YES! 2016 Workshops Descriptions

Levers of Power
How can you make a difference on issues you feel are important? This workshop will help you to analyze who holds power in different situations so that you can target your activism towards places where you are most likely to be effective. Learn how to use your growing knowledge and your passion to make a difference.

Button Up: Weatherization Design Challenge
How can you use less energy to heat your home while still keeping it at a comfortable temperature? Learn about how heat is lost in houses and how different materials can keep that heat in your home. Then take a hands-on weatherization design challenge! ** Double Session

Green Energy Careers
In this hands-on workshop you will explore some of the science and technology that is used in the green energy sector and learn what careers exist and how to get started on the path to get one! ** Double Session

How Does Climate Change Affect Hunger?
Participants will learn how climate change impacts our food system by playing a realistic board game. ** Double Session

Become a Change Maker
350VT believes that youth voice, creativity, perspective and wisdom must guide the movement for climate justice and that building youth leadership is a priority. The goal of this interactive, hands-on workshop is to raise critical consciousness about climate change among young Vermonters. Participants will examine what is climate justice, how change happens, and how we want to and can be change-makers ourselves.

The Emerald Ash Borer – An Alien Invader!
This workshop will guide participants to discover information about the invasive forest pest known as the Emerald Ash Borer. Participants will learn what makes a species invasive, why we should care about protecting urban forests, and what they can do to help slow the spread of invasives.

Telling Your Story: Seeking Success in Small Steps
Making change can be difficult when you feel stuck. Look around, though, and maybe you will find out that slow change has been happening this whole time. How? Through our connections with the stories you tell. In this workshop, learn the basics of storytelling, explore how your school has already made a difference, and understand the power of social media and personalization. Learn how you should really use a blog, Instagram, and others and how to find new, bold ways to create changes. Through stories we can connect with others, inspire our peers, and document our success.

Eco-Friendly Tiny House Design
Participants will learn the environmental benefits of tiny living and get to design a tiny house floor plan! Join Chrissy Bellmyer, whose tiny house was featured on HGTV’s Tiny House, Big Living, in the fun and informative workshop!
People on the Frontlines of Fracking and Big Wind
Two media crews of Vermont teens who participated in the program “Conversations from the Open Road” will share what they have learned from the frontlines of the big debates in energy. One crew traveled to Oklahoma, Texas and Pennsylvania and will share short films they created to communicate the experience of people who are living on the frontlines of the fracking boom/bust as well as the grassroots action that is happening in these places to gain local control. The second crew traveled around Vermont to learn about the contentious issue of ridgeline wind and will also share short films to relay what they have learned from Vermonters. Both crews will facilitate a dialogue about how we can move forward as a community to supply our energy needs.

Integrating Sustainability into Your School’s Curricula
Students from Main Street Middle School’s Team Summit will share how sustainability, community-based education, personalization and Vermont’s transferable skills can be integrated into a multi-age middle-level program. Team Summit will share the history of their Green Team and a variety of community partnerships, curriculum projects, and initiatives that you can implement at your school.

Building Skills to De-escalate Conflict
Learn to use the technique of CLARA (calm, listen, affirm, respond, add information) to de-escalate conflict and understand why this is an important skill when building and/or participating in movements for social justice.

Green Mountain Grassroots: Local Energy and Climate Action in Vermont
Addressing the global issue of climate change can seem overwhelming. Thankfully, town energy committees are already taking action across Vermont. These grassroots groups are helping to combat the climate crisis by taking action on energy efficiency, conservation, and clean, renewable energy generation. The Vermont Energy and Climate Action Network (VECAN) is building a movement, but we will only succeed with the help and leadership of the next generation. Learn about VECAN and how to join the movement right in your own hometown.

Skill Building for Student Action
Participants will brainstorm collectively about the power of youth voice and the ways in which youth are and can be empowered. You will learn the different outlets for activism and evaluate these tactics to determine which are the most effective in a given scenario as well as get some hands-on experience creating a fictional (or real!) event and practice how to organize for action.

Climate Change, Human Health and You!
Get an overview of the ways that climate change affects human health in Vermont (including extreme heat, storms and flooding, tick-borne diseases, air quality and blue-green algae). You will learn about strategies to address these issues and, in small groups, will come up with ideas on how to address these issues locally in your own communities.