



Volume Four, Number One, March 2011

IES Launches “Trees for Healthy Kids and Community” Project in Golden

Thanks to a generous grant from the Xcel Energy Foundation, IES is launching the “Trees for Healthy Kids and Community Project” at Mitchell Elementary School in Golden, CO. The project will use strategic tree selection and planting to improve air quality, reduce noise pollution and enhance health and the environment at Mitchell. Parents and community members have long been concerned about the school’s proximity to Highway 93 and potential negative health impacts on school children. IES is working with volunteer Landscape Architect Kevin Lyles of Confluent Design, City of Golden Forester Dave High, Mitchell Principal Ryan West, Jefferson County Public Schools, and the Mitchell PTA to develop a comprehensive tree planting plan to address the health and environmental concerns.



Trees for Healthy Kids and Community will be accompanied by an educational program in coordination with the PTA and the Environmental Learning for the Future (ELF) program already in place at the school. Volunteers including parents and schoolchildren will participate in the Community Tree Planting Event at Mitchell Elementary on May 1. For more information, please contact IES Project Coordinator Amory Ledyard, Amory@I4ES.org.

Sustainable Tree Planting Plans for Mitchell Elementary School in Golden

In parallel with the strategic planting being conducted in “Trees for Healthy Kids and Community,” IES is developing a long-term sustainable site improvement plan for Mitchell Elementary School that will incorporate economic, social, and environmental impacts of landscaping and land use decisions. The plan will examine the internal strengths and weaknesses of the project and the external opportunities and threats. The spring tree-planting program at Mitchell will focus on the objectives identified by the school community including noise, air pollution and wind mitigation. Future enhancements may include the construction of a vegetated swale on the property to reduce storm water pollution, strategic planting to reduce energy consumption, and a science curriculum extension featuring the improved landscape. The sustainable site improvement plan will include suggestions for getting students and school staff members involved in improving the landscape, learning about key species and measuring the impacts of the project. More information: Christen Amdahl, c_amdahl25@i4es.org.

IES Participating in Patagonia’s “Voice Your Choice” Program

IES has been invited by the Denver Patagonia store to be one of three featured local environmental nonprofits in the Voice Your Choice event this month. IES will be awarded \$1,000 to \$2,500 depending on the number of votes received at the Patagonia downtown Denver store in March. A ballot box is set up all month at the store, located at 1431 15th Street (15th and Blake). IES team members will host a table at that location on Saturday, March 19 to educate shoppers and the public about our programs and achievements. IES is honored to be selected by Patagonia to participate! Please come cast your vote for IES by visiting the Patagonia store. More information: Zoe Keve, Zoe.Keve@i4es.org.

Two Healthy Home Workshops in Fort Collins This Spring

IES is collaborating with the Rocky Mountain Sustainable Living Association to present two Healthy Home Workshops in Fort Collins this spring: “Non-toxic Cleaning and Living” on April 14 and “Chemical-free Grocery Shopping” on May 26. Anyone interested in these topics is encouraged to join IES and RMSLA for these hands-on workshops to reduce your “chemical footprint”. Participants will learn about sources of contaminant exposure in their homes and ways to reduce exposure and prevent water pollution. We will make effective, low-cost, contaminant-free items to take home, including cleaning and personal care products. Register online for both workshops at www.SustainableLivingAssociation.org. Space is limited. More information: Carol Lyons, Carol@i4es.org.

States Take the Lead in Regulating Contaminants of Emerging Concern (CECs)

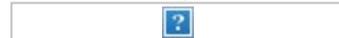
In January, almost 20 states took a stand to ban bisphenol A (BPA), a chemical found in many products from plastic bottles to baby formula to the paper used for store receipts. Some states announced plans to guard citizens against harmful chemicals by reforming state policies. Individual states are trying to remove hurdles on the federal level by proposing legislation to regulate chemicals on a state level. In at least 17 states, new legislation for 2011 will include banning BPA from baby bottles, infant formula packaging, and receipt paper, according to the advocacy coalition Safer Chemicals, Healthy Families. Currently, eight states – Connecticut, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New York, Vermont, Washington and Wisconsin – ban BPA in specific products such as baby bottles and children's products.

In December 2010, EPA decided to speed up its timeline for making regulatory decisions regarding triclosan. Triclosan is an antibacterial chemical that has been detected in human breast milk and has been shown to disrupt hormonal functions in wildlife. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration states that soap with triclosan does not provide any more health benefits than regular soap. IES recommends avoiding all products that contain triclosan. More information: Sarah Horn, Sarah.Horn@i4es.org.

IES Welcomes New Staff Members, Graduate Interns, and a Board Member

Amory Ledyard is IES's newest Research Associate. Amory has a B.S. degree in Community and International Development from the University of Vermont. IES is pleased to welcome three new graduate student interns: Christen Amdahl, completing an MBA in Sustainable Business at Marylhurst University; Meghan Fox, Master's in Environmental Policy and Management, University of Denver; and Brandon Singletary, Master's in Public Health, University of Colorado. The IES Board of Directors recently elected Andrew Lillie, Environmental Associate at Hogan Lovells LLP, to the Board.

IES is accepting applications for new members of the Board of Directors in 2011. Interested candidates, please send your resume to Solutions@i4es.org. Graduate students interested in challenging internships can find job descriptions at www.i4es.org/interns.html. More information: Carol Lyons, Carol@i4es.org.



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