



ANNUAL REPORT 2012-2013

EDUCATE • INSPIRE • EMPOWER



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ANNUAL REPORT 2012-2013

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REFLECTIONS FROM WILL STEGER: CLIMATE CHANGE IS HERE AND NOW

2012 was indeed a year for the record books. It was the hottest year on record in the U.S, the Arctic sea ice shrunk to a record low, Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets continued to lose three times as much ice each year as they did in the 1990s, and global sea levels rose faster than predicted.

In October 2012 Hurricane Sandy gave us a powerful reminder that climate change will have a financial impact and personal toll on all of us. As eyewitness to this devastation, New York City Mayor Bloomberg stated, “we are going to continue to experience the ramifications of a changing climate.” The latest report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the internationally accepted

authority on the subject, concludes that the climate system has warmed dramatically since the 1950s, and that human influence has been the dominant cause. The IPCC found that in the Northern Hemisphere, 1983 to 2012 was the warmest 30-year period of the past 1,400 years. Furthermore, atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases — carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide — have jumped to unprecedented levels.

A report released in September 2013 by the Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society analyzed 12 extreme weather events from 2012 and found compelling evidence that human-caused climate change contributed to half of them. The report concluded close to 35% of the extreme warmth experienced in the eastern U.S. between March and May 2012 was attributed to human-induced factors.

The central challenge of the 21st century is creating an energy system that enables economic growth without compounding climate change. Although climate change continues, we do find hope in a maturing clean energy industry. Back in 2004, for instance, global investment in clean energy totaled \$53 billion, but that figure ballooned to \$280 billion in 2011, according to Bloomberg New Energy Finance. In fact, clean energy has set new records every year since 2004, showing growth even during the recession. An encouraging sign – in 2010 investments in renewable energy outpaced investments in fossil fuels for the first time ever.

Renewable energy is becoming a significant part of the energy mix here in the U.S. For instance, in Iowa and South Dakota, wind power now provides more than 20% of the state's electricity demand and here in Minnesota it has grown from 4% to over 10%. On one

windy day in October last year, Xcel Energy used wind power to supply more than 50% of its power load in Colorado. Renewable energy's role in state and national energy mixes has never been more strongly recognized. As the signs of a warming world become increasingly evident, our work becomes even more critical. This is why we are investing in innovative solutions to climate change by working directly with people on the ground – from educators, to youth, to local decision-makers.

Thank you for joining us and making our work possible at a time when we need it most.

Onward,



Will Steger

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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In September 2012, as a participant of Climate Ride, I biked 300 miles along California's coast with board member, David Bryan. Among many other things, the ride allowed me to understand a bit more about what brings people like Dave and the other 130+ riders to the climate change issue. I was reminded over and over again why the work we do is so critical to addressing climate change. We are lucky to have Will Steger's unique eyewitness perspective framing our work: from communicating the arctic climate story, to connecting educators and youth with the issue and engaging them in solutions. Will has been doing this for over 20 years, and we have been successfully carrying out this legacy for over seven years.

As you read our annual report, you will find we are making great strides in our work – thanks to your incredibly generous support! This report serves as a record of accomplishments, financial transparency, and an illustrated guide to who we are and why our programs matter.

We look forward to sustaining this momentum for climate solutions through youth leadership, public outreach and our education program!

Thank you for being an integral part of our efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nicole Rom". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Nicole Rom, Executive Director

EDUCATION

MISSION:

To support educators, students and the public with science-based interdisciplinary educational resources on climate change, its implications and solutions to achieve climate literacy.

During 2012-2013 our education program, including Director of Education Kristen Poppleton and Education Assistant John Smith, expanded its curriculum suite to include energy, provided two Summer Institutes, and reached over 1,000 educators through workshops, events and online resources.

CURRICULUM

Our curriculum suite was expanded this year with the release of *Experience Energy*, a Grades 3-8 curriculum developed with

support from the Center for Energy and the Environment. Recognizing that energy education is an important component of comprehensive climate change education and essential to achieving climate literacy, *Experience Energy* helps make the connections between energy use and consumption, the resulting impact on our climate, and energy solutions that mitigate its impact.

