

Stakeholder Connection

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



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Please donate to IES on or before Colorado Gives Day, December 10, 2019!

Donate now to IES by credit card at: www.ColoradoGives.org/i4es. Schedule your donation for Colorado Gives Day, Tuesday, December 10, 2019. Your contribution will be boosted by the FirstBank incentive fund. Your donation at www.coloradogives.org/i4es is safe, secure, and tax-deductible.

We need your help to continue our work! We are counting on you - someone who cares about scientific objectivity and respect for diverse perspectives - to support our innovative projects. **Your donation will improve Colorado's environment and communities.** Please support IES so that we can continue implementing effective and affordable environmental solutions.

Our mission is cleaner air, purer water, and healthier lives. We are a volunteer based non-profit that depends on your financial support. **Please contribute to our efforts to create more environmentally sound and healthy communities by donating today.**

DONATE TUES, DEC 10
ColoradoGivesDay.org



Presented by Community First Foundation and FirstBank

- Fifty dollars will bring the Communities for Clean Water program to a new neighborhood.
- A \$250 donation will teach a class of students about ways to improve local water quality.
- A \$500 donation will purchase, plant and maintain two additional native trees to reduce storm water runoff and mitigate global climate disruption.
- A \$1,500 donation will support and train one graduate intern for one academic quarter.

Please donate to IES now. IES is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

- Mail a check to: IES, 761 Newport Street, Denver, CO 80220.
- Become a Tree Steward or Water Steward! Sign up at www.ColoradoGives.org/i4es to donate \$10, \$25, or \$50 a month.
- Be a Giving Champion! Schedule your credit card donation at www.ColoradoGives.org/i4es for **Colorado Gives Day, Tuesday, December 10.**

IES's Chemical Footprint Project presents to the South Platte River Urban Waters Partnership

IES's Chemical Footprint Project team had the pleasure to present to the South Platte River Urban Waters Partnership about reducing chemical footprints and preventing water pollution to improve human and environmental health.



The South Platte River Urban Waters Partnership works to protect and restore lands and waters in the South Platte River watershed. Attendees were eager to learn about the work IES is doing to teach communities about the growing problem of contaminants of emerging concern, as well as demonstrating how to reduce chemical footprints. IES team members Carol Lyons, Mike Smith and Reed Gerberick spoke about these unregulated chemicals in common household and personal care products that pollute our water and harm our health.

IES appreciated the opportunity to talk about some easy steps that community members can take to prevent future pollution such as shopping smart, using less, and making their own products. Following the presentation, Partnership members made their own contaminant-free cleaning spray and hand sanitizer that they were happy to take home. They provided excellent feedback about our planned workshop activities to teach students about contaminants of emerging concern and how middle schoolers can reduce chemical footprints. Thanks to the South Platte River Urban Waters Partnership for the opportunity to update these dedicated professionals about our plans to prevent pollution and help protect the South Platte River! More information: Mike Smith, Mike@i4es.org.

FLN Students Bring New Improvements to the Sheridan Quincy Trail!



IES team members conducted two workshops and two workdays this fall with Leadership students from Fort Logan Northgate School (FLN) in Sheridan. At the first workshop, students learned how to build touch tables, which provide a tangible way for classes to explore differences in textures, materials, liquids, and other scientific concepts in the community space. Students practiced proper tree and shrub planting techniques and developed art designs for the chain link fence to represent their school. On the first workday at the trail site, students built the touch tables, installed fence decorations, and caged leadplants to protect them from rabbit herbivory. On the

second workday, students painted the touch tables, built and installed one bench, and planted native plants near the east end of the Sheridan Quincy Trail. The second classroom workshop included a mock stakeholder meeting where students acted as different stakeholders involved along the trail and collaborated to find a common solution to a made-up issue. Leadership students continued their work this fall to maintain plants in previous IES-FLN project sites. Students met once a week to water, weed, and care for the plants. The students' efforts supported the healthy plants that continue to become well established in the community space and along the trail. More information: Honor Stoner, Honor@i4es.org

Neonicotinoid spray hurts migratory birds

Research published in Science this September shows that certain chemical contaminants could be harmful to migratory birds. Between 1966 and 2013, North American bird populations that depend on farmland ecosystems shrank by 74%. The research suggests that a group of chemicals called neonicotinoids are part of the problem. Neonicotinoids are a common ingredient in the most widely used insecticide sprays in the world. It was once thought that these chemicals did not harm animals like birds and mammals, but that is changing.



When birds like the white-crowned sparrow migrate, they take breaks called stopovers between long periods of flying. During stopovers in farmland areas where neonicotinoid sprays are used, birds eat seeds and drink water containing the harmful chemicals. A normal stopover for sparrows not exposed to these chemicals lasted about 12 hours, but the average stopover length for birds that received high exposure rose to 4 days, an eightfold increase! Stopovers are important because they let birds eat and save up fat to fuel their long journeys. Neonicotinoids hurt the birds' ability to increase their fat stores. Sparrows exposed to high doses lost around 17% of their body fat.

