

Stakeholder Connection

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



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IES Chemical Footprint Project collaborates with Clean Label Project and Ocean First Institute

The IES Chemical Footprint Project recently established exciting new collaborations with two important local environmental non-profits: Clean Label Project and Ocean First Institute. Both organizations are eager to work with IES on our shared mission to prevent harmful chemicals from polluting our environment and harming human, animal, and environmental health.

Clean Label Project tests everyday consumer products for 130 harmful environmental and industrial contaminants and toxins such as heavy metals, by-product contaminants, process contaminants, and nutrition. Clean Label Project is based in Denver and partners with Ellipse Analytics to objectively test and report the chemical makeup of best-selling consumer product ingredients. Clean Label Project provides its findings to the product companies to let them know what harmful contaminants are present so they can make them safer. Go to cleanlabelproject.org to find out what is in YOUR pet food, baby food, sunscreens, and protein powder.



Ocean First Institute focuses on ocean conservation through research, education, and prevention. Mikki McComb-Kobza, Ph.D., Executive Director, and Lauren Riegler, Director of Outreach, teach the many ways we are connected to the ocean, even in the Rocky Mountains! Based in Boulder, Ocean First Institute offers educational programs for children in the classroom, virtually, and in the field, to teach them how to preserve ocean ecosystems and protect endangered marine wildlife with simple pollution prevention strategies. We affect the health of our oceans by the substances we use in our everyday lives. To learn more about Ocean First Institute's conservation projects, check out oceanfirstinstitute.org. More information: Samantha Grant, Samantha@i4es.org.

IES Wheat Ridge Tree Ambassadors: Campers care for trees and shrubs in the Greenbelt

The IES Tree Ambassador Program just finished its third year of summer maintenance and plant care in the Wheat Ridge Greenbelt. Thirty Sun Campers from the Wheat Ridge Parks and Recreation (WRPR) Summer Day Camp worked twice a week at IES planting sites from the Greenbelt Restoration and Environmental Education Network (GREEN) Project. Campers visited the sites to weed and water trees and shrubs, assisted by IES Associates and volunteer Tree Stewards. Once a month, campers received naturalist training from WRPR Environmental Interpreter Susan Bennett. They measured the height and diameter of cottonwood trees near the planting sites to investigate how the trees grow during the summer.



On August 10, IES thanked the children for their summer of hard work at a ceremony, where they received personalized Tree Ambassador certificates recognizing them as young naturalists. Campers were treated to a party with lemonade and tree-shaped cookies. Their hard work is important to tree and shrub survival and to increasing the biological diversity of the Greenbelt through the removal of noxious invasive weeds. The IES Tree Project thanks all the WRPR Sun Campers, IES terrific Tree Stewards, and the Sun Camp counselors for all their hard work during the summer. More information: John Kelly, IES Tree Project Manager, john@i4es.org.

IES Contaminants of Emerging Concern explainer video coming soon!



Have you always wanted to know what a CEC is, but were afraid to ask? The IES Chemical Footprint Project explainer video will break down the complex issue of contaminants of emerging concern (CECs). CECs may seem like a daunting topic, but this video will show how simple it is to reduce and prevent CECs in your everyday life. The video will explain what CECs are and what common products they are found in. You may be surprised to find how many household and personal care products contain CECs, including toothpaste, hand soap, sunscreen, bug repellent, laundry detergent, and cleaners. The video will explain why we should be concerned about CECs and the harmful effects they have on human and environmental health. It will provide simple, affordable, and effective ways that you can protect yourself and the environment from CECs. The video will be posted on the IES website and YouTube. Stay tuned on IES social media to find out when the video is released. If you have a useful contaminant prevention strategy, please email it to Solutions@i4es.org, so we can feature it in the sequel video. More information: Tim Smith, tim@i4es.org

2018-2019 Sheridan Quincy Project underway

This fall's Sheridan Quincy Trail Project marks the fourth year that IES will work with local stakeholders to improve the trail. IES partners with Fort Logan Northgate School to provide students in the Leadership Class with hands-on classroom workshops to teach skills focused on civic responsibility. Students will collaborate with IES team members to continue to create a welcoming space in their community at the west end of the Quincy Trail and to learn about local leadership roles. The students will participate in a planting day and two workshops to learn how to become environmental leaders in their community. The community space was started last spring on school district property. This year we will focus



on improving the Irving Street trail entrance and finish the community space. The new space will include a covered picnic area, student-decorated rock gardens, and a rain garden along Irving Street to collect rainwater and decrease erosion and runoff. These elements will be added to the trail to create an inviting space for community members to enjoy. More information: Carrie Martin-Haley, carrie@i4es.org.

IES to host fall CREEC meeting on water pollution prevention



CREEC
CONSORTIUM FOR RESEARCH
AND EDUCATION ON
EMERGING CONTAMINANTS

IES will host the upcoming Consortium for Research and Education on Emerging Contaminants (CREEC) meeting on November 1 in Denver. Four unique presentations will focus on water pollution prevention.

Jaclyn Bowen, Executive Director of the Clean Label Project, will present "The Next Frontier of Food and Consumer Product Safety: Toxicity." The talk will discuss current food and consumer product safety policy with respect to the long term adverse health effects associated with the repercussions of industrial agricultural, large scale food production, and emerging chemicals of concern.

