



IES Newsletter, Volume Five, Number One, March 2012

IES Launches “Trees for a Healthy Community and Economy” in Broomfield

IES is excited to collaborate with the City and County of Broomfield, Xcel Energy, North Metro Fire, Colorado State Forest Service, and Rocky Mountain Tire and Auto on the Trees for a Healthy Community and Economy project in Broomfield. This community forestry project will improve environmental, social, and economic health in Broomfield’s emerging civic center. IES will conduct a community survey to measure the potential economic impact urban forestry will have on Broomfield by identifying changes in consumer behavior in response to expanded tree canopy.



The IES Design Work Group (see article below) has created a strategic landscape plan for the area between Mamie Doud Eisenhower Public Library parking lot and the North Metro Fire Administration Building. A community volunteer tree-planting event will take place on Saturday, April 14. Broomfield, IES, and our partners are seeking support and involvement from local businesses and community organizations interested in improving Broomfield’s environment and economic strength. More information: Amory Ledyard, Amory.Ledyard@i4es.org.

Know Your Water Contaminants: Parabens



Parabens are a group of chemicals used as preservatives in food, pharmaceuticals, personal care products, and cosmetics. Parabens are found in nearly half of all personal care products in the U.S. market, including shampoos, conditioners, hand and body lotions, and facial creams. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration allows parabens as a food additive at a concentration of one-tenth of one percent. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency currently only regulates industrial use of one paraben compound, butylparaben, under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). The antimicrobial properties of parabens may damage cells in more complex life forms such as humans and wildlife. Parabens pollute the environment primarily through household use of paraben-containing products, which then enter the wastewater system. They are not removed by the traditional wastewater treatment process and pass into open waterways where they may affect wildlife. Parabens eventually enter drinking water systems where traditional treatment processes may again fail to remove them.

Scientific studies have shown negative effects of parabens on the reproductive systems of several laboratory animal species. Impacts include damage to ovaries in female rats and decreased organ weights in male mice. Paraben-containing compounds have been linked to increased rates of breast cancer in human adults. These findings led to decreased use of paraben compounds in deodorants. Several naturally occurring alternatives exist for paraben-containing personal and household products. To prevent water pollution and reduce your exposure to potentially harmful chemicals, reduce your use of personal care products (use less and use them less often), and look for personal care products that are labeled "paraben-free." More information: Shannon Oliver, Shannon.t.oliver@i4es.org.



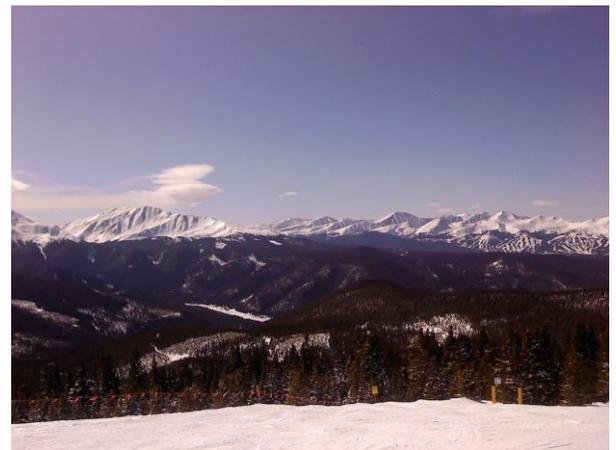
IES Tree Project is Growing Expertise

IES is proud to announce the Tree Project Design Work Group. Led by landscape designer and Institute Associate, Brian Kelly (Bios Landscape Design Research), the Design Work Group expands IES's commitment to scientific research and strategic tree selection by providing comprehensive design programs to the Tree Project's endeavors and urban forestry initiatives.

