



Volume Four, Number Two, May 2011

Trees for Healthy Kids and Community

Donning green t-shirts that read "Trees for Healthy Kids and Community" and "Plant a tree with M.E." (Mitchell Elementary), over 50 students, parents, teachers, and community members teamed up with IES to plant 35 trees at Mitchell Elementary School in Golden on May 1. The cold Sunday morning began with a commemorative ceremony hosted by Mitchell Principal Ryan West and IES Executive Director Carol Lyons. West and Lyons recognized Xcel Energy for its generous support, as well as project partners Confluent Design, Jefferson County Schools, and the Mitchell PTA.



Dave High, City of Golden Forester, showed volunteers the basics of proper tree planting, including mulching, watering, and staking the trees. Following his demonstration, High and volunteer landscape architect Kevin Lyles of Confluent Design provided technical assistance to volunteers.

Volunteers planted the trees along the northern and western edges of campus to create a vegetative barrier between the school and Highway 93. As the trees mature, they will reduce air and noise pollution from the busy road. Species planted include Bristlecone Pine, Western Hackberry, White Fir, and Vanderwolf Pyramid Pine.



The tree planting at Mitchell marks the completion of Phase One in a long-term planting plan developed by IES and Kevin Lyles. IES and Mitchell Elementary hope to continue implementation of the long-term plan, which includes developing environmental education areas and increasing the environmental and health benefits of the trees. IES will continue the Trees for Healthy Kids and Community Project by monitoring the long-term environmental impacts of the tree planting. More information: Project Coordinator Amory Ledyard, Amory@IES.org.

IES wins Patagonia "Voice Your Choice"!

In a ceremony on April 26, the Denver Patagonia store announced IES as the winner of its 2011 "Voice Your Choice" competition. Patagonia invited IES to participate in the contest as one of three featured, local environmental nonprofits. Store visitors were asked to vote for the organization of their choice. IES was awarded first place and the \$2,500 prize. Thank you to everyone who showed support for IES by casting a vote during March! And thanks to Patagonia and the Patagonia Denver store for this generous grant. The Patagonia funds will go directly to support the Contaminants of Emerging Concern Project to reduce water pollution and The Tree Project to improve urban environmental quality.

Concern About Water Contamination from Personal Care and Household Products Grows

Scientific research from across the country monitored by IES provides new evidence of human health effects of Contaminants of Emerging Concern (CECs). Recent reports noted include:

- Kroger announced in May that it will manufacture all products without bisphenol A (BPA). Products affected include canned foods and baby products marketed under the grocery retailer's private-label brands (Kroger, Value Brand, Private Selection, Comforts, Mirra, Active Lifestyle, Fresh Selections). Barring a BPA-free label, BPA can be found in the linings of canned food, baby formula, other baby products, and in the coating of cash register receipts.
- In a new study published in "Environmental Health Perspectives," researchers detected the highest level of BPA found in a human to date. The study examined infants' neurobehavioral abnormalities and levels of BPA in the mother. One mother, 27 weeks pregnant, had the highest reported urinary BPA concentration. According to the study, this extremely high BPA concentration could have been caused by repeated exposure to products containing BPA. The mother reported regularly consuming canned foods and beverages, as well as eating out of microwaved plastic food storage containers. Her infant initially had a normal neurobehavioral exam, but showed abnormalities at one-month old, including increased muscle tone, tremors and atypical movements.
- In a study conducted at the University of Michigan, researchers found that triclosan may produce allergies in children. Triclosan has previously been implicated in immune system dysfunction and in disruption of the hormonal system. According to the study, it is unclear whether triclosan is the direct cause of certain allergies, or whether these allergies develop because people who use antibacterial soap containing triclosan lack sufficient exposure to low-grade pathogens that help humans develop healthy immune systems.
- Vanderbilt researchers seeking to control the spread of malaria found an insect repellent they say is significantly stronger than DEET, a contaminant of emerging concern. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, DEET is toxic to fish, birds, and aquatic invertebrates. The new compound, known as VUAAI, works against all insects including flies, ants, and moths. Researchers will next determine if the compound could have harmful effects on humans or the environment.

More information: IES Research Associate Sarah Horn, sarah.horn@i4es.org.

Blue Crew Water Stewards Update

The CEC Project Team is developing IES's Blue Crew Water Stewards Project to promote water stewardship efforts through community outreach and education. Drawing on existing social networks such as community centers, schools, church groups and business organizations, this project will develop local leaders to educate their friends and neighbors about CECs. IES will supply these leaders with a curriculum and guide to educate their groups. The goal of this educational effort will be to reduce and prevent water pollution at the household level.