"Ocean Plastic Pollution, A Global Issue" will be addressed by Dr. Mikki McComb-Kobza Executive Director, Ocean First Institute. She will describe Ocean First Institute programs that focus on getting people to become more aware of this issue and how our behaviors and choices can have an impact.

Kim Schultz, Oil and Gas Program Coordination at The Endocrine Disruption Exchange, will talk about "TEDX: Bridging the gaps between science, policy, and the public." TEDX provides scientific tools to educate people about endocrine disruption, advocate for health protective laws, and remove harmful chemicals from consumer products. The presentation will feature current issues in science and policy, with a focus on chemicals of concern in Colorado.

The IES team will present "Reducing Contaminants of Emerging Concern: Employing behavior change strategies to decrease CECs", covering our Communities for Clean Water Initiative (CCWI) pilot program.

The meeting will be Thursday, November 1, 2 to 4 pm, at the Daniels Fund, 101 Monroe Street. More information: Helen McGrath, helen@i4es.org.

Beware: Stormwater runoff drains to streams and rivers

Colorado is no stranger to major rain events that can cause large amounts of stormwater runoff. The soil gets so saturated that it can no longer absorb more water, so the water flows downhill, taking topsoil, road dust, and pollutants from yards, sidewalks, and streets. Stormwater runoff flows into gutters and directly into streams and rivers, taking the topsoil and pollution along.

You can prevent stormwater runoff and protect water quality! The best thing is to plant native trees, shrubs, and grasses in areas where stormwater runoff occurs. Plant roots help grab onto the soil, making it harder for the soil to wash away during heavy rain. Along with planting bare areas with native shrubs, make sure your home's gutter downspouts point away from paved surfaces. Even better: install a rain garden or a rain barrel. Rain barrels, which collect rain for later use, are now legal in Colorado. Pick up after your pet. Pet waste can be washed away with



rainwater and pollute streams. Use compost as your fertilizer. Chemical fertilizers are dangerous pollutants.

IES works to prevent stormwater runoff by planting trees and shrubs along trails and in open spaces. We teach school children about the importance of trees and shrubs in the urban environment, and invite adults to be Tree Stewards to help care for the new plantings.

Volunteer to be a Tree Steward or to work with school children to plant native species! Please visit our website at www.i4es.org or email Patti Venneman, Patti@i4es.org.

Successful pilot Communities for Clean Water Initiative final report to be published



The IES Chemical Footprint (CFP) Project will publish the pilot Communities for Clean Water Initiative (CCWI) final report that details and evaluates all aspects of the pilot soon. Team members dissected the program, analyzed survey and focus group data, discussed observations, reviewed meeting notes, and scrutinized participant evaluations to prepare the report.

IES implemented the CCWI by first surveying a pilot community on its knowledge and opinions about the growing problem of contaminants of emerging concern polluting our water. Team members collected data on community members' product purchasing motivations and on barriers and benefits to sustainable behavior change that could help prevent future water contamination and human and environmental exposure. We conducted focus groups that delved into the survey findings with depth and nuance. The culmination was a community workshop that imparted valuable knowledge and tools to participants on reducing chemical footprints.

It was a long and successful journey which benefitted from diverse stakeholder assistance. Pilot initiatives need objective evaluation and accurate analysis. We want to know what did and did not work and how to improve for future initiatives. We are taking stock and using these insights to shape future objectives. Publication will be announced on IES social media. More information: Mike Smith, Mike@i4es.org.

IES partners with Xcel Energy for Day of Service, September 8

Join IES to commemorate the victims of the September 11, 2001 attacks and give back to the community! IES has again been selected by Xcel Energy to host a community service event for the Day of Service on Saturday morning, September 8. This annual event invites community volunteers to participate in service projects across Colorado. IES's project will take place along the Quincy Trail in Sheridan (Quincy Avenue and Irving Street). Volunteers will weed and mulch IES planting sites and prepare the trail for this fall's community space building project. To volunteer, please register on the Xcel Energy Day of Service website: <http://xcelenergydos.ivolunteer.com/ies18>.



IES is proud to be the recipient of a 2018-2019 Xcel Energy Foundation Environment Grant. The grant will

support this fall's Sheridan Quincy Trail Project, in collaboration with Fort Logan Northgate School, the City of Sheridan, Sheridan School District No. 2, and South Suburban Parks and Recreation District. IES is excited to continue our twelve-year partnership with the Xcel Energy Foundation in the Denver metro community by providing environmental improvements! More information: Sabrina Kleinman, Tree Project Associate, sabrina@i4es.org.

IES Institute News

The IES 2017 Annual Report is in the mail and email. If you did not receive your copy, please email Solutions@i4es.org with your snail mail or email address.

The IES Board is excited to welcome two new members: Allison Robinette is an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Colorado. She has a BA in Communication from Truman State University in Kirksville, MO, and a JD from the University of Denver.

Andrew Thomaidis is an independent Operations and Sales Executive. Recently he was COO of Ecosystems in Denver. He has a BA in Communications from American University, and is completing an MBA at Metro State in Denver.

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 and occasional pizza. Please email Solutions@i4es.org if you are interested.

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