Institute for Environmental Solutions

2011 ANNUAL REPORT

The Institute for Environmental Solutions is an independent non-profit organization that engages stakeholders to deliver technically sound solutions to complex environmental and health problems – without unwanted side effects.

Institute for Environmental Solutions

FROM THE PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Imagine scientists, business people, neighborhood activists, and policy experts working together to solve environmental problems. That's the formula at work every day at the Institute for Environmental Solutions. Since its inception eight years ago, the Institute has brought together diverse perspectives to meet environmental challenges head on. The end result is lasting change and measurable environmental improvement.

We are tackling some of today's toughest environmental challenges—one project at a time. This report summarizes advances in 2011 on each IES project and provides a flavor of the nexus between local action and global impact that typifies how we are achieving our mission.

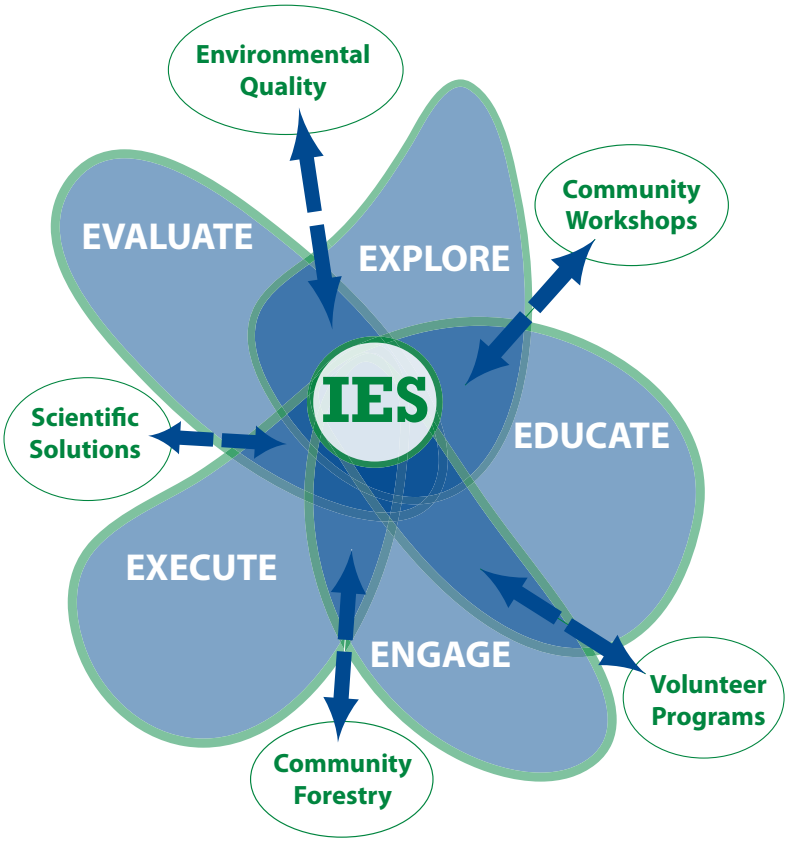
Sometimes the little things offer the greatest reward. For instance, IES brought more than 40 volunteers together for a tree-planting event on Sunday morning, May 1, 2011, at Mitchell Elementary School in Golden, Colorado. The project was designed to provide a buffer between the school and a busy adjacent highway. But it offered more. As parent coordinator Tracy Fletcher put it, "Part of the project is educational. In the long term, each grade can adopt a tree. They can name it, study it, and sit and read by it." In this way, the project's reach extends into the next generation.

We helped Front Range residents reduce their chemical footprint by educating them on how to make non-toxic cleansers through our "Non-Toxic Cleaning and Living" workshops. After the April 14, 2011, session in Fort Collins, Amy Alcorn of the Rocky Mountain Sustainable Living Association wrote, "Oh man that was a great workshop! You definitely missed out if you didn't make it. The Institute for Environmental Solutions did a fabulous job. I feel like I am much better equipped now. I have an understanding of what to avoid when purchasing cleaning products and also know how to make my own!"

These and other heartwarming experiences, plus the certainty that our projects create cleaner air and water, keep us passionate about what we do.

