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Colorado Environmental Partnership Workshop on Emerging Contaminants a big success

On Thursday, April 30, IES moderated the Colorado Environmental Partnership's Workshop, *Emerging Contaminants: Threats to Colorado's Water Supply*, at the Boettcher Mansion on Lookout Mountain. The event was a big success, with great presentations by Dr. Thomas Borch (Colorado State University), Dr. Kristen Keteles (U.S. EPA Region 8), and Ms. Sara Klingenstein (IES) and lively discussion, according to IES Executive Director Carol Lyons. Attendees represented many sectors, including government, non-profit, and business. Presentations highlighted the fate of steroid hormones, such as testosterone, in the environment; the U.S. EPA's approach to ECs; and community-based social marketing, a novel framework for community education. The presentations from the workshop are available at <http://www.i4es.org/emerging.html>. The Workshop was sponsored by Roche Colorado Corp. (Boulder) and MillerCoors (Golden).



Applying strategic urban forestry to stormwater management

IES's project *Trees for Stormwater Management* will promote scientific strategies for parking lot stormwater management that use trees' ability to control runoff while optimizing other environmental benefits provided by the urban forest. Strategic tree planting in specialized stormwater infiltration sites (bioretention cells) is one way to decrease runoff volume and pollutant loads. In addition to the environmental benefits, this project will reduce downstream infrastructure cost and prevent early replacement of failed systems due to incorrect tree species and soil selection. The objectives of the project are to:

- Evaluate the impact of trees in parking lot bioretention cells on stormwater runoff volume and pollution load in the Front Range
- Determine the tree species, soil composition, and maintenance strategies that will optimize effectiveness and cost-effectiveness
- Increase implementation of effective tree-based stormwater management strategies

With input from real estate developers, university researchers, and water resources experts, the project plan will be finalized this summer. Please contact Ryan Moore, Ryan@i4es.org, for more information.

Emerging Contaminants (EC) Project begins sampling program

City of Golden chemists collected residential wastewater samples in April to begin the IES EC sampling program to determine baseline levels of emerging contaminants. Complex chemical analysis of the samples will be performed this summer under the leadership of Colorado State University chemists Thomas Borch and Robert Young and U.S. EPA Region 8 chemist Mark Murphy. State-of-the-art analytical techniques will be applied at CSU and EPA to analyze for dozens of trace contaminants from personal care and household products as well as pharmaceutical products. The EC project will include a targeted education campaign to inform residents in Golden, IES's pilot city, about ways to reduce ECs from household cleaning and personal care in the wastewater. For more information, please contact EC Project Coordinator Sara Klingenstein

(Sara@i4es.org).

Urban forestry carbon credits in proposed federal climate policy?

Current legislation regarding a future federal climate change mitigation policy regime is nearing finalization in Congress. Urban forestry carbon credits are not explicitly included as part of the emerging cap and trade framework, though the approach and discussion of lawmakers suggests urban forestry will have a role. Avoided deforestation, the term for emitters paying people to not cut trees, is already a credible class of offsets internationally and in Washington, opening the door to other types of biological sequestration projects. Perhaps more importantly, urban forestry offsets are endorsed and traded under both of the two largest and most respected voluntary carbon credit trading platforms, the Chicago Climate Exchange and the Climate Action Reserve. As lawmakers look to these well established markets for guidance on which offsets work, there is a good chance urban forestry carbon credits will be included in federal legislation. Regardless of which types of offsets end up in the final bill, they will need to meet stringent quality standards. For more information on developing high-quality carbon offset projects and IES's initiatives in urban forestry carbon credits, contact Ryan Moore (ryan@i4es.org).

Top-sequesterer American chestnut close to return

The American chestnut tree, virtually eliminated from the U.S. in the early 1900s due to an exotic fungus, may soon be reintroduced with updated genetic material. Dr. Douglass Jacobs of Purdue University has been working on a hybrid tree that is virtually indistinguishable from the American chestnut but possesses the blight resistance of the Chinese chestnut. Healthy American chestnuts could sequester significant amounts of carbon if used in urban and rural. The species grows fast, reaches maturity quickly, and achieves a large mature size. The American chestnut's naturally rot-resistant wood is perfect for high-quality building applications such as furniture and flooring, which means carbon sequestered by the species may stay locked away in the wood for longer than with lower grade softwoods.

IES is looking for a few good graduate interns

IES is looking for two to four graduate interns to join the project research teams and to assist with Institute development and fundraising. Please visit www.i4es.org/interns.html for detailed position descriptions and application information.

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