

# Stakeholder Connection

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



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## Help Save the Planet!

Your donation is vital to the mission of the Institute for Environmental Solutions. IES relies on your donation to continue doing our important work. By donating, you gain the satisfaction of knowing that you have taken concrete steps toward making a difference in creating cleaner air, purer water, and healthier lives. YOU can make a BIG difference with your financial support and commitment. *Please donate to IES now.*

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- Donate by credit card directly to IES at: [www.coloradogives.org/i4es](http://www.coloradogives.org/i4es). *Please schedule your gift for Colorado Gives Day, Tuesday, December 10, 2013!*
- Schedule this Colorado Gives Day donation right now - and help IES win a share of contributions from the Community First Foundation and FirstBank, thanks to your donation,
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Every donor will receive an *I'd rather be saving the planet!* bumper sticker. Thank you!

## Pollution Prevention Makes Cents!

Pollution prevention is more effective and economical than wastewater treatment removal of contaminants found in personal care and household products. Wastewater treatment facilities do not target all contaminants found in wastewater; they only target regulated substances. Pollution prevention involves using alternative products that do not contain toxic chemicals and alternative strategies, such as using less of a product and less often. Many toxic chemicals that the IES Contaminants of Emerging Concern (CEC) Team tackles are from nonpoint sources, meaning that release into water occurs from numerous small sources. Each household and business contributes to releases of toxic chemicals found in personal care and household products. The



impacts are seen through accumulation in rivers, lakes, plants and animals. Without personal action to reduce the release of these toxic chemicals, impacts to human health and the environment will continue and increase. Toxic chemicals in personal care and household products are suspected endocrine disruptors and can accumulate in the environment. Dramatic reduction in toxic chemical concentrations in wastewater can be achieved through local action to use toxic-free products and to reduce product use. The City of Bismarck, ND, eliminated its nonylphenol pollution problem through the united efforts of the city wastewater treatment plant, local businesses, and citizens. Visit the IES website ([www.i4es.org](http://www.i4es.org)) to view the top ten ways to reduce your chemical footprint! More information: Andrea Stucky, [andrea@i4es.org](mailto:andrea@i4es.org).

Third and Fourth Graders in Wheat Ridge Will Plant Trees to Preserve the Greenbelt



Thanks to a generous grant from Xcel Energy, third graders at Mountain Phoenix Community School and fourth graders at Kullerstrand Elementary School in Wheat Ridge will plant trees in the Wheat Ridge Greenbelt next spring. The goal of this new project is to engage and expose students to a diverse ecosystem right located in their own backyard. Students absorb and retain science education better when they use all five senses. The students will learn about the values and importance of trees, riparian habitat, ecology, species identification and techniques for proper care of trees. They will plant native trees, and have the opportunity to adopt these trees for long-term care. We are collaborating in this effort with the City of Wheat Ridge, along with teachers, administrators, and parents. Community volunteers

interested in helping with this program are welcome. More information: Carol Lyons, [Carol@i4es.org](mailto:Carol@i4es.org)

### Workshop in a Box: Educating the Next Generation!

After successful completion of the 3-workshop series at Mitchell Elementary School in Golden, the CEC Team is now developing a Water Pollution Prevention Workshop in a Box. This program is a replicable, stand-alone, interactive workshop to educate elementary students about toxic chemicals found in personal care and household products. Workshop in a Box is a 45-minute program with an interactive introduction to water pollution, a hands-on urban water system, alternative product creation, and goal-setting activity to reduce students' chemical footprints. The workshop focuses on triclosan and synthetic fragrance. Triclosan is an unnecessary antibacterial agent found in soaps, some toothpastes and deodorants. Simply washing hands for 15 seconds is effective at reducing the spread of germs. Synthetic fragrance (perfume, parfum) adds scent to personal care and household products such as lotion, shampoos, soaps, and air fresheners. IES educates students about the risks to human health and the environment, offers alternative products and suggestions, and discusses pollution prevention strategies. Through Workshop in a Box, IES hopes to lay a foundation of environmental stewardship in students, tomorrow's environmental decision makers. IES is currently looking for elementary schools to host an IES Workshop in a Box. For more information, contact Andrea Stucky, [andrea@i4es.org](mailto:andrea@i4es.org).



