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## **IES HONORED WITH GOLDEN SUSTAINABILITY AWARD**

(Denver, Colorado) The Institute for Environmental Solutions (IES) has received the prestigious 2010 Sustainability Award from the City of Golden for its demonstrated commitment to the City's sustainability goals. The award recognizes IES's leadership during the past year in reaching out to Golden residents with easy actions they can take to reduce chemical contamination in water.

"By this award, we recognize that IES is helping the City of Golden to meet sustainability goals in the areas of ecosystem health, water quality, and education," said Susan Buhr, Chair of the Golden Community Sustainability Advisory Board.

"This award means a lot to us," said IES Executive Director Carol Lyons. "I am particularly proud of the many graduate student interns and volunteers who helped us reach out to Golden residents over the past year with practical ideas on how their everyday choices can help improve our environment."

Ms. Buhr and Golden Mayor Jacob Smith made the presentation at the awards portion of the City Council's regular meeting on Earth Day, April 22, 2010. Five awards were presented. IES was the only non-profit organization selected for the honor.

Mounting evidence shows accumulating chemicals in waterways are cause for concern. As a result of everyday household use, trace amounts of chemicals from consumer products are accumulating in downstream waters sources. Collectively referred to as "contaminants of

emerging concern” (CECs), many of these chemicals are known or suspected toxins or endocrine disruptors, which may create human health risks or cause biological abnormalities and mutations in aquatic life. Traditional wastewater treatment does not effectively remove these CECs, allowing their release into the environment even after water has been treated.

The City of Golden is the first Denver-metro area municipality to collaborate with IES in the Contaminants of Emerging Concern Project. The project mission is to use education and community-based social marketing to prevent the introduction of household and personal care project contaminants into the water supply.

The Golden project includes water analysis, community member surveys, and educational outreach. A Steering Committee comprised of university researchers, local, state, and federal government agency representatives, water utility representatives, and private sector interests guides the project.

Over the past 12 months, IES outreach efforts reached hundreds of Golden residents through community surveys, a workshop series, and publications providing practical advice on ways to reduce use, generation, and disposal of CECs, such as cleaning with vinegar, baking soda, and lemon juice, using less detergent per laundry load, and not using anti-bacterial soap.

The Institute for Environmental Solutions (IES) is a Denver-based non-profit organization dedicated to addressing complex environmental challenges. IES uses sound, independent science to find potential solutions, develop objective evaluation methods, implement strategies, and measure and demonstrate costs and effectiveness. IES’s approach emphasizes integration across technical disciplines and inclusion of all potential stakeholders throughout project design and implementation.

For more information or to participate in the Contaminants of Emerging Concern Project and IES, please visit [www.instituteforenvironmentalsolutions.org](http://www.instituteforenvironmentalsolutions.org).

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