

Stakeholder Connection

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



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Donate Your Colorado Tax Refund to IES!

Take advantage of Colorado's new ReFUND program (<https://refundwhatmatters.org>) and use your Colorado income tax refund to make a big difference in your community. Starting this tax season, you are able to donate some or all of your Colorado income tax refund to IES when you file your taxes.

Look for the prompt to "Donate to a Colorado Nonprofit". Search for Institute for Environmental Solutions. Our registration number is 20063002845.

Decide how much of your state income tax refund to donate (the whole refund or a portion of it) and enter that amount in the "Donate to a Colorado Nonprofit Fund" line on your return or tax software, or give this information to your tax preparer when you submit your tax documents.

Please contribute to our efforts to create more environmentally sound and healthy communities by donating your Colorado income tax refund.

- 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.

More information: Mike Smith, Mike@i4es.org



More flowers, butterflies, and bees coming to Anderson Park in Wheat Ridge



IES, Kullerstrand Elementary and the Wheat Ridge Parks and Recreation Department (WRPRD) will plant a pollinator garden in Anderson Park this spring. The Nature Play Connections Project (NPCP) pollinator garden will improve the health of the park and local community while children have an interesting place to play in the nature-based play area. Pollinator plants, or flowering plants, are critical to our ecosystem. All seeded plants, including fruits, vegetables, and nuts, such as tomatoes, sugarcane, almonds, chocolate, coffee and tea, reproduce through pollination. We get half of our edible oils, fibers and raw materials from plants that reproduce through pollination.

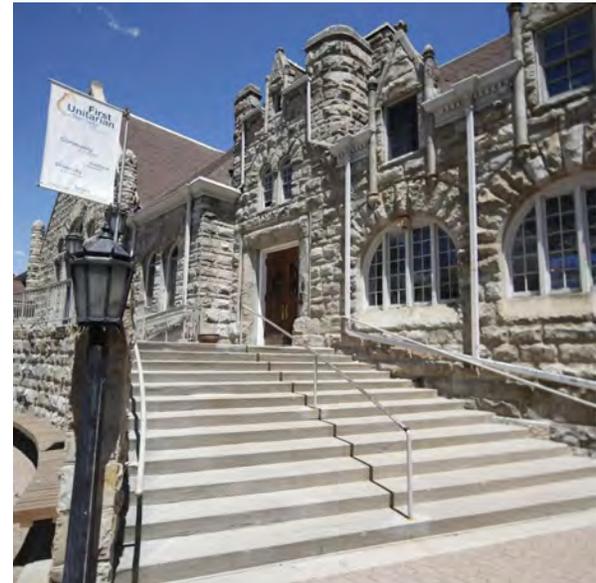
Birds, bats, butterflies, moths, flies, beetles, wasps, small mammals, and bees use nectar from pollinator plants as their main food source. Flowers attract pollinating animals using nectar, as it is high in sugar and nutrients. When an animal is harvesting the nectar from a flower it gets pollen stuck to it while simultaneously depositing pollen it gathered from other plants on the pistil of the plant.

All the plants that IES will plant with WRPRD and students from Kullerstrand Elementary School this spring are native to Colorado. They will attract native pollinator species, which will increase their chances for survival and the health of the local environment. This project is possible because of generous funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Wheat Ridge Outside Agency Program, and the Community First Foundation. More information: John Rosol, johnrosol@i4es.org.

First Unitarian Society of Denver Giving in Action supports IES Reduce Your Chemical Footprint

First Unitarian Society of Denver's (FUSD) Giving in Action Program will support IES's Reduce Your Chemical Footprint Project on Sunday, May 3, at 9:15 and 11 am services. At both services and during the coffee break from 10:15 to 11 am, IES will speak briefly about the Chemical Footprint project to reduce chemical footprints. We will host a hands-on workshop at 1 pm to demonstrate how to reduce exposure to harmful chemicals in personal care and household products, prevent water pollution, shop smart, and make your own contaminant-free products.

In 2016 and 2017, IES received generous support from the First Unitarian congregation to fund tree planting and a pollution prevention workshop. FUSD's Giving in Action's purpose is for congregation members to learn about and donate to causes that serve the community. This is a great opportunity for IES to strengthen community connections while demonstrating how to improve human health and protect the environment.