We are gratified by the progress we've made in 2011, but much remains to be done. With the continued support of our donors, associates, and partners, we are optimistic about the future.

Amy McGuire and Carol Lyons



IES projects are designed to advance our mission to solve environmental problems in an integrated and inclusive way.

Carol Lyons
Executive Director

Amy McGuire
President, Board of Directors

IES is making a difference...

Clean air,

Clean water,

A healthy place to live!

A healthy environment does not happen by accident. It takes effort to keep our planet green.

At IES, we are passionate about doing just that. And we are making a difference—one project at a time. In 2011, our efforts yielded measurable results:

- We created a unique integrated environmental improvement plan for a municipality using urban forestry as the primary driver of change;
- We built on success in researching and applying scientific forestry by implementing strategic plans and pilot planting programs;
- Our programs are pioneering the integration of multiple environmental and economic solutions at realistic cost for municipalities;
- Our approaches improved air quality and mitigated stormwater pollution;
- We used community-based social marketing to cost-effectively reduce the level of contaminants of emerging concern in our waterways, and
- We united hundreds of stakeholders in productive relationships many never thought possible.

While these results are gratifying, we are even more excited by the growing acceptance of IES's problem solving approach among environmental decision makers.

IES is a non-profit organization that delivers science-based solutions to environmental issues. When our organization is presented with a problem we research and then implement solutions that benefit all stakeholders. All environmental problems can be solved with win-win solutions for all parties and that is what we work towards in all our efforts.

And that's a promising trend for the future.

IES 2011 Financial Report

	IES Total	Program Services	Mgmt. and Admin.	Fundraising
INCOME				
Fund transfer income	$22,696	-	$ 22,696	
Grants	$19,979	$ 13,115	$ 6,864	-
Interest	$ 6	-	$ 6	-
Board contributions	$875	-	$ 875	-
Individual contributions	$6,335	-	$ 6,300	$ 35
Workshop fees	$ 500	$ 500	-	-
Total INCOME	$ 50,391	$ 13,615	$ 36,741	$ 35
EXPENSE				
DIRECT EXPENSE				
Dues,Training fees	$1,393	$ 1,285	$ 48	$ 60
Insurance	$ 946	$ 757	$ 189	-
Information technology	$ 3,144	$ 2,515	$ 629	-
Conferences and meetings	$ 3,730	$ 3,465	$ 204	$ 61
Mileage	$ 1,229	$ 819	$ 185	$ 225
Office expenses	$ 1,284	$ 998	$ 214	$ 72
Postage, shipping	$ 1,085	$ 648	$ 161	$ 276
Printing	$ 2,977	$ 1,707	$ 413	$ 856
Telephone	$ 71	$ 71	-	-
Travel	$ 351	$ 351	-	-
Total DIRECT EXPENSE	$ 16,210	$ 12,616	$ 2,043	$ 1,550
LABOR				
Executive director	pro bono			
Attorney	pro bono			
Administrative director	$ 3,055	$ 1,734	$ 1,156	$ 165
Graduate interns	$ 18,376	$ 14,623	$ 1,706	$ 2,047
Research Associates	$ 6,778	$ 5,016	$ 1,145	$ 618
Total LABOR	$ 28,209	$ 21,373	4,006	2,829
TOTAL EXPENSE	$ 44,418	$ 33,989	6,049	4,380
NET	$ 5,973			

THE TREE PROJECT

THE TREE PROJECT
ENERGY • WATER • AIR • CARBON

The Tree Project's mission is to improve the environment of Colorado's urban areas through proper tree selection and management. Strategic environmental improvement affects positive change in community health and local economies.

The goal of the Tree Project is to identify how trees can be used to optimize energy and water conservation, mitigate climate change, and improve air and water quality. IES guides Coloradoans to cost-effectively achieve environmental, health, and economic improvement using one tool—the urban forest.

Trees for Healthy Kids and Community, Golden, CO — In 2011, the Tree Project completed its first community forestry project, **Trees for Healthy Kids and Community**, at Mitchell Elementary School in Golden. The project strategically planted trees at Mitchell and educated the school community about the environmental benefits of trees and proper care and maintenance techniques.