WORKSHOPS

We expanded our reach locally and nationally through a variety of workshops and education conferences. At the National Association for Environmental Education, Kristen led two sessions: Teaching Climate Change: Lessons Learned from Environmental Education and Next Steps; and The Mississippi River and Climate Change:



John Smith, Education Assistant and Kristen Poppleton, Director of Education. 2013 Summer Institute, Ft. Snelling.

"I consider [the Will Steger Foundation] my "go to" resource for climate change education."

-Megan Olivia Hall
Minnesota Teacher of the Year
Open World Learning Community

Congratulations to Megan Hall, Minnesota Teacher of the Year, one of our Parks Climate Challenge teachers for the past two years and an all around great climate change educator! Keep up the fantastic work!

A Place-based Approach to Climate Change Education. Kristen shared our *Minnesota's Changing Climate* curriculum with teachers that are taking part in the University of Minnesota's STEM Education's CYCLES program. Teachers from the White Earth reservation spent the day engaging in activities and learning about Minnesota's biomes and the impacts of climate change. Kristen also participated in the Climate Literacy Summit in Berkeley, CA where she spent an invigorating weekend strategizing with 50 other climate and energy literacy experts, hosted by the National Center for Science Education. The group discussed ways of "substantially and measurably increasing climate and energy literacy in this country," and produced a white paper with recommendations.



Educators join Wilderness Inquiry staff and National Park naturalists for a paddle on the Mississippi where they learn about climate impacts to the river ecosystem.

SUMMER INSTITUTES

This year we held two Summer Institutes for 100 educators. Our June 2013 Summer Institute for Energy Education was held at the Audubon Center of the North Woods in Sandstone, MN. The center was the perfect venue for energy education as it is a model of energy efficiency and renewables. The Institute focused on energy sources, uses and



Summer Institute, Audubon Center of the North Woods

impacts, and marked the pilot release of our *Experience Energy* curriculum for grades 3-8. Guest speakers included Will Steger, J. Drake Hamilton of Fresh Energy as well as a workshop put on by KidWind and hands on instruction in energy audits.

Climate change impacts on the water and ecosystem quality in the Mississippi River watershed was the theme of the August 2013 Summer Institute for



Summer Institute, Ft. Snelling State Park

Climate Change Education. Our training introduced students to observation of real, local changes to the environment due to climate change at Fort Snelling State Park (within the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area). The Institute featured a half-day paddling excursion on the river with field activities as well as guest speakers from the state and National Park.

“Consistency and quality are the best predictors of future success, and the programs of the Will Steger Foundation provide powerful evidence of this assertion.”

-Craig Johnson

Environmental Science Teacher
School of Environmental Studies

“Bravo! Best school-type workshop I’ve ever been to.”

- An Educator at the Institute

“As a teacher with 16 years of experience in the classroom and after attending many professional development opportunities over the years, I can say without hesitation that the [WSF] Summer Institutes consistently have been among the best professional development I have attended locally or nationally.”

-Barry Greenwald, Science Teacher, Harding High School



Educators learn about climate impacts while paddling the Mississippi River.

EDUCATION PARTNERSHIPS

Parks Climate Challenge

During the 2012-2013 school year, we partnered with the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area, Mississippi River Fund and Ft. Snelling State Park to lead field trips along the Mississippi River. The field trips, funded through the National Park Foundation's Parks Climate Challenge Program, had a



Summer Institute, Audubon Center of the North Woods

climate change and phenology focus and were shared on our online classroom throughout the year.

Youth Voices of Change

During the spring of 2013 we partnered with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to host a climate change youth video contest. Participants submitted their videos on climate change solutions.



Youth gather with TOLBY, Center for Energy and the Environment's MN Energy mascot for energy efficiency in schools.

Finalists were invited to the Minnesota State Fair's Eco-experience for an awards ceremony. The grand prize winner, Soren from Saint Anthony Park Elementary, received a \$350 seed grant for the community's solar power project.

EMERGING LEADERS

Youth Environmental Activists Minnesota (YEA! MN)–Twin Cities, High School Program

YEA! MN MISSION:

A core program of the Will Steger Foundation, YEA! MN supports a network of high school environmental clubs working together across the Twin Cities Metro to empower student leadership on climate change solutions, facilitate shared skills and strategies, and take coordinated action at home, at school, and in the wider community.

