

Stakeholder Connection

Your news source on the Institute for Environmental Solutions projects and progress



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Three Cheers Three Years! 2018 Wheat Ridge Kullerstrand GREEN Project



The IES Tree Project launches the third year of the Wheat Ridge Greenbelt Restoration and Environmental Education Network (GREEN) project this spring. The GREEN project fosters environmental stewardship among local students while restoring the Wheat Ridge Greenbelt, an area treasured by residents for biking, running, and nature walks. IES, Wheat Ridge Parks and Recreation Department (WRPRD), and Kullerstrand Elementary School will team up this spring to plant native trees and shrubs along the walking trail between the Kipling and Moore Street entrances of the Greenbelt.

On Forty Kullerstrand TRAILS program students in kindergarten through sixth grade will participate in classroom workshops led by IES team members and WRPRD staff members. We will explore Colorado ecology, safety and how to plant trees, and nature journaling. During two planting days in April, students will plant over 120 native trees and shrubs around the walking trail with the help of WRPRD staff members, Kullerstrand teachers and parents, and IES volunteers. Newly planted trees and shrubs will be cared for by Wheat Ridge Summer Sun Campers during the summer. IES Tree Stewards will continue to care for the site for an additional two years.

For more information, please read the 2018 IES GREEN Project Prospectus at www.i4es.org/projects/the-tree-project/current-projects/. More information: Kelly O'Toole, IES Graduate Intern, kelly@i4es.org.

Communities for Clean Water Initiative pilot workshop at Red Rocks Community College



The IES Chemical Footprint Project (CFP) team is delighted to collaborate with Red Rocks Community College, Lakewood Campus, to implement our new Communities for Clean Water Initiative to reduce water pollution and prevent environmental and human exposure to contaminants of emerging concern found in personal care and household products.

The CFP team collected valuable survey data from Red Rocks students, faculty members and staff members during one week in February. The results gave us useful insights on the benefits that motivate people to reduce their chemical footprints and understanding of the barriers that keep people from adopting more sustainable behavior. IES will host focus

groups at Red Rocks in early April to dig deeper into the survey findings and learn from participants through group discussions.

The Communities for Clean Water Initiative pilot workshop will be held at Red Rocks in late April. Participants will learn about the dangers of contaminants of emerging concern, what personal care and household products they are found in, and how to avoid them. Attendees will learn how to reduce their chemical footprints through tips on shopping smart and making their own contaminant-free products. If you would like to participate in a focus group or attend the workshop, please email Mike Smith, Mike@i4es.org.



Thank you, The Colorado Health Foundation, Wheat Ridge City Council, Community First Foundation, and Patagonia Denver!

IES is thrilled to announce a major grant from The Colorado Health Foundation (www.ColoradoHealth.org) to support environmental improvements for the Sheridan Quincy Trail and ecology education for Fort Logan Northgate Leadership students. The Wheat Ridge City Council selected IES to receive a 2018 Outside Agency Contribution to advance our collaboration with Wheat Ridge Parks and Recreation Department in the Greenbelt. Community First Foundation (CommunityFirstFoundation.org) and Patagonia Denver (www.patagonia.com) both provided significant grants to support this spring's Greenbelt Restoration and Environmental Education Network (GREEN) Project. These grants bring exciting opportunities for the IES Tree Project to make connections to the wider community and advance our work to improve Colorado cities using tree science.

As part of the Patagonia Denver grant, IES has access to a special new website, Patagonia Action Works, which will help us boost our social media outreach and disseminate information about the Tree Project to Patagonia customers. You can use the site to check out what is new with the Tree Project or to find other non-profit organizations in Denver doing environmental work. To see the IES Patagonia profile, please go to www.patagonia.com/actionworks/grantees/institute-for-environmental-solutions/.



Hug trees! Become a tree steward!