IES will develop a manual to train these leaders in interactive sessions. Engaging community members is key to the success of our project. Stakeholders help to establish lasting partnerships and to generate new ideas from the people already involved in community issues.

The goal of the Blue Crew Water Stewards program is to establish a replicable, educational model that can be used to reduce and prevent CECs and improve water quality. This project will advance community-based social marketing (CBSM) to encourage more sustainable behavior and reduce unregulated trace contaminant water pollution from individuals and households. Citizens interested in becoming neighborhood leaders will be trained by IES and will learn effective ways to identify negative habits, set goals, and encourage positive, lasting behavioral changes within their communities.

IES to discuss education and prevention at EmCon 2011 in Copenhagen

The Third International Conference on Occurrence, Fate, Effects, and Analysis of Emerging Contaminants in the Environment (EmCon 2011) will be held August 23-26, 2011 in Copenhagen, Denmark. The scientific organizing committee selected IES's paper, "Eliminating Emerging Contaminants Upstream: Education and Prevention," to be presented at the conference. IES is honored to participate in this environmental assembly, which brings together leading researchers to share their latest work in the field of emerging contaminants. This year's conference will focus

leading researchers to share their latest work in the field of emerging contaminants. This year's conference will focus on the most recent developments and findings concerning the source, occurrence, fate, effects, and analysis of emerging contaminants in the environment. As the only presentation to discuss science-based education and prevention, IES's overview of the Contaminants of Emerging Concern Project generated enthusiastic interest at EmCon 2009. This August, IES will present the results of our 2009-2010 pilot program. The program worked to develop and test education and outreach methods designed to persuade residents to reduce their use of personal care and household products containing CECs. Information about EmCon 2011: www.EmCon2011.com, or Carol Lyons, Carol@ies.org.

IES Board of Directors is looking for two good men or women!

In 2010, the Board of Directors renewed its commitment to IES's shared mission and worked harder than ever to build a sustainable future for IES. In 2011, the Board continues to improve communication and outreach, while bringing IES's work toward cleaner air and cleaner water directly to more communities. If you value the important work of the Institute for Environmental Solutions and would like to participate in advancing practical solutions to environmental problems, please lend your support and consider joining the IES Board of Directors. Contact IES Vice-President Kristen Bertuglia at KBertuglia@vailgov.com for a position description and application.

New Project Launch: Trees For A Healthy Community And Economy in Broomfield

Research shows that consumers travel farther and more frequently to shop where the tree canopy is full, and that they pay more for all categories of goods in these shaded areas. Studies at the University of Washington reveal that,

"Healthy and well maintained trees send positive messages about the appeal of a district, the quality of products there and what customer service a shopper can expect." Trees directly improve environmental quality and community health by reducing air pollution, moderating air temperature, managing storm-water, and increasing outdoor activity levels. IES's newest initiative, Trees for a Healthy Community and Economy, will optimize these impacts of urban forestry - environmental health and economic vitality - in the emerging mixed-use civic center district in the City and County of Broomfield. Funded in part by a generous grant from Xcel Energy, the project is being implemented through collaboration among IES, local government agencies, and Broomfield businesses. Trees for a Healthy Community and Economy will serve as a replicable model for the cooperative implementation of community-based, economic development programs that target integrated environmental improvement. More information: Amory Ledyard, amory.ledyard@ies.org.

Non-Toxic Cleaning and Living Workshop

On May 26, IES held a workshop on Non-Toxic Cleaning and Living in Fort Collins, CO. The workshop was the first in a series hosted by IES in collaboration with the Rocky Mountain Sustainable Living Association as part of the Healthy Home Series. Upcoming workshops include:



Rocky Mountain
Sustainable Living Association

Powered by Nature™

Guide to Chemical Contaminant-Free Grocery Shopping
October 6, 2011, 6:00-8:00 pm

Clean Up Your Beauty Routine
November 3, 2011, 6:00-8:00 pm

Register: www.sustainablelivingassociation.org

IES thanks our generous workshop donors, who contributed a variety of product samples and other goodies to give to workshop attendees: Seventh Generation, Dr. Bronner's, Simple Green, Sunflower Market (Denver), Vaska Products.





IES Welcomes New Graduate Interns

IES is pleased to welcome two new graduate student interns. Colette Crouse has a Bachelor of Spanish and International Studies Suma Cum Laude from the University of Oregon. Meghan Nicholson has a Bachelor of Science in Journalism from Ohio University.

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