Our 2012-13 YEA! MN program year was a flurry of activity and left us much to be proud of, thanks in large part to our Program Coordinator Joe Kruse and outstanding student leadership on the YEA! MN steering committee. Our 2012-2013 YEA! MN student Co-Chairs were

Workshops and Outreach Events 2012-2013

- North American Association for Environmental Education Conference
- Education Minnesota Conference
- University of MN STEM Center CYCLES Workshop
- MN CERTS Conference
- Minnesota Coalition of Science Educators Conference
- Life Discovery Conference
- Great Lakes Education Consortium Webinar
- Green Teacher Webinar
- GEM (Girls Excel in Math) Energy Education Day
- Science Museum of Minnesota Earth Day
- University of Minnesota's Conversation E-Summit
- Minnesota Independent School Forum Conference
- St. Paul Public Schools Opening Week Science Day

Emerging Leaders Partners

YEA! MN Leadership

- Katie Mercer-Taylor, Co-Chair
- Cole Norgaarden, Co-Chair

YEA! MN Participating Schools

- The Blake School
- Great River School
- Hopkins High School
- Metro Tech Academy
- Roseville High School
- St. Paul Central High School
- School of Environmental Studies
- South High School

Cole Norgaarden from The Blake School and Katie Mercer-Taylor from Roseville High School. Cole, a senior, served as Co-Chair for his second consecutive year and was actively engaged in the program for five years. Katie, also a senior, initiated a mentorship program between her high school environmental club and interested middle school students. Both helped revamp YEA! MN action projects at participating schools and planned four large events for Twin Cities youth.

Six Twin Cities high schools championed student led action projects that tackled climate change solutions in the local community. Projects ranged from bike-to-school campaigns, to recycling, to behavior change and public awareness. Three schools were mentored on energy efficiency by staff from the Center for Energy and the Environment. These schools chose projects with an energy efficiency focus and utilized the Minnesota Energy Challenge as a tool



YEA! MN Co-Chair Katie Mercer-Taylor at the Clean Energy and Jobs campaign launch in February.

for measuring and tracking their impact. WSF incorporated these action projects as case studies for our newest energy curriculum, *Experience Energy*, which was released in June 2013.

Our YEA! MN youth steering committee played a central role in the Climate Math That Works conference, directly following Bill McKibben's Do the Math



YEA! MN youth attend the national climate summit, Power Shift 2013 in Pittsburgh, PA.

tour stop in Minneapolis, in partnership with MN350 and Minnesota Youth Environmental Network. High school student leaders helped plan the event and facilitated a youth workshop engaging 80 high school and college youth from across the state. The conference focused on climate change action, with an emphasis on local grassroots solutions.



YEA! MN youth lead the March for Climate Action Now on April 22, 2013.

We are extremely proud of our YEA! MN program and the youth led steering committee for the significant role youth played on Earth Day at the MN State Capitol this year, as part of the Clean Energy and Jobs Campaign. YEA! MN student leaders brought over 100 high school students in the rain and snow for the Young People's March for Climate Action Now, an event planned

RE-AMP Youth Caucus Members

- 350.org
- Energy Action Coalition
- Grand Aspirations
- Green Economy Leadership Training
- Illinois Student Environmental Coalition
- Indigenous Environmental Network
- Little Village Environmental Justice Organization
- Minnesota Youth Environmental Network
- MPIRG
- Michigan Student Sustainability Coalition
- Ohio Student Environmental Coalition
- Sierra Student Coalition



Youth present at the state-wide Minnesota Environmental Congress, March 2013



Minnesota youth gather at the Next Generation Environmental Congress.

and facilitated entirely by youth. Cole Norgaarden, YEA! MN Co-Chair, read compelling testimony to the young crowd at the beginning of the March, followed by Co-Chair Katie Mercer-Taylor, who spoke powerfully in the Capitol rotunda in front of a crowd of 700 people, half of whom were youth. Both speeches can be read online, as well as a video of the event.



YEA! MN youth attend the national climate summit, Power Shift 2013 in Pittsburgh, PA

We applaud our outgoing student Co-Chairs for their incredible dedication and leadership. Cole is now a first-year student at Cornell University, and Katie a first-year student at Oberlin College. YEA! MN is unique in its authentic youth-driven programming. Our 2011-2012 Program Coordinator, Joe Kruse, clearly understood the value of this approach and at every step along the way, made sure our events were not only

strategic but also deeply empowering for our youth. Many thanks to Joe for his fantastic leadership and mentorship over the past two years!