Visitors are welcome at First Unitarian, 1400 North Lafayette Street, Denver 80218. To register for the workshop or for more information: Ash Brubaker, Ashley@i4es.org.

IES will build a Zuni bowl to control stormwater erosion



A goal of IES's new 2020 Sheridan Trail Enhancement and Restoration Project (TERP) is to reduce stormwater runoff and decrease erosion along the east end of the Sheridan Quincy Trail in Sheridan, CO. IES will accomplish this by strategic planting near the trail so the sturdy roots of native plants will reduce erosion near the trail and by installing a Zuni bowl. The Zuni bowl will be built in front of a water drain where runoff is causing erosion.

A Zuni bowl is a natural-looking feature that can help prevent an abrupt vertical drop in the trail or gully where the stormwater flows through a series of rock-lined step falls leading into a plunge pool. The step falls reduce the energy of

flowing water and allow the water to collect in the pool. Sediments such as sand and clay are left in the bowl and become anchored by native vegetation growing through the rocks. IES is fortunate to have landscape design support from Valerian LLC, a Denver-based landscape architecture, land planning and irrigation firm.

IES has been restoring and improving the Sheridan Quincy Trail site with the Fort Logan Northgate Leadership class for 5 years with the support and collaboration of Sheridan School District No. 2, the City of Sheridan and South Suburban Parks and Recreation District. Generous funding is provided by Xcel Energy Foundation and Great Outdoors Colorado (through the City of Sheridan). More information: Haylee Grace, haylee@i4es.org.

Major retailers ban PFAS

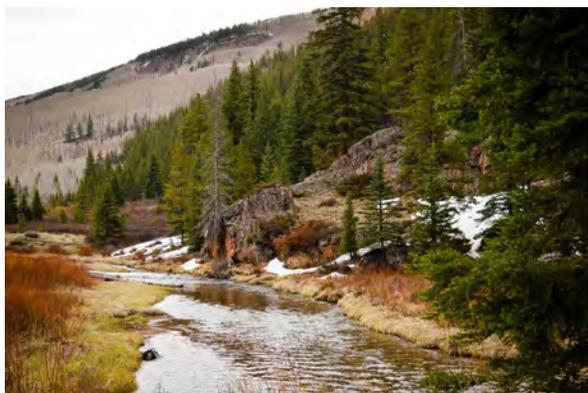
Home Depot will ban the sale of carpets and rugs treated with per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in its more than 2,000 U.S. and Canadian stores in 2020. PFAS, known as "forever chemicals," are synthetic chemicals that are persistent in the environment and in the human body. PFAS accumulate over time and have been linked to environmental and health problems. PFAS are manufactured and used in a variety of applications, including treatments for stain resistant carpets.



An Ecology Center report in December 2018 stated that PFAS were detected in half of all carpet samples tested (6 out of 12). PFAS have been detected in drinking water and food products. Home Depot's new policy will help address the problem of PFAS contaminating air and dust in the home. PFAS have been linked to elevated cholesterol, ulcerative colitis, thyroid disease, testicular and kidney cancers, childhood adiposity, and decreased duration of breast-feeding in infants.

Removing PFAS from carpets and rugs is a positive step in pollution prevention. Home Depot's ban reflects a trend of major retailers not to stock products made with contaminants of emerging concern (CECs). More information: Haley Flynn, haleyflynn@i4es.org

The ecological importance of trees



Trees play an important role in the ecology of our native environment. They work in complex ways to provide benefits to all that surrounds them. They stabilize soil, prevent rainwater runoff and desertification, and control climate through carbon sequestration. They provide essential habitat for animals and other plant life.

The canopies of trees provide habitat to numerous species of birds, small mammals and insects, and provide sustenance for herbivorous creatures. The leaves and fruits of trees are important for food and, when fruits and leaves fall to the ground, they nourish the soil around the tree with nitrogen and other nutrients important to plants.

The trunk of the tree provides habitat for animals. Insects feed on the sap of trees while they make their home in its bark. When trees die and fall over, their trunks become nurse logs, which house plants, fungi and animals. The roots of trees are important, as they stabilize the soil and are home to symbiotic species of fungi and bacteria that enrich the soil around them while aiding the tree.

