

# Stakeholder Connection

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



Volume Six, Number Three, September 2013

## Wheat Ridge Revive the Greenbelt! - The Video

IES's Wheat Ridge Revive the Greenbelt! Project has been documented in a terrific video, which can be seen at: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=fgYBBs6wWw0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fgYBBs6wWw0). Check out this wonderful 10-minute video created by local video producer Jesse Johnson and sponsored by the City of Wheat Ridge!



## IES Hosts Emerging Contaminants Technical Meeting



IES hosted the quarterly meeting of the Consortium on Research and Education on Emerging Contaminants (CREEC) in early September. The IES Contaminants of Emerging Concern (CEC) Project Team presented an overview and the results of our successful Blue Crew Water Stewards elementary workshops pilot program. In addition, Mr. Jeremy Jasmann, earning his Ph.D. in Environmental Chemistry at Colorado State University, spoke about development of innovative flow-through reactors for the treatment of water contaminated with organic compounds such as 1,4-dioxane. Ms. Austa Parker, doctoral candidate at the University of Colorado at Boulder, spoke about new technologies being implemented for control of CECs in wastewater. The IES CEC

Team is using the scientific research from local universities to develop easy and effective contamination prevention strategies for elementary students. Hogan Lovells US LLP, Denver, generously provided the meeting room and refreshments for the participants. More information, Carol Lyons, [Carol@i4es.org](mailto:Carol@i4es.org)

## Trees are Thriving in the Wheat Ridge Thanks to Tree Stewards



A small hard-working band of community volunteers has been caring for dozens of newly planted trees and shrubs in the Wheat Ridge Greenbelt through the hot summer. The Tree Stewards are helping IES maintain the 200 trees and shrubs planted as a part of the Revive the Greenbelt! Project last April. The Tree Stewards have been extremely successful. The new plants are thriving. IES hosted workshops to train the Tree Stewards to maintain the newly planted trees and shrubs and how to spot common problems that the plants might face. Tree Stewards were shown how to look for signs of distress and how to properly weed around the plants, apply mulch, and water the new plants. If you are interested in learning about the environment and caring for the Wheat Ridge Greenbelt, or for more information contact Michael Haney ([mhaney@i4es.org](mailto:mhaney@i4es.org)).

## Know Your Water Contaminants: Flame Retardants



Since the 1970s, chemical flame retardants have been used on many common products to prevent fires. Flame retardants are in couches, vehicle seats and carpet padding. Electronics, including computers, printers and phones all contain flame retardants. These additive chemicals can leach out of these products over time, accumulate in the dust in our homes, and get into our bodies via inhalation or ingestion. Small children are exposed at a higher rate because of hand to mouth behavior, and babies are being exposed from their mothers' breast milk. Flame retardants are detected in fish, birds, and even arctic seals. Studies have shown that the once widely used class of flame retardant, polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs), can have neurological and developmental effects and act as a thyroid hormone disruptor (Toxicological Sciences, March 2010). A study in Environmental Health Perspectives (February 2013) found associations between PBDE concentrations and children's attention

spans, motor functioning, and cognition. Studies like this led to the ban of two PBDE commercial mixtures, octaBDE and pentaBDE, by the U.S. EPA in 2005 and a voluntary phase out of the decaBDE mixture by 2013. However, many products with long lifespans, still found in many homes, contain PBDEs. To reduce your risk of exposure to flame retardants, reduce dust exposure by vacuuming with a HEPA filter and using a wet mop on household floors. If you have a product with a TB117 label or that contains polyurethane foam, it most likely contains flame retardants. When possible, use an alternative material that is less likely to contain flame retardants such as wool, cotton, polyester, or down. More information, Jodi Jones, [Jodi@i4es.org](mailto:Jodi@i4es.org).

## Optimists Learn About CECs

The IES CEC team was invited to speak to the University Hills Optimist Club in Denver on August 1. The CEC Team presented to twenty club members about contaminants of emerging concern and provided easy, no-cost or low-cost alternatives to these contaminants. We demonstrated how to make glass cleaner and an all-purpose cleaner with common household ingredients, such as vinegar and lemon juice. The Optimists showed great interest in the subject, many speaking from decades of experience. Participants also took home handouts, with additional information on the contaminants covered in the presentation, and cleaning recipes. All information provided can be found on the IES website. We enjoyed visiting with Optimist Club members and sharing our passion for clean water with them. More information, Andrea Stucky, [Andrea@i4es.org](mailto:Andrea@i4es.org).



## Thank You to Xcel Energy!

"Congratulations! Your grant application was approved by our board of directors." This news recently arrived from Xcel Energy. Thank you, Xcel Energy, for your dedicated support of IES. This is the ninth grant IES has received from Xcel Energy. IES is proud to work with such a dedicated partner in our efforts for "scientific solutions for a better environment"! This new grant will support tree planting and maintenance in the Wheat Ridge Greenbelt to reduce air and water pollution and to improve human health. We look forward to continuing our work together for years to come. More information, Michael Haney ([mhaney@i4es.org](mailto:mhaney@i4es.org)).

## Trees: Public Health Infrastructure



If you put people in a natural environment with trees, it can reduce their stress

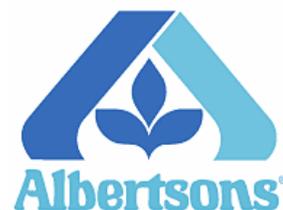


levels, reducing blood pressure and heart rate. Trees reduce air pollution and ground level temperatures, and filter many storm water pollutants. Trees should be incorporated into our public health infrastructure because they contribute many human health benefits. For example, massive tree die off due to emerald ash borers was linked directly to increased cardiovascular and lower respiratory disease and death.

Strategic tree planting is a practical way to address environmental benefits and positive public health outcomes. IES is collaborating with Front Range municipalities and community organizations to develop initiatives for possible funding through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This is a unique endeavor that crosses political, jurisdictional and vocational boundaries to bring together many stakeholders with a common focus of clean and healthy rivers and positive health outcomes. More information, Trevor Hamrlich, Research Associate, [Trevor@i4es.org](mailto:Trevor@i4es.org).

### Shop at Albertsons and Benefit IES!

Albertsons Markets recently designated IES as a Community Partner. With a free Albertsons-IES key tag scanned when you check out at any Albertsons in the country, IES will receive 1% of your grocery bill! There are nine Albertsons in the Denver area and hundreds of Albertsons across the country. Please email IES at [Solutions@i4es.org](mailto:Solutions@i4es.org) or call 720-295-4437, and let us know where to mail your free Albertsons-IES key tag! Provide cash support to IES and environmental protection with just a swipe of a key tag.



### Looking for a Few Great Graduate Interns

IES is seeking motivated graduate interns who are passionate about protecting the environment! We are looking for enthusiastic graduate interns 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. Successful candidates will be self-motivated, detail-oriented graduate students or college graduates. This is a part-time unpaid internship based in Denver with a flexible schedule. Interested candidates should submit a resume and cover letter to [Solutions@i4es.org](mailto:Solutions@i4es.org).

### IES Institute News

**The IES Online Experience Has Been Updated**  
IES has launched a new website! It's at the same address: [www.i4es.org](http://www.i4es.org). Please check it out, and let us know your comments.

Shannon Oliver joined IES's board in August. Shannon has been an IES Institute Associate and served on the CEC Project Team. Shannon has an MPH from Emory University and BS in Environmental Health from CSU. He recently joined Enerplus in Denver.

### The IES Board of Directors has openings

IES is looking for two energetic professionals who want 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 is on [Facebook](#)! Please visit our page and "like" IES to receive more news.



Link to IES on [LinkedIn](#)!



IES is proud to be a member of: 1% for the Planet, Albertsons Community Partners, Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education, Colorado Nonprofit Association, Colorado Tree Coalition, Colorado Watershed Assembly, ColoradoGives, and the Nebraska Watershed Network.

If this e-mail was forwarded to you and you wish to subscribe, please e-mail [Newsletter@i4es.org](mailto:Newsletter@i4es.org). The Institute for Environmental Solutions does not sell, rent, exchange, or give away any contact information. To unsubscribe, please e-mail [Newsletter@i4es.org](mailto:Newsletter@i4es.org) with 'unsubscribe' in the subject line.