Minnesota Youth Leadership

WSF is continuing to support the Minnesota Youth Environmental Network (MNYEN), Minnesota's emerging statewide youth coalition, through mentorship and access to strategic opportunities and a fiscal sponsorship.

MNYEN worked closely with MPIRG and the YEA! MN high school network to host a large youth lobby day during the spring session. Over 80 high school and college students joined the 4th annual Youth Lobby Day at the State Capitol on February 25th, a partnership between the Will Steger Foundation, MPIRG, and the MNYEN in coordination with the Minnesota Clean Energy and Jobs campaign. Youth lobbied in support of a

10% solar energy standard for the state as well as an expansion of Minnesota's existing renewable energy standard to 40% by 2030. Students brightened up the Capitol Rotunda with a rendition of Here Comes the Sun, including a large papier-mâché sun and lyrics adapted to the clean energy theme.

Midwest Youth Leadership

WSF launched an innovative mentorship program connecting eight emerging youth climate leaders with eight veteran staff at environmental non-profit organizations across the Midwest. The program fosters an egalitarian learning relationship where both participants are seen as equals and experts in their own right. By fostering open dialogue and mutual learning between young climate leaders and veteran staff from environmental organizations, we hope to increase the flow of knowledge, resources, and ideas across



Minnesota youth work in small teams to strategize on a variety of school, campus and state level-climate campaigns.

Check out our YEA!

MN High School Action

Projects Recap online:

<http://willstegerfoundation.org/yeamn2013>

the generational spectrum, leading to necessary growth in the climate change movement across the Midwest and beyond.

Before launching this program, we completed an in-depth research project examining existing mentorship relationship models and drew from existing research to select best practices for innovation and success. Based on this research and findings, we piloted a nine-month mentorship program in Fall 2012. Matches were made based on skills, knowledge and desired outcomes, as well as geographic location. Pairs were matched in the same state if possible and introduced to each other via email, and again during an initial program orientation via conference call.

Participant feedback was overwhelmingly positive; both youth and veteran staff expressed interest in participating again, several requesting the same match.

There was general agreement that more support for accountability would have been helpful, to make sure matches were meeting as planned and pursuing the goals and guidelines of their initial mentor-match agreement. We have incorporated lessons learned into the second year of the program, with the goal of providing a minimum of fifteen mentorship matches.

National Youth Leadership

Our Youth Programs Director, Abby Fenton was selected to participate in the Young Climate Leaders Action Network, a year-long national initiative launched by Breakthrough Strategies and Solutions, engaging twenty young leaders across the nation in a series of strategic retreats aimed at building a strong network across diverse sectors to push emerging and visionary solutions into the mainstream. Over the course of three retreats, participants engaged in peer mentorship, intensive training

sessions on equity, communications, and movement building, and forged strategic and authentic relationships around shared goals related to the intersection of climate change solutions and social justice.

International Youth Leadership

In December, we supported Siiri Bigalke as she participated in the United Nations climate conference COP18, as a WSF representative and youth leader. Siiri Biglake joined YEA! MN as a freshman in high school and over the course of four years in this core WSF program, she became a key leader in the Twin Cities youth climate movement. Siiri was successful at tripling student participation in her earth club at Stillwater High School, securing an internship in Governor Dayton's office, and has been a strong voice for bold policies to address climate change at the local, state and national level for the past seven years. While at COP18



in Doha, Qatar, Siiri also mentored our partner school, the School of Environmental Studies, and their high school delegation. She returned to WSF as a policy intern in the summer of 2013, and is currently traveling abroad in Israel as a junior at Smith College.

Read our blog!

High School Student

**Reflects on Clean Energy
Policy:**

[http://willstegerfoundation.org/
yeamreflect](http://willstegerfoundation.org/yeamreflect)

Spotlight on YEA! MN Alumni



Siiri Bigalke, Past YEA! MN co-chair, junior at Smith College

Siiri Bigalke joined YEA! MN as a freshman at Stillwater High School. As a junior and senior she was elected as the YEA! MN Co-Chair. In the spring of 2011, she

joined Will Steger and 11 other outstanding young leaders from across Minnesota for a meeting with Governor Dayton, asking him for a commitment to veto the attempt to lift the ban on new coal plants. He gave them his word. Siiri accepted an internship in the Governor's office the following summer before heading to Smith College in the fall. We were proud to support Siiri as a WSF delegate for the UN climate negotiations in Doha, Qatar in 2012, and she returned to work as a Policy intern in our office in the summer of 2013 to support youth engagement and public outreach on coal retirement.



