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Guidelines for Communities To Develop Urban Forestry Carbon Credits

IES researchers are working on guidelines for potential urban forestry offset project owners. The guidelines will help Colorado communities to combat climate change, improve their local environment, and support urban forestry by developing and selling carbon credits based on urban forestry. These guidelines will explain concepts and steps necessary for planning and implementing an urban forestry carbon offset project, including:

- Resource requirements
- Where to sell carbon credits
- Potential revenue
- How to optimize local environmental benefits sequestering carbon

The project is funded by a generous grant from the Xcel Energy Foundation. For more information, please contact Abby Fulton, Abby@i4es.org.



Contaminants of Emerging Concern (CEC) Project Launches Community Education Program in Golden

This fall, the CEC Project began its community education initiative in Golden, which aims to inform citizens how to shrink their “chemical footprint”, or personal contribution of toxic chemicals to the environment. IES will present workshops at the Golden Community Center, where participants will learn to make their own household cleaners and personal care products from non-toxic materials. The education initiative will include a CEC-based science program for children ages 5 to 12, supported by a grant from the RBC Blue Water Fund. For more information or to participate, contact CEC Project Coordinator Sara Klingenstein, Sara@i4es.org.

Have a Happy and Contaminant-Free Holiday Season

Many personal care gifts contain “contaminants of emerging concern” (CECs) that are harmful to wildlife and pollute water downstream, even in small concentrations. As part of the CEC Project community education program, IES recommends CEC-free gifts that can be made at home. Here is an example recipe.

Lip Balm

- ¼ cup sweet almond oil
- ¼ ounce beeswax
- A few drops of essential oil

Pour ¼ cup almond oil into a measuring cup, and heat in a saucepan of warm water. Slowly add beeswax, and wait for it to completely melt. Use an old metal spoon to blend. Add in 5 drops of essential oil at a time. To test mix: Remove spoon, leaving a bit of the oil and wax mix in the spoon. Put in fridge to cool, then use your finger to test consistency. Add oil or wax as needed. When mixture is just right, spoon into jars and let cool.

For more recipes for non-toxic personal care and household products, contact Kari Delany, KDelany@i4es.org.

Arizona Study Finds Potential Energy Savings From Urban Trees

Western Resource Advocates (WRA, www.westernresourceadvocates.org), a Boulder, Colorado nonprofit organization, recently released a report on the potential to achieve environmental and other benefits through increased urban tree planting in Phoenix, Arizona. The report, Phoenix Green: Designing a Community Tree Planting Program for Phoenix, Arizona focuses on energy savings that could result from reduced electricity demand to air condition buildings if more trees were planted. According to the report, “...planting 10,000 shade trees at residential sites in the Phoenix area each year for 10 years would result in annual savings of about 14,000 megawatt-hours (MWh) after the trees mature.” The study investigated other environmental and social benefits as well as the economics and logistics of implementing a large-scale planting program. WRA’s study

confirms the findings of IES's 2007 Tree Project research (www.i4es.org/treeproject.html). More information: Ryan Moore, Ryan@i4es.org.

IES in the News

CBS Channel 4 Denver meteorologist Jennifer Zeppelin interviewed IES Executive Director Carol Lyons about IES's CEC project in her Project Green report broadcast on November 7. To view the video, go to <http://cbs4denver.com/video/?cid=143> and look for "Group Works to Keep Waterways Clean" [November 7, 2009]. The Golden Informer featured news about IES's project in the November and December issues (www.cityofgolden.net/page.asp?navid=371). On October 29, IES issued a joint press release with the Royal Bank of Canada: More Than a Drop in a Bucket: Institute For Environmental Solutions Receives \$5,000 Boost from RBC Blue Water Project™ (www.i4es.org/press.html). Carol presented a technical talk on "Trees and Ozone Air Pollution" to the 2009 Fall Technical Conference on Air Quality Issues in the Rocky Mountain Region of the Air & Waste Management Association in Denver on November 17 (www.awma-rmss.org/Fall-2009-conf.htm).

IES Welcomes New Interns and Volunteers

The CEC team welcomes three new members: Sarah M. Horn is pursuing a Master's Degree in Journalism and Environmental Studies at the University of Colorado. She has a B. A. in Economics from the University of San Francisco. Kari Delany has a B.A. in Critical and Cultural Studies from the University of Denver, with additional studies in Aix-en-Provence (France) and Granada (Spain). Rebecca Tate graduated from McGill University in Montreal with a B.A. in Economics, and was a volunteer for Engineers Without Borders.

The Tree Project welcomes two new graduate interns: Graham McGaffin holds an M.S. in Agriculture and Applied Economics combined with Environment and Natural Resources from the University of Wyoming. He also has a B.S from Wyoming. Spencer Goodfriend is a graduate student in International Development at the Korbel School of International Studies at the University of Denver. He has a B.A. in Communications from Colorado State University.

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