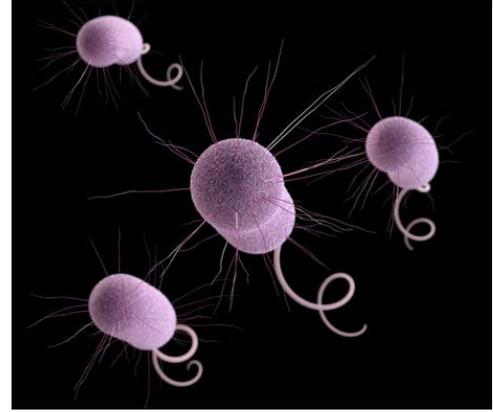
### Wheat Ridge *Revive the Greenbelt!* Final Report and Plaque Complete

The Final Report on the IES Wheat Ridge *Revive the Greenbelt!* Project is complete, and available at the IES website, [www.i4es.org](http://www.i4es.org). The project was supported by grants from the Urban Waters Federal Partnership and Xcel Energy. Support was also provided by the City of Wheat Ridge, Colorado State Forest Service, Urban Drainage and Flood Control District, Confluent Design, Bios LDR, Colorado Tree Coalition, Wells Fargo, MyPIE, Applewood Business Association, Modern Woodmen of America, Larkin Floor and Associates, and the Sierra Club Rocky Mountain Chapter. IES conducted research in the Wheat Ridge Greenbelt, and capitalized on the unique opportunities and challenges presented by the project site. Historically, plantings in the area have experienced high mortality. *Revive the Greenbelt!* will demonstrate a model to maximize survival of new plants. IES used its expertise and guidelines from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to analyze the site in developing a strategic landscape plan that addressed the opportunities and constraints. On April 27, 2013, IES and its project partners held a community volunteer tree planting to implement the landscape plan by planting 200 trees and shrubs. With this Final Report, we hope the *Revive the Greenbelt!* Project will be a replicable model for implementing future projects. A new plaque was recently installed at the planting site to commemorate the project. More information: Carol Lyons,



## Contaminants in the News: Household Chemicals Cause Drug-Resistant Bacteria

In an interview on October 22's NPR *Fresh Air*, journalist David Hoffman explained how bacteria are becoming resistant to antibiotics due to the release of antimicrobial products into the local water supply. When antibiotic drugs were introduced in the 1950s and 60s, they were referred to as "miracle treatments" due to their effectiveness in battling infectious disease. Scientists are now discovering that overuse of antibiotics and common antimicrobial chemicals is leading to new strains of bacteria that are very resistant to traditional treatment. What makes this worse is that hospitals are not required to report outbreaks of bacterial infections, so the public is often not aware of what is happening. The *Fresh Air* broadcast also mentioned "contaminants of emerging concern" as a contributing factor to the problem. At the Institute for Environmental Solutions, we focus on reducing the use of contaminants such as triclosan, a common antimicrobial chemical used in many soap products. The emergence of new "superbug" bacteria highlights the need to examine the environmental effects of any product, no matter how beneficial it may seem. Hoffman's report, titled *Hunting the Nightmare Bacteria*, aired on PBS's *Frontline* last month and provides an in-depth look at the rise of drug-resistant microbes. More information: Alex Key, [alex@i4es.org](mailto:alex@i4es.org)



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### IES Institute News

**Valerie Gleaton** joined IES's board in October. Valerie is the Content and Social Media Coordinator at Gaiam Life in Boulder. She has an MA in Newsgathering from the University of Colorado at Boulder and a BA in English from the University of Alabama.

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](mailto:Solutions@i4es.org) for a position description and application.

IES is seeking two motivated **graduate interns** who are passionate about protecting the environment to join one of our project teams: The Tree Project or the Contaminants of Emerging Concern (CEC) Project. We also have openings for Development / Fundraising, Social Media Marketing, and Web Development / Programming Interns. These are part-time unpaid internships based in Denver with a flexible schedule. Interested candidates should submit a resume and cover letter to [Solutions@i4es.org](mailto:Solutions@i4es.org).



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