Air and noise pollution from nearby Highway 93, along with high winds from the foothills, pose a big health concern to the school. Using strategic urban forestry, the Trees for Healthy Kids and Community Project addressed these concerns and ensured lasting, replicable, and positive change in environmental health at Mitchell. This project involved the City of Golden, Jefferson County Schools, Xcel Energy, Confluent Design (landscape architect), and the entire Mitchell community. Thanks to a grant from Xcel Energy and in-kind donations from IES team members, 50 Mitchell volunteers, including students, parents, teachers, and administrative staff planted 40 trees on May 1.

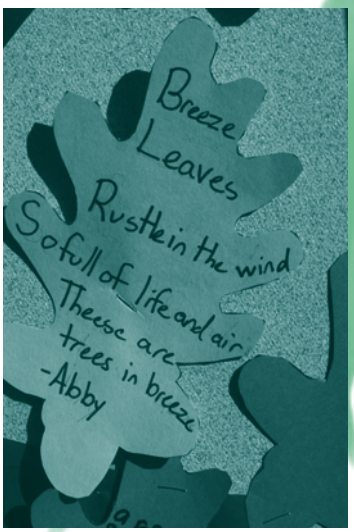
Mitchell students participated in an adopt-a-tree program where classrooms chose a tree to maintain and call their own so students and trees at Mitchell will continue to grow healthier and stronger together. The Final Project Report containing a step-by-step description of how IES made Trees for Healthy Kids and Community a success was published. IES looks forward to advancing the project in the future, planting more trees and transforming the entire campus into an educational, natural playground.

"The difference felt by our community was immediate. Almost every visitor new to our building comments on how great the campus looks and the families that have been around here for years notice a big improvement." —Mitchell Principal Ryan West

Trees for a Healthy Community and Economy City and County of Broomfield, CO — IES began work in 2011 on a new urban forestry project using strategic tree selection, siting, and planting to improve environmental quality and economic development opportunities in the City and County of Broomfield's emerging civic center. This project will capitalize on the proposed development of the civic center by using strategic urban forestry to create a natural environment that will promote social interaction, attract consumers to future businesses, and improve environmental and human health. This project will be implemented through collaboration among IES, City and County of Broomfield, Xcel Energy, North Metro Fire Rescue District, Bios-LDR, Colorado State Forest Service, and local businesses and community organizations. Xcel Energy provided initial

project funding through a generous foundation grant.

IES will use its expertise and guidelines from the Sustainable Sites Initiative (SITES) to develop a strategic landscape plan to attract more people to Broomfield's emerging city center and improve environmental and economic health. The project will include a community volunteer tree-planting event to implement the landscape plan, a community survey to measure the economic benefits of urban forests, and an educational program focused on teaching the Broomfield Community about the environmental, social, and economic benefits of trees. Trees for a Healthy Community and Economy will serve as a replicable model for the cooperative implementation of community-oriented economic development programs based on integrated environmental improvement.



Colorado Urban Forestry Climate Coalition (CUFCC) — IES completed Guidelines for Community Forestry Carbon Credit Projects. Geared toward municipalities, businesses, and communities looking to 'go green,' the guidelines introduce the practical tools to implement cost-effective forestry projects that maximize the benefits of trees. They will serve as an integral resource for the CUFCC, which seeks to establish community-based climate mitigation using urban forestry as a marketable greenhouse gas offset.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

Amory Ledyard, IES Tree Project Manager, and new trees thriving at Mitchell Elementary.

Since 2005, IES has hosted more than 60 graduate students and young environmental professionals as interns. IES collaborates with university environmental programs and related subjects in offering opportunities to students to gain research and work experience.

IES interns support technical and program work in all phases of IES projects. They conduct independent background research on environmental issues related to our projects. Interns participate in stakeholder meetings, community workshops, educational programs, and project design, implementation, and evaluation. Interns must have the ability to work independently, meet deadlines, and communicate effectively in a team-oriented environment. Team members learn to advance IES's mission, maintaining high technical standards while tackling the most challenging problems and working with the wide array of program and community stakeholders.

