth will inherit the unprecedented effects of climate change and are among our most powerful advocates. We also recognize that educators are critical messengers of climate and energy literacy,

and that schools and non-formal learning centers provide powerful examples of sustainability in communities.

In addition, we believe that to authentically address climate change, we need to connect people, heart to heart, place to place, aligning the issue with personal experience. Ultimately, solutions to climate change can only be realized through collective action towards our vision of a sustainable and equitable future for all.

We've begun to address the question: "What can WSF do to become more open, available, and useful to people of color and lower-income people?" Over the past year we organized a series of workshops and conversations about equity and inclusion, from which we created an equity statement and subsequent action plan.

EOUITY STATEMENT

WSF understands that climate change is a highly complex issue and that just and equitable solutions cannot be found if we proceed with the climate science and policy lens alone. We must take a comprehensive perspective of climate change impacts and solutions if we are to reach our goal and create the future we want to live in. WSF is committed to addressing the interface of economic and social disparities and is working closely with partners who understand this interface.

"Keep doing what you're doing, because no one out there delivers the bang for the buck that you folks do."

-R. MICHAEL C., SUPPORTER





The Emerging Leaders Program focuses on empowering Midwest youth climate leaders as a key strategy in transitioning to a just energy future. The Emerging Leaders Program works locally and across the Midwest to build youth capacity, facilitate shared strategies, and foster coordinated action on climate change solutions.

YEA! MN

Youth Environmental Activists Minnesota (YEA! MN) is a core Emerging Leaders Program that supports a network of high school environmental clubs working together across the Twin Cities Metro to empower student leadership on climate change solutions, enable cooperation between groups, and take coordinated action at home, at school and in the wider community.

YEA! MN is unique in that it is authentically student directed. Of the 10 high schools that participated in 2013, each student earth club completed at least one action project over the course of the year related to waste reduction, energy conservation, recycling and composting. The YEA! MN Steering Committee is comprised entirely of student leaders and in 2013, youth leaders represented 5 different Twin Cities metro high schools.

Youth from the following high schools participated in the 2012-2013 YEA! MN program:

Eden Prairie Northfield El Colegio* Patrick Henry DeLaSalle Roseville

Great River School of Environmental

Hopkins* Studies* Minneapolis South* Southwest Minnesota Internship Center Stillwater Charter High School St. Paul Central*

Minnetonka *Steering Committee Member "Through YEA! MN, I've learned how organizations function, and about different ways to create change through policy, community, and in school. The experience has helped me think about how I can most effectively work on environmental issues after YEA! MN."

- SHIRA B., YEA! MN CO-CHAIR 2013-2014

MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

This past year the Emerging Leaders Mentorship Program fostered strategic conversations across the Midwest by matching youth climate leaders and veteran staff, recognizing both as teachers and learners. The program aims to connect key leaders across the generational spectrum and unlock new solutions to shared problems across the environmental movement. The program was supported through four group calls, group emails, and blogs reporting back insights coming from conversations.

"I found [the mentorship program] gratifying - to share an experience with someone just starting his career brought a useful perspective that helped me think through some of the issues I am working on now."

—VETERAN STAFF LEADER

"It has become increasingly clear that the "emerging leaders" whom the WSF has mentored so wonderfully, are cultivating a different kind of climate movement. It will be a movement with a scope wide enough to deeply engage with a vast array of social and economic injustice issues and see clearly how they are connected to climate change and environmental degradation."

—JOE K., WSF EQUITY CONSULTANT







EDUCATION

The Education Program supports educators, students and the public by providing science-based interdisciplinary educational resources on climate change, its implications and solutions to achieve climate literacy. This is achieved through the sharing and development of curriculum and online resources, professional development opportunities for formal and informal educators, hosting public outreach events, and growing and maintaining regional and national partnerships.

The 2014 Summer Institute provided 60 educators with:

- Hands on sessions communicating climate change and energy concepts
- Confidence to share these concepts
- Awareness of the climate change and energy education standards (including Next Generation Science Standards)
- Skills to encourage experiential learning and to take students outside
- A framework for effective place-based climate change and energy education

Based on pre and post surveys, 100% of Summer Institute educators showed an increase in climate and energy literacy, as well as in their confidence to bring climate change concepts to their educational setting. Additionally, educators left with a sense of hope, reporting that they believe they can do something about climate change. Finally, 87% said they were likely or very likely to attend a future Summer Institute.



Our newest education project, Minnesota Stories in a Changing Climate received funding from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources. This two-year project aims to collect and share stories about the effects of climate change here in Minnesota through an interactive website, a Twin Cities Public Television (TPT) program, and forums and workshops around the state.



