

# Stakeholder Connection

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



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## Making a Splash with the 'Save Our Water Initiative'

IES's Chemical Footprint Project (CFP) team is working on our Save Our Water Initiative to reduce water pollution from contaminants of emerging concern (CECs). We will use social and behavioral science methods to demonstrate to communities and businesses that it is better to prevent the use of personal care and household cleaning products that contain trace amounts of harmful chemicals than to treat water that has been polluted with these chemicals.

IES is researching how CECs move through the water cycle from stores to homes to wastewater to rivers and the environment. We are looking at examples of community and business efforts to reduce the use of contaminant-containing products. The IES CFP team will work with communities to identify strategies that encourage use of alternative products that do not contain contaminants. The team will compare strategies to promote the switch to contaminant-free products. IES will compare water quality before and after the community implements prevention strategies. One targeted contaminant is nonylphenol, a synthetic surfactant used in laundry detergent. The project goal is to develop a program that can be expanded to other communities and contaminants. More information: Brianne Eby, IES Graduate Intern, [brianne@i4es.org](mailto:brianne@i4es.org).



## The IES Sheridan Quincy Project expands collaboration with Fort Logan Northgate 3-8 School



The Fort Logan Northgate (FLN) 3-8 School Leadership Class successfully planted 60 new native trees on Sheridan School District No. 2 (SSD2) property adjacent to the Quincy Trail in Sheridan in October. Later this winter, FLN Leadership students will begin caring for their trees, thanks to a new water storage container encased in an educational "cube" on site. DesignWorkshop contributed professional services to design the October planting, and is now designing and building the water storage cube.

Thanks to generous grants from Xcel Energy and the Colorado Garden Foundation, the strong collaboration among IES, FLN Leadership Class, SSD2, Design Workshop, the City of Sheridan, and South Suburban Parks and Recreation District will continue through 2016.

The 2016 Sheridan Quincy Project will focus on the trail section between Irving Street and Federal Boulevard. We plan to use native shrubs, flowers, and grasses to improve the Sheridan Quincy Trail while addressing multiple ecological and infrastructure challenges, such as utility easements and arid growing conditions. The trail improvements will contribute to long-term City of Sheridan efforts to provide non-motorized transportation options throughout the community. The 2016 IES project will involve classroom workshops and planting next fall. The IES Tree Project is excited to continue our partnerships to improve the Sheridan community with innovative planting programs. More information: John Kelly, Tree Project Manager, [john@i4es.org](mailto:john@i4es.org).

## Big Ban for a Small Plastic Polluter

President Obama signed the Microbead-Free Waters Act of 2015 on December 28, 2015. The bipartisan bill is intended to protect U.S. waterways by prohibiting manufacturers from selling and distributing products containing microbeads, the tiny plastic fragments in personal care products that give an exfoliating sensation. A study published in *Environmental Science & Technology* on September 3, 2015 reported that more than 8 trillion microbeads are entering U.S. aquatic habitats daily. Microbeads are used in hundreds of products ranging from body washes to toothpastes. One tube of facial scrub can contain more than 300,000 microbeads. The beads do not dissolve and, at 0.3 mm in diameter, are not filtered out in wastewater treatment. As a result, they end up in our lakes and oceans, posing a threat to wildlife that mistake the particles for food. Once in the environment, plastic microbeads are difficult to clean up due to their small size and high volume in waterways. Companies have until July 1, 2018 to phase them out. Avoid microbeads by checking ingredient lists on personal care products. Look for polyethylene, polypropylene, polyethylene terephthalate and polymethyl methacrylate on the product label. More information: Alexandra Gougeon, IES CFP intern, [alex@i4es.org](mailto:alex@i4es.org).



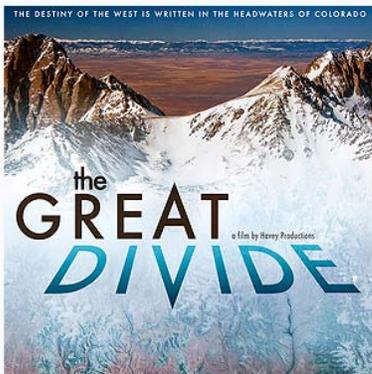
## IES GREEN: New planting program in Wheat Ridge this spring

IES's 2016 spring planting program in Wheat Ridge, the Greenbelt Restoration and Environmental Education Network (GREEN), will introduce students at Kullerstrand Elementary School to their natural environment through hands-on science education while improving the Wheat Ridge Greenbelt with new native trees and shrubs.