Ethan Buckner, YEA! MN founder, recent graduate of Vassar College

Ethan had a vision of a unified high school student base, working together to support student action projects on climate change solutions across the Twin Cities metro.

He approached WSF in the fall of 2008 and became the first YEA! MN student Chair that spring. During his senior year at Hopkins High School we worked with Ethan to host Minnesota Power Shift 2009, a statewide youth climate conference engaging high school and college youth. Ethan went on to travel across the Middle East, attend Vassar College, lead the Sierra Student Coalition's delegation to the UN Climate Negotiations in Copenhagen, and host WSF's Green Schools Youth summit in 2010. In 2012, Ethan launched a Summer of Solutions program in Oakland, CA building community-based projects in support of the clean energy economy, returning upon graduation from Vassar College in 2013.



Katie Mercer-Taylor, YEA! MN co-chair (2012-2013), first year at Oberlin College

Katie initiated a mentorship program between the high school environmental club and interested middle school students while at Roseville High School. She joined YEA! MN more actively as a co-chair her senior year and played a major role in revamping YEA! MN's action projects. She was a key youth voice in the Clean Energy and Jobs campaign where she spoke with passion and sophistication at the campaign press conference and Earth Day rally. She participated in the Sierra Student Coalition Summer Program (SPROG) as a youth leader and trainee to gain more experience in grassroots organizing. This fall, Katie entered Oberlin College, where she hopes to continue to pursue her passion for the environment, education and climate change solutions.



Cole Norgaarden, YEA! MN co-chair (2011-2013), first year at Cornell University

Cole served as co-chair for two years and has been intricately involved in the program since he was in 8th grade at The Blake School. Cole initiated a bee-keeping effort at Blake, testified several times at the Minnesota House and Senate hearings regarding the need for coal retirement, and organized over 100 youth to participate in the Young Peoples March for Climate Action Now!, part of the Clean Energy and Jobs Day of Action.

Cole describes why he is involved in the youth climate movement:

“While I’ve been involved in YEA! MN the past 5 years, my experience working in the climate movement I feel came to a culminating point

when I was able to join over 50,000 citizens in calling on President Obama to move forward on climate and to reject the Keystone Pipeline. As our march around the White House came to the end, I had a man who must have been in his 50s or 60s tell me two weighted words: “I’m sorry. I’m sorry you have to be here today.” He offered no explanation of his statement and it was clear we did not know each other, but we both knew what he meant. He was sorry that his generation had in many ways failed my own. And he was sorry that he was like myself – he had to take to the streets – in order to demand for the future that was rightfully ours. It must have felt great for him to get those words of his chest, but what was I supposed to do with that? Apologies cannot cut carbon. Apologies cannot alleviate the drought that still plagues half our country. Apologies cannot undue the damage or lives lost from Hurricane Sandy. No, apologies cannot do these things, saying I’m sorry cannot fix this. So let’s prevent the need to say it in the first place. Today, let’s get to work on the change that needs to come. So we don’t have to apologize for the way that we face this challenge later. Today, let’s start turning the I’m sorry’s of past generations into the thank you’s of those to come.”



A Lutheran pastor signs postcards to Governor Dayton urging strong climate and clean energy leadership at one of our forums.

POLICY

PUBLIC OUTREACH

Our Climate, Clean Energy and Health tour across Minnesota was a success! When the New Ulm journal published the headline: Polar explorer, scientist, bishop to address climate change, we knew we were pulling together a diversity of voices for climate action. Over 300 people attended each of eight forums to learn about Minnesota's clean energy path and hear Will's own eyewitness account. Several forums included reflections on faith and creation care. Events included dinner with community leaders, students and elected officials. Participants signed postcards to their local representatives and Governor Dayton urging Minnesota to achieve the state carbon reduction goal of at least 30% by 2050.