The IES Tree Project relies on dedicated volunteers that we call terrific tree stewards to care for the new baby trees planted by students in Wheat Ridge and Sheridan every year. We look forward to welcoming back our veteran stewards this spring, and invite new volunteers to join the fun. Volunteer commitments are flexible; training is provided; and free pizza is included. Stewardship includes watering, weeding, and mulching newly planted trees, shrubs, and grasses in the Greenbelt and along the Sheridan Quincy Trail.

IES has an opening for one or two volunteer Tree Steward Coordinators to monitor the plants in Sheridan and Wheat Ridge, and to support all our volunteer stewards. This is a great opportunity to get involved with improving the environment, meeting great people, and working with terrific kids and adults.

If you or a friend would like to volunteer as a Tree Steward or apply for the Coordinator post, please email IES at solutions@i4es.org. More information: John Kelly, Tree Project Manager, john@i4es.org.

Dunkin Donuts ditches iconic Styrofoam cups worldwide

Dunkin Donuts, the popular coffee and baked goods chain originating in the northeast U.S., is set to replace all of its Styrofoam (polystyrene foam) coffee cups. After several years of researching an environmentally sustainable alternative, Dunkin Donuts will switch to sustainably sourced double-walled paper cups in spring 2018 with a goal to replace all Styrofoam cups by 2020.



Styrofoam is a trademarked brand made up of polystyrene foam widely used for disposable coffee cups, coolers, and packaging material. Many consumers favored this material as it kept their beverages hot. However, Dunkin Donuts states its new disposable cup is intended to keep beverages warm and is better for the environment and human health.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has listed the chemicals that make up Styrofoam to be carcinogenic, and they have been linked with numerous diseases. These chemicals pose threats to human health and are the fifth largest source of hazardous waste in our country. The production of Styrofoam is highly energy intensive. Styrofoam is not readily recyclable and can take over 500 years to decompose. It tends to clog landfills and pollutes our cities and water sources.

An easy ways to reduce your chemical footprint: Bring your own reusable mug next time you go out for coffee! More information: Samantha Grant, Samantha@I4ES.org.

IES Institute News

The IES Chemical Footprint Project team welcomes one new Associate and four new graduate interns. Erin Schwarzbach has a BS in Biology from Loyola University New Orleans and is SCUBA certified. Samantha Grant has a BA in Psychology from State University of New York Purchase College. She has experience working with children with special needs. Timothy (Tim) Smith has a Bachelors degree in Biological Sciences from the University of Denver. He has done a variety of ecological and environmental field research. Grace Helgager has a BS in Environmental Science from the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis. Grace has experience with Colorado Parks and Wildlife and Friends of Earth Action. Helen McGrath has an MSc in Marine Ecology from Queen Mary University of London and a BSc in Marine Biology from the University of Aberdeen. She has extensive experience in international marine environmental programs, and is a PADI Open Water Scuba Instructor.

The IES Tree Project team welcomes one new Associate and two graduate capstone students. Kelly O'Toole has an MA in Cultural Anthropology from the University of Colorado Boulder and a BA in Anthropology from The College of William & Mary. She has done research in Tanzania, French Polynesia, and Northern Australia. Julia Dullien and Hillary Seybold are candidates for Master of Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Colorado Denver. They are conducting research for the Tree Project for their capstone projects this spring. Hillary has a BS in Sustainable Development from Appalachian State University, North Carolina. Julia has a BA in Human Geography from University of British Columbia, Vancouver.

IES Opportunities

IES is seeking motivated volunteers and graduate interns who are passionate about protecting the environment to join our project teams. We have openings for project, development, social media, and fundraising volunteers and interns. Interested candidates should submit a resume and cover letter to Solutions@i4es.org.

IES is looking for an energetic professional who wants to ensure the application of sound scientific solutions to our pressing environmental challenges to join the IES Board of Directors. Please contact IES at Solutions@i4es.org for a position description and application.

We need a Tree Steward Coordinator to organize our team of dedication tree stewards to care for our trees in Wheat Ridge and Sheridan. This position is flexible and comes with lots of free outdoor exercise. Please email Solutions@i4es.org if you are interested.

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