GREEN will engage Kullerstrand TRAILS (Teaching Responsibility and Independence with Learning Supports) students in hands-on activities that enhance their science curriculum. Students will learn about local plants and animals during classroom workshops and an educational planting day. The Kullerstrand TRAILS students will improve a new section of trail connecting the Greenbelt entrance at 41st Avenue and Kipling Street to existing trails near Moore Street. New trees, shrubs, and grasses will improve wildlife habitat and improve the environment by reducing air and water pollution. Students will have fun getting their hands dirty while learning life-long lessons about trees and ecology. IES will continue its Tree Stewards program with the help of dedicated community volunteers to care for the trees over the first three years of their lives. New volunteers are welcome! IES thanks the congregation of First Unitarian Society of Denver for its generous donations through its Giving in Action Program in support of the IES GREEN program. More information: John Kelly, Tree Project Manager, [john@i4es.org](mailto:john@i4es.org) or Marie Mutryn, Project Coordinator, [Marie@i4es.org](mailto:Marie@i4es.org).

## Water and Conflict: The Great Divide



Colorado. South Platte. Rio Grande. Arkansas. Yampa. These are major western rivers that originate in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado and supply water to multiple states. In the arid West, and particularly in Colorado, water is a divisive issue. Many Coloradoans know little about the issues surrounding water in this state. *The Great Divide*, a documentary film released in 2015, explores Colorado's history of water use, past and present conflicts, and the potential to solve these problems by working together. It is the subject of a discussion group that IES will facilitate for the Holy Cross Lutheran Church Adult Education Class in Wheat Ridge later this month. After a screening of *The Great Divide*, IES will hold a discussion focusing on water issues in Colorado and the West and how the future of Colorado depends on how people manage water. The documentary and discussion are timely with the recently completed State Water Plan, pressures on water resources from an

ever-growing population, multiple proposed water development plans and reservoirs, increased flooding and drought, and uncertainty about availability of water resources with climate change. The two-part event will occur on February 21 and February 28. Visitors are welcome. More information, Shannon Herstein, IES CFP Associate, [Shannon@I4ES.org](mailto:Shannon@I4ES.org).

## IES Institute News

IES is pleased to introduce five new volunteers and graduate interns. Brianne Eby is completing an MS in Environmental Studies at the University of Colorado Boulder. She has a BA in Psychology from Indiana University. Brianne is coordinating research on the Chemical Footprint Project team.

Alexandra (Alex) Gougeon has a BA in Environmental Science from the University of Denver. She is conducting research on the Chemical Footprint Project team. Shannon Herstein is a new IES Associate with an MS in Watershed Science from Utah State University and a BS in Watershed Science from Colorado State University. She is coordinating the IES Save Our Water Initiative.

Kathy McKeeta-Probeck is preparing her University of Colorado Denver Masters of Public Administration Capstone Project with the Tree Project. Marie Mutryn has an MS in Animal Science from the University of Delaware and a BA in Biology from Swarthmore College. She will coordinate the GREEN program for the IES Tree Project.

Andrew Rasmussen is conducting his University of Colorado Denver Masters of Urban & Regional Planning Capstone Project with IES's GREEN program. Andrew has a BA in Public and Urban Affairs from Virginia Tech.

## Volunteer Spotlight

Don Mangus is IES's new Tree Steward Coordinator. He recently retired after many years as a 3rd grade teacher in Jefferson County. Don is following in the footsteps of his son, Sean Mangus, who "retired" as IES Tree Project Manager last August to start the MBA program at Leeds School of Business (CU Boulder). Don is working diligently to improve and expand IES's Tree Steward program, which is critical to maintaining the hundreds of trees IES volunteers have planted in Wheat Ridge and Sheridan. If you are interested in some important and enjoyable volunteer work caring for trees and improving our urban environment, please contact Don at [mr\\_mangus@yahoo.com](mailto:mr_mangus@yahoo.com).



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

IES seeks motivated **volunteers and graduate interns** who are passionate about protecting the environment to join our project teams. We have openings for Project, Development, and Fundraising Volunteers and Interns. Interested candidates should submit a resume and cover letter to [Solutions@i4es.org](mailto:Solutions@i4es.org).

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