



COMMUNITY

4-H & YOUTH

ENVIRONMENT

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UNIVERSITY OF  
VERMONT

**EXTENSION**

CULTIVATING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

# TRY for the Environment



TRY stands for **Teens Reaching Youth** and is an **environmental leadership opportunity for youth in grades 7-12**. It is a teen-led environmental education program with an embedded service learning component designed to teach environmental literacy and responsibility to younger youth. TRY for the Environment includes four program areas—renewable energy, waste solutions, food systems and forests & trees—to connect young people to real-world environmental problems in which they can be key change agents helping to create real-world solutions.

*The Teens Reaching Youth program has allowed our students to become experts on energy and sustainability issues. It has enabled them to become agents of change through education.* - Don Taylor, Main Street Middle School teacher

## The TRY program consists of four program areas:

→ Each program area curriculum includes 6 one-hour lessons that are fun, hands-on, and easy to teach!



**Renewable Energy** highlights wind and solar energy. Grades K-3



**Climate Change Through Waste Solutions** focuses on the 4Rs—reduce, reuse, recycle and rot. Grades K-3  
(Revised lessons for 2016-2017)



**Food Systems** explores the food system and the need to protect our soil, seeds, pollinators and climate. Grades 3-5  
(Revised lessons for 2016-2017)



**Forests & Trees** investigates the functions, life stages & main parts of trees and how to be a tree steward. Grades 3-5

## What is a TRY team? What does a TRY team do?

- TRY teams consist of 2-4 teens and an adult mentor who complete a one day training in their program area before they are certified to teach. **Teams must apply to the program and be selected; see reverse side for details.**
- TRY teams commit to teaching their program curriculum to 2 different groups of at least 15 youth.
- Teams choose who they teach, and where and when they teach. This allows a lot of flexibility in how to fulfill your commitment of teaching two programs.
- All in-school programs must be concluded by May 26, 2017. All summer programs must be concluded by August 15, 2017. In-school classes, afterschool programs, vacation camps, libraries, weekends and summer programming are all options!
- Everything you need to be successful will be given to you, including training, teaching materials and ongoing support.

## Who can be a TRY team member?

- Team members must be in grades 7-12 and should have an interest in learning and teaching about renewable energy, waste solutions, food systems or forests & trees. It's okay if you don't have any knowledge of the issues or know how to teach. We will train you!
- Your team must be able to commit to teaching the program to two different groups. That's a minimum 12-hour commitment (plus your preparation time).

**Who can be a TRY team mentor?** *Some ideas of people to ask:* Teacher, parent, afterschool instructor, community member, college student (21+ years old), 4-H or Scout leader, or any caring adult who wants to mentor your team!

**For more information on how to apply, see page 2.**



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**YES! I want to be a TRY team member.**

Getting your TRY team started is easy:

1. Talk to a couple of your classmates or friends to organize a team of 2-4 members. All members must be in grades 7-12. You do not have to be enrolled in 4-H to apply.
2. Ask an adult to be your team mentor, or we can help find you a mentor.
3. Each member of your team and your adult mentor **must submit an application** by:

	Renewable Energy	Climate Change / Waste Solutions	Food Systems	Forests & Trees
<b>Application Deadline</b>	November 15, 2016	November 15, 2016	November 15, 2016	November 15, 2016
<b>Acceptance Notification</b>	November 21, 2016	November 21, 2016	November 21, 2016	November 21, 2016
<b>Training Date</b> (snowdates)	December 7, 2016 (Dec. 8 or 21, 2016)	December 15, 2016 (Dec. 16 or 21, 2016)	December 20, 2016 (Dec. 21, 2016 or Jan. 17, 2017)	January 12, 2017 (Jan. 17 or 19, 2017)

Go to [www.uvm.edu/extension/teenleadership](http://www.uvm.edu/extension/teenleadership) and click on “Programs” to download both the teen and adult application.

All trainings will take place at the **Green Mountain Technology and Career Center** (738 Route 15 West, Hyde Park) from 8:30 am—4:30 pm. You will need permission to miss school. Lunch and snacks will be provided.

For more information contact:

Lauren Traister  
 4-H Teen & Leadership Program Coordinator  
[Lauren.Traister@uvm.edu](mailto:Lauren.Traister@uvm.edu)  
 1-866-260-5603 x402

If you require a disability-related accommodation to participate in this program, please contact Lauren Traister at 1-866-260-5603 x402 no later than November 15, 2016 so we may assist you.

## TRY Program Partners:



**Youth  
Agriculture  
Project**



VERMONT URBAN & COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM