

Stakeholder Connection

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



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The solution is less pollution, and you can make a difference today! Your donation to IES will improve water and air quality, and improve human and environmental health. IES's programs bring stakeholders together to solve complex environmental and health problems. We are a volunteer based organization and we depend on your support.

Donate on Colorado Gives Day, December 9, to maximize your donation. Please go to www.coloradogives.org/i4es to donate. You can make a contribution anytime up to or on December 9. Just select the "CO Gives Day" button under the "Donation Amount." All contributions to IES are tax-deductible and each donation is leveraged through a \$1 Million Incentive Fund, increasing the value of each donation. Your donation helps IES secure funds to help our local environment.

You can also become an IES Planet Saver! Sign up at www.coloradogives.org/i4es to donate a monthly gift of \$10, \$25, or \$100. Just check "Is this a recurring donation?" Designate to start donating on Colorado Gives Day, Tuesday, December 9, 2014.

You can also support by mailing a check to IES, 761 Newport Street, Denver, CO 80220. Thank you for making a difference!

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Xcel Energy Foundation Awards IES Funding to Improve the Sheridan Quincy Trail



Xcel Energy Foundation selected IES's project to revitalize the Sheridan Quincy Trail corridor between Irving Street and Federal Boulevard in the City of Sheridan, CO for 2015 funding. IES is partnering with the City of Sheridan, Sheridan School District No. 2, South Suburban Parks and Recreation District, local businesses, and other community organizations. The Xcel Energy grant will make this project possible.

IES and partners will plant native trees and shrubs along the Sheridan Quincy Trail drainage corridor. New vegetation to prevent erosion and improve water quality as it drains to the South Platte River will create a safer and more inviting space for pedestrians and community members. The planting and revitalization will include the participation of students, parents, and teachers from the Sheridan School District

No. 2 along with other community volunteers. Classroom workshops to introduce and train students in local ecology, tree science, and environmental stewardship are a core element of the project.

IES is looking for additional project sponsors, partners and volunteers to help restore this trail, improve water quality, and improve urban forestry and stewardship. More information: Sean Mangus, sean@i4es.org.

Reducing Chemical Footprints - A Refocused IES Challenge

IES is stepping forward. A recent name change signals this forward vision: The Chemical Footprint (CFP) Project is the new name of the former Contaminants of Emerging Concern (CEC) Project. Consistent with the IES vision "to create efficient ways of dealing with complex environmental problems," the new name shifts attention from defining the problem to taking steps to address the issue. The CFP Project is still focused on toxic chemicals found in commonly available personal care and household cleaning products that are neither targeted under standard water treatment systems nor regulated. Protecting health and preventing waste and unwanted side effects remain the goals. 

The renaming matches IES's commitment to the principles of community-based social marketing. Information alone is insufficient to inspire changed behavior. Reducing our chemical footprints depends on building awareness (Wow! We certainly do use a lot of chemicals!) and creating opportunities for change (See, here's what we can do instead!). What, specifically, can individuals and communities do to reduce their chemical footprints to prevent harmful human and environmental exposures to these contaminants? People are willing and happy to change their habits when actively engaged with the issues and given practical, easy-to-use alternatives. The CFP Project continues to develop hands-on materials for use in schools and seeks opportunities to partner with communities to prevent the release of additional contaminants by adopting non-toxic alternatives and strategies. More information: Nancy Billica, Nancy@i4es.org.

Wheat Ridge High School Students Partner with IES to Preserve the Greenbelt



Wheat Ridge High School Career Exploration Class students will plant trees in the Wheat Ridge Greenbelt this coming spring in collaboration with IES's Growing the Greenbelt Education and Ecological Health Program. As in recent years, Jerry DiTullio, Wheat Ridge City Council Member and teacher at Wheat Ridge High School, will partner with Wheat Ridge Forestry and Open Space Supervisor, Margaret Paget, and IES to lead the high school students in an education and planting day program.

The Career Exploration Class gives students with learning challenges and disabilities the opportunity to gain real world experience in ecology and related careers. Students will participate in education and career building activities to better understand their Life Science curriculum. More information: John Kelly, john@i4es.org

New Television Broadcast Tree Project Videos

IES Tree Project Associates John Kelly and Sean Mangus were featured on Trinity Broadcasting Network KPJR-TV's community news program "Joy in our Town" in September and October. They discussed the challenges and benefits of urban forestry, and how IES is using trees to improve health and the environment. This was a great opportunity for IES to educate local viewers on the importance of using urban forestry to improve community health. The programs, hosted by Joyce Zounis, are now in the KPJR-TV (Channel 38 Westminster) video rotation, and available on IES's YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/channel/UCfvC8v-AXKH-U2aJFrF7yfA).



The "Urban Forestry" program includes information on the environmental benefits of urban forests and the ways communities interact with their forests. "Trees Make Cents" included information on what businesses

and local communities can gain or lose by having an active urban forestry program, and how urban forestry can be used to improve education. The videos highlight the work IES does and how we focus on science-based solutions to solve complex environmental problems. More information: John Kelly, john@i4es.org.

Toxic Flame Retardants: From Couch to River

Household consumer products including furniture, clothing, electronics, insulation and children's products, are routinely treated with flame retardants, many of which are toxic to humans and the environment. How do the flame retardants added to products such as couches find their way to our rivers? This is a question asked by researchers in an innovative study reported by the Washington Toxics Coalition in September 2014 (also published September 17, 2014, Environmental Science & Technology, American Chemical Society).



Washing machines are the apparent answer. Household dust and laundry wastewater from twenty Washington state homes located near the Columbia River were analyzed for flame retardant compounds. The study tested the hypothesis that flame retardants are transferred from homes to rivers by dust collecting on clothing, then transferred to laundry water that makes its way to wastewater treatment plants and eventually to waterways. A total of 21 flame retardant compounds were found in the household dust samples, and 18 of those compounds were identified in laundry wastewater.

The study then focused on wastewater treatment. As expected, flame retardant levels leaving the houses closely matched levels detected in the water entering nearby treatment plants. The more important finding that alarmed the researchers: Post-treatment measurements of some of the flame retardant compounds were equal to those found pre-treatment. In other words, these toxic chemicals passed right through wastewater treatment plants and were discharged to the Columbia River.

As the study demonstrates, the continued presence of flame retardants in household products has far-reaching consequences. Many of the compounds are known to cause cancer and disrupt hormone responses (with adverse developmental, reproductive, neurological and immune effects) in humans and wildlife. More information: Nancy Billica, Nancy@i4es.org.

IES Opportunities

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

IES is seeking motivated volunteers and graduate interns who are passionate about protecting the environment to join our project teams. We also have openings for Development / Fundraising, Social Media Marketing, and Web Development / Programming Volunteers and Interns. Interested candidates should submit a resume and cover letter to Solutions@i4es.org.

FEDERAL EMPLOYEES: Please donate to IES through the Combined Federal Campaign! The IES Federal Campaign number is 36573. Thank you!

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