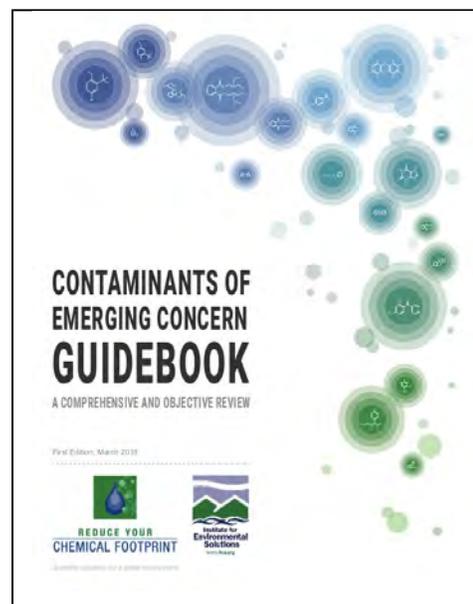
IES takes these benefits into consideration when planting trees in our community. When a problem in the environment is identified, IES looks to solve it through the planting of these amazing organisms. More information: John Rosol, johnrosol@i4es.org

IES Contaminants of Emerging Concern Guidebook now available

The IES Contaminants of Emerging Concern (CEC) Guidebook is now available. Developed by IES associates and graduate interns on the Chemical Footprint Project team, the Guidebook provides a comprehensive scientific overview of CECs found in common household and personal care products. CECs in our water is a growing pollution problem that IES works hard to address through community education and prevention. The IES CEC Guidebook offers an overview of the science of CECs with a focus on where the contaminants are found, their effects on humans and the environment, their current regulatory status, and how to avoid or reduce exposure.

Guidebook chapters cover the following common CECs:

- Alkylphenol surfactants (nonylphenol and octylphenol)
- Bisphenol A (BPA)
- Butylated hydroxyanisole (BHA)
- Diethylmetatoluamide (DEET)
- Flame retardants (polybrominated diphenylethers PBDEs)
- Oxybenzone
- Parabens
- Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)
- Phthalates (plasticizers)
- Synthetic fragrances
- Triclosan



The contaminants chosen for the Guidebook are selected based on the mounting evidence of health risks, their ability to be detected and analyzed, and the possibility of reducing their use and exposure through simple and inexpensive behavior change.

The CEC Guidebook is a helpful reference tool for those seeking information and wanting to teach others about common CECs that harm our health and environment. The CEC Guidebook will be available soon at our website: www.i4es.org. Printed copies (101 pages) will be available on request at cost, to be determined. More information: Mike Smith, Mike@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. Volunteer time is flexible; an hour or two per week; more if you want. We provide training, tools, equipment, and occasional pizza. 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 Laura Prickett, Laura@i4es.org.

IES Institute News

The IES Board of Directors announces its new President, Briana Gunn. Briana replaces Michael Verdone, who stepped down recently after three years of distinguished service to the IES Board. Briana is the Director of Environmental Affairs at Newmont Mining Corporation.

The Board welcomes two new members, Lauren Rosenkranz and Sean Mangus. Lauren is an Environmental Scientist at ERM in Denver. She has a BS from Texas A&M University and experience with Radio Free Brooklyn.

Sean is a long-serving volunteer at IES. He started as an intern on the Tree Project team in 2014 and became the Tree Project Manager. After completing his MBA at Leeds School of Business, CU Boulder, he joined DaVita Inc. as Senior Sustainability Analyst.

IES welcomes three new graduate interns. On the Tree Project team, John Rosol has a BA from the University of Colorado Boulder with a major in ecology and evolutionary biology.

On the Chemical Footprint Project team, Ash Brubaker has a BS from Wake Forest University, and is working on a Master's in Public Health at the University of Colorado School of Public Health. Tanner Drake has a BS in Business Administration from the Leeds School of Business, and is working on an MS at the University of Colorado Denver Business School.

IES Opportunities

IES seeks 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>



IES participates in 1% for the Planet, Amazon Smile, ColoradoGives, and King Soopers/City Market Community Rewards. IES is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Your contributions are tax-deductible.

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