Many successful interns have advanced to become IES Research Associates, Institute Associates, and Board Members. IES interns are also advancing in a wide variety of professional careers with organizations such as the Denver Zoo, Goodwill Industries, City of Boulder Environmental Services, Town of Vail Community Development, Colorado Attorney General's Office, U.S. DA Forest Service, U.S. General Accountability Office, U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, National Renewable Energy Lab, QUEST Environmental, The Shaw Group, Greater Houston Partnership, Kirkland Museum of Fine & Decorative Art, Front Range Environmental, Sage Hospitality Resources, Amec, OptiMiser LLC, Schwartz MSL, Martin Martin Consultants, Climate Corps Bay Area, Water For People, Whole Foods, Defenders of Wildlife, Make-A-Wish Foundation, and Vista GeoScience.

CONTAMINANTS OF EMERGING CONCERN (CEC) PROJECT

CONTAMINANTS OF EMERGING CONCERN

IES is engaging communities in reducing the release of contaminants of emerging concern, CECs, into their water. CECs are harmful chemical compounds that can be found as ingredients in common household products. These contaminants have been shown to act as endocrine disruptors, meaning they can alter the natural reproductive processes in organisms. CECs like triclosan and parabens in water can lead to the development of cancer. The use of CEC-containing products like certain soaps, lotions, and surface cleaners puts humans and other organisms at risk of their harmful side effects. CECs are not regulated by the EPA and are not targeted for removal in water treatment plants. IES's mission is to reduce the release into the environment and human exposure to CECs.

IES partnered with the City of Golden to implement a pilot program to investigate and reduce CECs in wastewater. In 2010, we focused on community education proritizing changes citizens can easily make to have a positive impact on downstream water quality. In 2011, the CEC team conducted a community workshop for the Sustainable Living Association in Fort Collins and began developing the Blue Crew Water Stewards Project.

Blue Crew Water Stewards

Blue Crew Water Stewards

The Blue Crew Water Stewards Project will educate, excite, and empower students to protect their water from CEC contamination. IES wants to change the way kids think about the environment and encourage them to adopt new habits that keep both them and their water healthy. IES will teach students how to turn education into action, foster environmental commitment, and forge their paths as lifelong environmental stewards. Engaging students will result in reduced CEC concentrations in our water. We are again partnering with Mitchell Elementary School in Golden to develop and implement this pilot program for 6th graders.

CEC Workshop, Fort Collins, CO

IES Contaminant Guidebook

The IES CEC team continued its research on contaminants found in personal care and household products, examining current academic publications for the upcoming IES Contaminant Guidebook. The Guidebook will be a tool that gives citizens and professionals a way to understand the highly complex chemical characteristics and dangers of CECs. It will explain how each target CEC affects humans and other organisms.

ChemicalFootprint

The IES ChemicalFootprint interactive website is under development. ChemicalFootprint will combine scientific information, interactive web applications, and community-based initiatives to foster positive environmental behavior change. The website will disseminate objective information about the environmental dangers of using products containing these widespread and unregulated contaminants. It will be used as an educational tool to teach users how to choose and/or make contaminant-free personal care and household products.

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Help Keep The Air and Water Clean!

Sponsor or host a workshop, display, or presentation on reducing exposure to contaminants in household and personal care products, or planting the right tree in the right place. IES welcomes community groups, businesses, and citizen participation. For more information, please email Info@i4es.org.

Donate Now

If you value the important work of the Institute for Environmental Solutions, please lend your support.

Your charitable contributions to IES benefit your health and your environment.

To support IES, please send donations to: IES, 761 Newport Street, Denver, CO 80220.

Credit card donations are welcome at www.GivingFirst.org. Type in "IES" to Donate Now. 100% of your credit card donation at GivingFirst.org goes directly to IES!

Through the generous contributions of IES supporters, IES implements its mission and broadens the environmental cause through The Tree Project and CEC Project.

Get Involved

IES welcomes participation by individuals and organizations that support our mission and goals:

- **Professionals** interested in environmental solutions may join IES as Institute Associates or apply to serve on the Board of Directors. Visit our Web site or contact us directly for more information.
- **Students** at a graduate school or advanced level can apply for intern positions listed on the Web site.

Please call or e-mail with your questions, comments, and requests for more information.

THANK YOU, 2011 DONORS!

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Institute for Environmental Solutions
761 Newport Street
Denver, CO 80220-5554
303.388.5211
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