The Design Work Group includes two graduate interns, Sara Tabatabaie and Kathleen King. The Group will provide landscape designs, programs, and planting plans for the Tree Project, and add graphic elements to Tree Project educational materials and public relations resources. The Tree Project Design Work Group will explore environmental improvements through landscape design, resource planning and graphic representation to communicate the IES mission to municipalities, corporate partners and organizations interested in providing scientific solutions for today's environmental issues. The Design Work Group is active in IES's *Trees for Healthy Community and Economy* project in Broomfield, Colorado. More information: Brian Kelly, bpkelly.mla@i4es.org

The Chemical Dangers of Spring Snowmelt

In Colorado, we rely on the annual spring snowmelt to recharge our reservoirs and our groundwater reserves, a vital process in an arid climate. Most of the snowfall along the Colorado Rocky Mountain Front Range occurs at higher and colder altitudes, where it steadily accumulates all winter until temperatures rise in spring and the snow begins to melt. During periods of rapid snowmelt, stable seasonal snow packs can concentrate airborne pollutants and release them quickly. This rapid discharge of pollutants, most commonly sulfuric and nitric acids (created by the interaction of byproducts of fossil-fuel burning and the aqueous environment of cloud formations and snow precipitation) is known as spring shock, or ionic pulse, and can have a negative effect like a lengthy torrent of acid rain. Studies show that the initial 30% of snowmelt can contain 50 to 80% of the total contained acids.



This results in the rapid acidification of streams, rivers, and lakes, posing an array of problems for humans and the environment. The acidification of a natural aquatic environment can have adverse effects on every level of organisms, from

plants and invertebrates to fish and mammals. Acidified freshwater ecosystems are generally nutrient-poor, making water clearer and bluer. Overall biomass is largely unaffected, but biodiversity drops as many algal species, leeches, snails, crayfish, mayflies, salmon, and trout are unable to adapt, altering each trophic level in the food chain. Prevention can mitigate this damaging process. The sources of pollution (fossil-fuel combustion from power plants, factories, vehicles, and homes) may be geographically distant from the areas that are most affected. Conserving energy and reducing energy consumption will help to prevent water pollution at the same time as saving money and mitigating climate change. More information: Duncan Moll, duncanmoll@i4es.org,

Contaminants of Emerging Concern (CECs) in Water Resources: Research, Engineering, and Community Action Conference in Denver, June 25-27, 2012

IES is joining with the Colorado State Section of the American Water Resources Association, the Consortium for Research and Education on Emerging Contaminants (CREEC), Colorado Foundation for Water Education, and Colorado Water 2012 to help organize the second AWRA specialty conference on CECs. The previous conference was held in 2007 in Vail (www.awra.org/proceedings/Vail2007). The goal of the 2012 conference is to provide an interdisciplinary forum for CECs in the environment, highlighting the best of these efforts in oral presentations and poster sessions.

IES will host a special session and present a talk on “Building a Bridge from Research Results to Public Understanding and Pollution Prevention”. Technical sessions will focus on sources, transport, and fate of CECs in wastewater, drinking water, and receiving watersheds; potential human health risks or ecosystem effects of CECs; implications of CEC occurrence for water reuse; state of analytical methods for measuring CECs in water, sediment, soils, biosolids, tissues, and blood; policy and engineering solutions to limit or eliminate CECs; and implications of CEC research to policies of water utilities, and the pesticide, pharmaceutical and household chemical industries. More information: www.awra.org/meetings/Summer2012/contaminants.html or contact Carol Lyons, carol@i4es.org.



Two IES Donors Win Eldora Mountain Resort Tickets

IES held a raffle in February, giving valued friends of our organization an opportunity to win a pair of ski/snowboard tickets to Eldora Mountain Resort while supporting IES through donations of \$10 or more via GivingFirst (www.givingfirst.org/i4es). Two lucky individuals each won a pair of full day lift tickets, contributed by Eldora Mountain. Congratulations to Nicole Pfeiffer and Michael King for winning the lift tickets. Thanks to everyone that donated to IES and made this raffle successful! And thanks to Eldora Mountain Resort for its generous sponsorship.

IES Board of Directors Seeking Two New Members

If you value IES's important work and are interested in advancing practical solutions to environmental problems, please lend your support and consider joining the IES Board of Directors. Contact IES Vice-President Kristen Bertuglia at KBertuglia@vailgov.com for a position description and application.

IES is on Facebook! Please visit our page and "like" IES to receive more news. 

IES is proud to be a member of 1% For The Planet, the Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education (CAEE), the Colorado Nonprofit Association, the Colorado Tree Coalition, the Colorado Watershed Assembly, and Giving First.

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