



## Welcome!

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the Institute for Environmental Solutions' *Stakeholder Connection*. This e-newsletter is your link to the latest in IES's project updates and research. We hope that you will find this periodical educational and informative. For more IES news, please visit [www.i4es.org](http://www.i4es.org)

## IES to Host Fifth *Tree Project* Stakeholder Workshop - November 6, 2008

IES's *The Tree Project: Integrated Urban Environmental Improvement Through Tree Selection and Management* is an innovative program designed to identify how trees can be used to optimize energy and water conservation, mitigate climate change and improve air quality. In May 2008 IES published the Phase 2 Final Report for *The Tree Project*, which included the results of IES's field data collection program conducted in 2007. The program assembled data on trees, energy consumption, water consumption, and meteorology, as well as collecting over 1,000 soil samples to investigate utilizing trees to minimize the amount of water needed in a given landscape. A social issues survey was conducted, to determine residents' attitudes and knowledge concerning trees and their benefits. IES's Climate Coalition, Stormwater Management Project, Ozone Initiative and *TreeScapes* are all initiatives that have grown from the results of *The Tree Project*. The fifth stakeholder advisory workshop on November 6, 2008 will give stakeholders a chance to evaluate the Project's progress and help guide new Phase 3 initiatives. Watch your email for an invitation.



## Colorado Urban Forestry Climate Coalition

IES is moving forward with its groundbreaking climate change mitigation program, the *Colorado Urban Forestry Climate Coalition*. The Coalition aims to unite Colorado towns in developing and marketing greenhouse gas offsets. A number of community foresters expressed interest in participating in the Coalition at the July 24 Front Range Urban Forestry Council meeting, where IES Research Associates presented a project update. IES is currently building a list of interested community and business representatives to form the project steering committee.

## IES Trees for Stormwater Management Project

IES recently began development on a new "branch" of *The Tree Project: Trees for Stormwater Management*. Our goal is to inform stormwater managers about how they can use trees to reduce stormwater runoff as well as reduce the amount of pollutants that the runoff carries. IES researchers met with Cynthia Peterson of AWARE Colorado in July and August to discuss how this new initiative might enhance existing outreach programs. A *Trees for Stormwater Management* project prospectus will be available soon at the IES Web site.

## ***TreeScapes***

*TreeScapes* is a cool new online, interactive Web site designed to help homeowners and property owners plant trees to optimize environmental improvement, including energy conservation, air quality, carbon sequestration and stormwater management. IES received a grant from the Xcel Energy Foundation to implement the planning and development of this educational application. The user can incorporate existing trees and select and design new tree planting to conserve water and energy, to improve air quality and sequester carbon. The tool includes a useful planting guide to teach people how to properly plant and care for their new trees to realize the most benefit. *Treescapes* can be found at the IES Web site, [www.i4es.org](http://www.i4es.org).

## **The IES Ozone Initiative**

Ground-level ozone air pollution is created when emissions from cars, trucks, factories, electric utilities, trees, and other plants combine in the presence of sunlight to create ozone pollution. Tropospheric (ground level) ozone is linked to health complications, especially for children, the elderly and people with breathing problems. It is particularly problematic during Denver's hot, sunny summers, which makes this type of pollution a big problem along the Front Range. Vegetation, including grasses, shrubs, and trees, can either contribute to or alleviate the concentration of ground-level ozone, depending on the species of plant. IES is working to partner with local and regional agencies to implement both scientific and educational projects to address this problem.

## **IES to Launch Emerging Contaminants Project**

IES's latest project, *Emerging Contaminants: Linking Science to Effective Action*, will determine the sources of emerging contaminants (ECs) in local waterways, and collaboratively design and implement a Pharmaceutical and Personal Care Products (PPCPs) Pilot Program to mitigate the effects of ECs on local water quality. Emerging contaminants are trace amounts of pharmaceutical, personal care and household products found in waterways, and may be linked to wildlife and human health effects. IES will partner with the city of Golden to launch the groundbreaking EC program this fall. With the support of key stakeholders, including Roche Colorado Corporation, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Colorado State University, and the SeaCrest Group, IES and local community staff members are forming a project steering committee and developing a project plan that will include a survey of citizen and local business habits related to daily chemical use and disposal. Next on the agenda is the formation of the *EC Coalition*, a group of key stakeholders who will represent a broad range of interests in the project and assist with project implementation.

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