The effects of neonicotinoids threaten the overall health of bird populations. Lower body mass and delayed stopovers are linked to lower survival rates and problems with reproduction in birds. To help protect birds like the white-crowned sparrow, buy organic fruits and vegetables at the grocery store. Reducing demand for produce grown using neonicotinoids and increasing demand for food grown without pesticides will help these bird populations avoid pollution. More information: Reed Gerberick, Reed@i4es.org.

Shop sustainably and raise funds for IES this winter



IES has a great fundraising opportunity at Lucky's Market in Wheat Ridge now through February 1, 2020. Lucky's Market is a new supermarket at 3545 Wadsworth Bl. focused on high quality and sustainable food options. IES is Lucky's Bags for Change Partner to help raise money for IES until February 1, 2020. Lucky's Market makes it a cinch for you to help. Simply bring in your reusable shopping bags to Lucky's, pick up your weekly grocery items, and choose the "donate" option when you present your reusable bags at checkout. You will receive a wooden coin for bringing in your bags. On your way out, drop your coin in the bin labeled "Institute for Environmental Solutions". The more wooden coins in the IES bin, the more funding we will receive. Keep an eye out for the IES table at Lucky's on December 7 and 14 and tell your friends. Stock up on your grocery essentials and support the Institute for Environmental Solutions all at once. More information: Carrie Martin-Haley, carrie@i4es.org.

IES's 2020 Nature Play Connections Project in Wheat Ridge

IES will begin a new project in spring 2020 at Anderson Park in Wheat Ridge. The 2020 Nature Play Connections Project (NPCP) will be IES's eighth project in Wheat Ridge. Anderson Park is acquiring a new community play area that uses nature and natural features to invite community members of all ages to enjoy the park and create a thriving environment. IES will engage students from Kullerstrand Elementary School to plant a pollinator garden, using native plants to increase wildlife habitats and invite native wildlife species to the area. This will be located near the play area to enhance aesthetics. We will plant trees along the newly constructed walkways to increase canopy cover and shade along the trails. IES will continue its partnerships with the Wheat Ridge Parks and Recreation Department and Kullerstrand Elementary School, with classroom workshops about local ecology and planting days with the students. More information, Laura Prickett, Laura@i4es.org



IES Denver Area Volunteer Tree Volunteers Wanted!

Tree Stewards are dedicated volunteers who care for the newly planted trees and shrubs at IES project sites in Wheat Ridge and Sheridan. We need volunteers to join our team, and help with watering, weeding, and mulching through the spring, summer, and fall. It is a great opportunity to give back to the community, improve the environment, work with other terrific volunteers, and get some exercise. Families and teenagers are welcome. To join the Tree Stewards Program and start making an impact, please contact Carrie Martin-Haley, carrie@i4es.org.

IES Institute News

IES welcomes two new graduate interns to the Chemical Footprint project team. Reed Gerberick has a BA from Washington University in St. Louis. Austin Duncan has a BA from Stony Brook University and is working on an MS in Environmental Policy at the University of Denver.

IES Opportunities

IES is seeking motivated volunteers and graduate interns who are passionate about protecting the environment to join our project teams. We have openings for project, development, social media, and fundraising volunteers and interns. Interested candidates should submit a resume and cover letter to Solutions@i4es.org.

IES is looking for an energetic professional who wants to ensure the application of sound scientific solutions to our pressing environmental challenges to join the IES Board of Directors. Please contact IES at Solutions@i4es.org for a position description and application.

Support IES by shopping at King Soopers and City Market.

You can support IES at no cost with the new Community Rewards program. King Soopers will reward IES with every purchase you make. King Soopers will donate more than \$2.5 million every quarter to the community rewards program. Follow the steps below to sign up. Make sure to sign up friends and family members too!



Four Simple Steps:

1. Visit www.kingsooperscommunityrewards.com and click “Enroll Now”
2. Sign into your King Soopers account or create an account.
3. Select IES by searching with our organization number: UX585
4. Remember to use your King Soopers card when checking out!

Support IES by starting your shopping at smile.amazon.com.

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon that lets customers enjoy the same wide selection of products, low prices, and convenient shopping features as on Amazon.com. The difference is that when customers shop on AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to IES!



To log in directly, go to: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/84-1153561>

Support IES by shopping at Lucky’s Market Wheat Ridge with reusable bags!

When you bring your own reusable bags in to shop at Lucky’s Market Wheat Ridge (3545 Wadsworth Blvd, Wheat Ridge, CO 80033) you can donate a wooden dime to IES, and then Lucky’s Market will double your donation at the end of the quarter.



It’s as easy as...

1. Shop at Lucky’s Market Wheat Ridge now through February 1, 2020.
2. Bring your reusable bags!
3. Drop your wooden dime in the slot with IES on it.

IES participates in 1% for the Planet, Amazon Smile, ColoradoGives, Colorado Combined Campaign (#1346), King Soopers/City Market Community Rewards, and Lucky’s Market Bags For Change (Wheat Ridge store). IES is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Your contributions are tax-deductible.

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