In Minnesota, Governor Dayton and the Minnesota legislature continued Minnesota's clean energy path. Governor Dayton's State of the State not only recognized Will Steger, but also issued a bold statement of support for a clean energy future and a challenge to the legislature to take the next big step forward towards a sustainable energy future.

During the 2013 Minnesota legislative session we worked with a broad coalition and Governor Dayton's administration to expand our clean energy and carbon reduction policies. We worked to create new policies that allow our state to achieve even more benefits from efficiency and renewable energy, while also ensuring we achieve the state carbon reduction goal of 30% by 2025.



Will and Nicole join Governor Dayton and members of the Clean Energy and Jobs campaign for the ceremonial signing of clean energy legislation passed in 2013.

In February we announced our leadership role in a campaign of more than 50 of the state's most-respected energy, climate, labor, business, religious, and youth groups. The Minnesota Clean Energy and Jobs campaign was created to answer Governor Dayton's call to establish and advance Minnesota's clean energy future. We engaged with the campaign by connecting our youth



Minnesotans gather at the State Capitol for the Clean Energy and Jobs Day of Action.

leaders with policy opportunities, working directly with the Governor, and testifying at the Capitol. By May, both the Minnesota House and Senate passed our Clean Energy and Jobs legislation. The legislation includes a first-ever solar standard and a strengthened renewable energy standard for investor-owned utilities, as well as important efficiency and local power production policies.

"Much of Greater Minnesota has yet to begin the conversation on climate change or hear from trusted sources about the issue. CURE would not be making the strides we are in this area if not for our trusted partners like the Will Steger Foundation."

Duane Ninneman, Senior
Director of Climate and
Energy, CURE



Canadian Consul General Jamshed Merchant introduces Inuit Films, an evening of short films about the Inuit and climate change, in collaboration with the Will Steger Foundation and the Guthrie Theater.

COAL RETIREMENT

Will Steger had the opportunity to talk at a public hearing before the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission about phasing out two coal plants in the fall. Will emphasized the current impacts of climate change. In his remarks, he said firmly: “we are denying our children a future by denying the obvious climate disruptions around the world – including the droughts, floods and fires that we are now experiencing and paying for in Minnesota. As part of our climate and energy education effort at WSF, I travel around the state and talk to thousands of Minnesotans – many of them conservative. The message I get is that our people expect leadership in clean energy and jobs. Clean energy sources will create more jobs and keep more of our energy dollars at home. It is also the responsible decision for our children’s future.”



Will Steger Foundation, Fresh Energy and the Lutheran Coalition for Public Policy in MN host a series of fall forums in 2012 for climate action.

Our coal retirement efforts continued throughout the year with several forums in communities served by Minnesota Power and Xcel Energy, from Duluth to St. Cloud, to Granite Falls. Together with our partners, over 10,000 comments were submitted to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission asking that our utilities prioritize clean energy over coal.

DEVELOPMENT AND EVENTS

Thanks to your support, we raised over \$10,000 on Give to the Max Day in November from over 90 donors! Five generous donors each provided a \$1,000 match. We thank everyone for making this day of giving so strong for us and for Minnesota.

We were excited to partner with James Balog's Extreme Ice Survey and the Chasing Ice film to co-host screenings and a private reception in early December, which provided hundreds of tickets for students, educators and the public to see this important film. In Chasing Ice, Balog deploys revolutionary time-lapse cameras to capture multi-year record of the world's changing glaciers.

OPERATIONS

We were thrilled to welcome Megan Van Loh to our team as Administrative Coordinator in November. Megan has taken on financial support, volunteer management, as well as program and event coordination. Megan's role has allowed us to promote Janet Brown from Operations Director to Associate Director. Janet will focus on development support and long-term sustainability of WSF.

We had 30 active volunteers who donated over 1,100 hours of their time to the work of our organization this year. We continue to have a strong volunteer base of 225 individuals who we can rely on when special events and projects arise.

Donor Testimonial

"Your mission, messages and game-plan are solid; your focus on educating, disseminating information and engaging young people is right on the money, and your enthusiasm, stewardship, energy and 'sense of family' at the Steger Foundation must make it a great place to work. Keep doing what you're doing, because no one out there delivers the bang for the buck that you folks do."

Volunteer Spotlight

We first met Aimee Jaroscak in September of 2009 at a National Parks event that we were hosting at the University of Minnesota. We knew right away that Aimee was a treasure herself.