The National Science Teacher's Association selected our Director of Education to identify resources that will help teachers implement the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) that finally address climate change. Our Education program also aided in the development of an education resources section for the National Climate Assessment, featured on the climate.gov website.

"As a teacher, I cannot think of an organization in their realm of climate change education or area of expertise that more consistently delivers what my particular profession needs in terms of support."

-CRAIG J., SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES



800 EDUCATORS

reached through professional development

MENTORSHIP PROGRAM:

4 PARTICIPANTS

35 ORGANIZATIONS

20 MATCHES

6 STATES

75

YOUTH MET WITH
GOVERNOR DAYTON TO
DISCUSS MINNESOTA'S
CLEAN ENERGY FUTURE

MINNESOTA CLEAN ENERGY & JOBS CAMPAIGN:

1,500 POSTCARDS

3,000 PHONE CALLS

1,000 PEOPLE AT RALLIES

MN SOLAR STANDARD PASSED

TWIN CITIES
HIGH SCHOOLS
ACTIVE IN YEA! MN

2,000

YOUTH REACHED THROUGH THE EMERGING LEADERS PROGRAM

Warmest
months ever
recorded
on the planet:

MAY,

JUNE

AND

AUGUST 2014

SUMMER INSTITUTE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY EDUCATION:

60 EDUCATORS
6 STATES

3 DAYS

11,400

public comments to shut down Xcel Energy coal burner in Minnesota

200

MINNESOTA
YOUTH
AT
POWER SHIFT

20

High school
students met with
Keith Ellison to
discuss
environmental
justice

4

climate and energy

literacy webinars

viewed by

550 participants in

30 states and

3 countries

345 DONORS

16 VOLUNTEERS: 700 HOURS OF SERVICE

Twitter:

3,550 FOLLOWERS

Facebook:

8,901 FANS

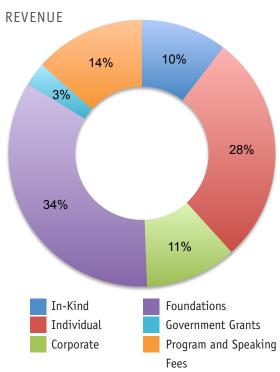
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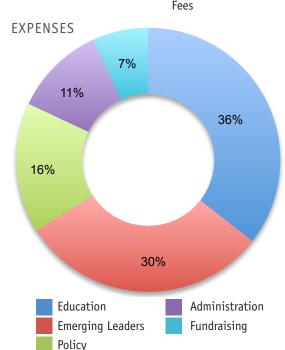
94,224 VISITORS ANNUALLY \$229,737

\$405,320

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The Will Steger Foundation strives to build organizational health through financial stability and proactive, multiyear and diverse funding.





BALANCE SHEET

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Liabilities and Net Assets

August 31, 2014

Assets

casii aliu casii Equivalents	4669,131
Restricted Cash	136,153
Receivables	32,561
Prepaid Expenses	1,677
Equipment - Net of Depreciation	5,191
Total Assets	\$405,320
Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	\$12,888
Accrued Expenses	27,211
Total Liabilities	40,099
Net Assets	
Unrestricted Net Assets	229,068
Temp Retricted Net Assets	136,153
Total Net Assets	365,221

STATEMENT OF REVENUE & EXPENSES September 1, 2013 - August 31, 2014

Uı	nrestricted	Temporarily	Total
		Restricted	
Sources of Support			
Contributions	\$189,381		189,381
Program & Speaker fees	86,092		86,092
In-Kind Services	70,922		70,922
Corporate	39,438	36,000	75,438
Foundations	21,500	211,500	233,000
Government	8,993	10,500	19,493
Misc. income	5,492		5,492
Release from Restrictio	n 200,111	-200,111	
Total	\$621,929	\$57,889	\$679,818
	\$621,929	\$57,889	\$679,818
Total Expenses Education	•	\$57,889	,
Expenses	\$ 621,929 195,643 167,484	\$57,889	\$679,818 195,643 167,484
Expenses Education	195,643	\$57,889	195,643
Expenses Education Emerging Leaders	195,643 167,484	\$57,889	195,643 167,484
Expenses Education Emerging Leaders Policy Administration	195,643 167,484 87,959	\$57,889	195,643 167,484 87,959
Expenses Education Emerging Leaders Policy	195,643 167,484 87,959 61,792	\$57,889	195,643 167,484 87,959 61,792

CONTRIBUTORS

Thank you for supporting our work to promote climate literacy and action!

Contributions made during fiscal year 2014: September 1, 2013- August 31, 2014

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