



761 Newport Street • Denver, Colorado • 80220-5554
303 388 5211 • www.InstituteForEnvironmentalSolutions.org

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 7, 2008

TreeScapes – an online tool for sustainable tree planting

(Denver, Colorado) – The Institute for Environmental Solutions (IES) today released TreeScapes, an online, interactive, and user-friendly tool that allows a homeowner to optimize, quantify, and visually display the environmental benefits of trees on their property.

“It is a one-of-a-kind tool that integrates all of the environmental benefits of trees and quantifies their tradeoffs,” says Carol Lyons, IES Executive Director. “With TreeScapes, homeowners who want to address water conservation and energy savings, for example, will now have the tool to do so.”

The tool, available for free on the IES Web site, www.i4es.org/treescapes.htm, first asks users to choose a direction for the front of their home, the size of house, and dimensions of their property and then, using drag-and-drop technology place individual existing trees and “plant” potential trees on their “virtual property”. The tool provides a scored list, for the existing trees and new trees by the environmental benefits – carbon sequestration (global warming mitigation potential), air quality improvement (reducing ozone), energy savings, prevention of stormwater runoff, reducing particulate matter (pollution control), and water conservation potential. Each tree receives a score from 0 – 10 indicating its suitability for each of the environmental benefits.

Simple instructions guide users through the tool, and a plant and maintenance guide informs home owners how to select the best tree, plant a tree correctly, and maintain trees so that they provide benefits for many years. Links to other sources such as Trees Are Good, Colorado Tree Coalition, and The Colorado State Forest Service provide additional information about planting and caring for trees.

Keith Wood from the Colorado State Forest Service says, “TreeScapes is a great, educational tool for those homeowners looking to plant the right tree in the right place. This innovative program will help with properly planting trees in residential landscapes not only with regard to adequate space for a tree to mature, but with regard to getting the most air quality, water, and energy conservation benefits from trees as they grow.”

Funded by a grant from the Xcel Energy Foundation, TreeScapes is just one outcome of IES’s Tree Project Phase 2, which was a collaboration between IES and the City of Golden to quantify all of the environmental costs and benefits of trees on city property.

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.

Please visit www.i4es.org for more information or contact Ruth Gaulke, Research Associate, ruth@i4es.org.

###