Although Aimee works two jobs—one full-time at the graduate studies program of Capella University and one part-time at REI, she still manages to find time to volunteer every week for three hours—contributing over 600 hours these past four years! Aimee has helped with every aspect of our programming and has been integral to our strategic planning weekends with board and staff. A gifted photographer and world traveler, we also enjoy living vicariously through Aimee's adventures.

We are indebted to Aimee's dedication to our mission and for her long-time commitment to the work. Thank you, Aim for all you do!



Aimee Jaroscak

We hosted several interns this year, from high school students to college students—many of these young leaders gained valuable insights into the nonprofit world, and contributed valuable time and energy to several important projects:

Mark Riegel, a Macalester College junior, was a fall intern who supported our public outreach and policy forums.

Past YEA! MN Co-Chair, Siiri Bigalke joined WSF as a Policy intern to help

with public outreach for forums on the need for coal retirement. Using her international climate negotiation experience, Siiri also reviewed and updated our Citizen Climate curriculum.

Leah Norman joined our team as our Education Intern, supporting two Summer Institutes for educators. “I first heard of the Will Steger Foundation when Abby came to give a presentation on Earth Day to my high school. As a senior in high school, I became a member of YEA! MN. I now attend Colorado State University where I study Economics, International Development Studies and Global Environmental Sustainability. After graduation, I hope to work for a non-profit that aims to alleviate global problems, such as climate change and poverty.”

We were lucky to have our YEA! MN Co-Chair, Katie Mercer-Taylor, with us



Leah Norman

as Emerging Leaders Program Intern this summer. Katie blogged on youth activism, supported our mentorship program, and helped us track our YEA! MN alumni.

Lily Norman (Edina High School, now UM-Morris student) and Vera Levin (Colorado College) supported the Will Steger Foundation with a variety of development, education and special projects during their break from classes.

MEDIA

Over the course of the year, our work has been featured in well over 100 television, radio, print and online media outlets, including National Geographic, Star Tribune, Minnesota Public Radio, MinnPost, and the Governor's blog. In addition, we produced more than 15 high definition videos focusing on our Summer Institute for Climate Change Education, the Clean Energy and Jobs Campaign, Energy Lobby Day, and our new series; "Spotlight on Emerging Leaders." You can view our work in the Media gallery of our website.



WSF fundraiser in support of Emerging Leaders program.



FINANCIAL SUMMARY

The Will Steger Foundation is committed to strong fiscal health. We ended our fiscal year with \$103,304 excess. \$41,827 is temporary restricted net assets for our public outreach and youth leadership activities in fiscal year 2014. Our full 990 is available upon request or at www.guidestar.org.

STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENSES: FISCAL YEAR 2013

September 1, 2012-August 31, 2013

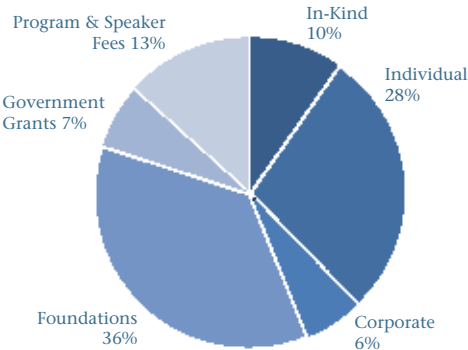
Sources of Support	Total
Individual Contributions.....	\$180,574
Program and Speaker Fees.....	86,814
In-Kind Services.....	62,573
Corporate.....	40,762
Foundations.....	231,797
Government.....	42,329
Total	644,849

Expenses

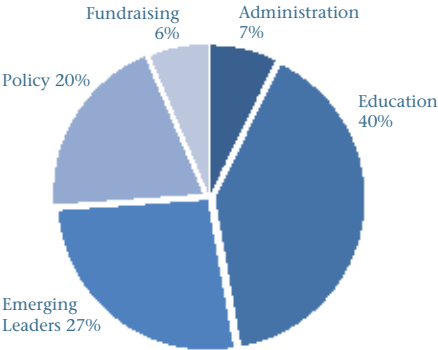
Education.....	216,366
Emerging Leaders.....	143,857
Policy.....	107,025
Administration.....	39,292
Fundraising.....	35,005
Total	541,545

Excess/(Deficit)..... **103,304**

SOURCES OF SUPPORT



EXPENSES



BALANCE SHEET FOR FISCAL
YEAR ENDING AUGUST 31, 2013

Assets

Cash and Restricted Cash.....	\$247,759
Other Assets.....	31,583
Equipment Net of Depreciation.....	4,059
Total Assets.....	283,401

Liabilities

Accounts Payable.....	24,712
Accrued Expenses.....	22,884
Total Liabilities.....	47,596

Net Assets.....235,805

Total Liabilities

and Net Assets.....\$283,401

In 2013, we launched the inaugural Founders Circle. The Will Steger Foundation Founders Circle is an elite group of individuals who are making exceptional contributions on behalf of the organization. The Founders Circle is our premier giving circle, honoring members who have made annual donation of \$5,000 or more for three or more years. Through annual leadership gifts, Founders Circle members are providing a lasting investment in our work to address climate change.

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 passion, and
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I am indebted to Will Steger Foundation [WSF] for continuing to be an avid supporter of passionate youth environmental activists! In fact, I can easily say that WSF and YEA! MN have been the most important factors in helping to direct my love and passion for environmental activism into a future career path, but also simply a way of life!

– Siiri B., Youth Leader

No one can endure the severe droughts or floods of recent years or our milder snow-scarce winters without being greatly alarmed. Just talk with my good friend and worldpremier polar explorer, Will Steger, about the drastic climate changes he has witnessed. Even more alarming is that our state and our nation are still not doing enough to reverse this path towards global catastrophe, before it is too late. We've made real progress with clean, renewable energy, instead of polluting fossil fuels...but are we progressing fast enough?

-Mark Dayton, Governor

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I have been inspired by the WSF [educator] workshop to totally revamp and refocus my elementary science methods course with a strong environmental emphasis. This is the least I can do for the next generation of children.

— John S., Educator

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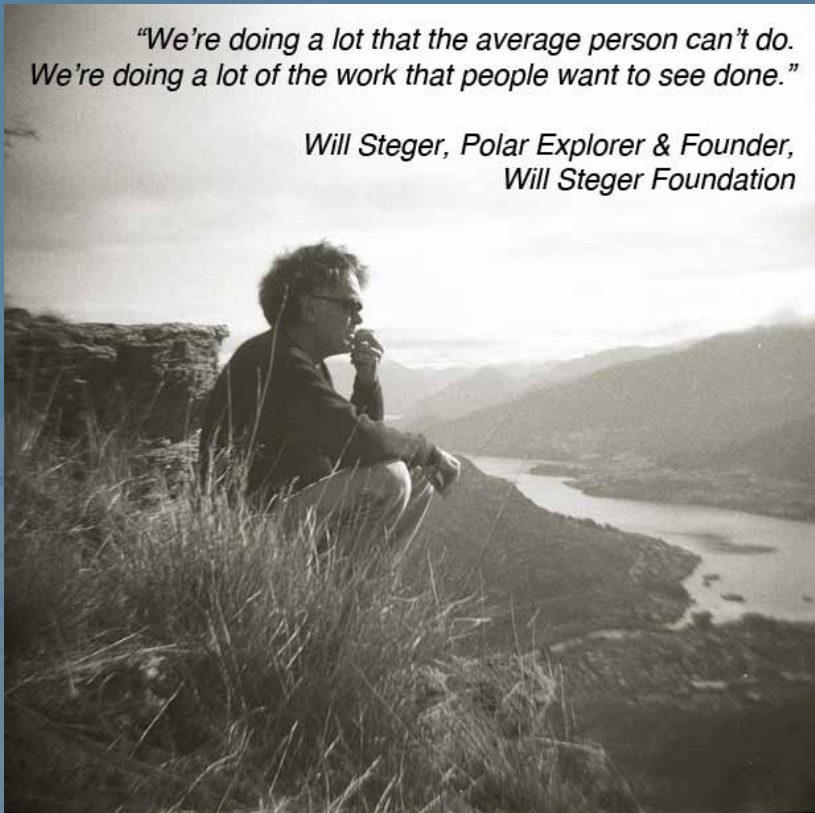
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We're doing a lot of the work that people want to see done."*

*Will Steger, Polar Explorer & Founder,
Will Steger Foundation*



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