

Stakeholder Connection

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



Volume 13, Number 2, April-May 2020

#GivingTuesdayNow: Give where you live on Tuesday, May 5!

Support IES on May 5, 2020, during #GivingTuesdayNow, a global day of giving and unity to encourage community healing from the effects of COVID-19. Your generosity will help IES continue our mission and environmental stewardship goals in the Colorado community during this period of social distancing.

IES has adapted our current and future projects to keep community members and IES team members safe and healthy during these unique times. IES is creating remote ecological science-learning workshops and promoting home-based strategies to reduce environmental footprints and prevent pollution.

Your support, large or small, makes a big difference to advance IES's important work to prevent water pollution and improve the environment with tree science.

- \$100 will help secure needed supplies for a "Reduce Your Chemical Footprint" workshop
- \$250 will purchase, plant and maintain a native tree to reduce storm water runoff and mitigate global climate disruption
- \$500 will fund the development of remote learning environmental stewardship curriculum for emotionally disabled students
- \$1,000 will fund the development of a new educational video to foster sustainable behavior and reduce environmental footprints
- \$2,500 will sponsor workshops for an entire grade of elementary science classes

Donate now to www.ColoradoGives.org/i4es and spread the word to your friends and family about IES. We appreciate your generosity! For more information: Mike Smith, Mike@i4es.org.



Reduce your environmental footprint while social distancing



IES project teams are working on strategies so you can reduce your environmental footprints and live more sustainably while social distancing. Your environmental footprint is the overall impact you have on the environment. This includes resource use, land use, and pollution. Smaller environmental footprints put less stress on the environment.

Our focus on environmental footprints is an expansion of the work that IES already does. The Tree Project plants trees and improves public outdoor spaces that reduce the footprints of communities in the Denver area. Planting native trees improves air and water quality, offsets carbon dioxide contributing to climate change, helps erosion control, reduces noise pollution, and provides essential habitats for wildlife. The Chemical Footprint Project reduces water pollution and protects human and environmental health from household sources of contaminants. Reducing this pollution while increasing conservation efforts and sustainability practices is an important part of reducing overall environmental footprints.

We look forward to building on these strategies to increase our impact in the community, and reduce environmental footprints to help Colorado be more sustainable. Your suggestions are welcome! More information: Reed Gerberick, Reed@i4es.org

2019 Sheridan Community Trail Improvement Project wrapped up!

On March 17, 2020, IES team members finished the last installations for the 2019 Sheridan Community Trail Improvement Project (CTIP). During the 2019 Sheridan CTIP, IES engaged stakeholders in two student workshops and workdays, continued our plant maintenance program through the Tree Stewards program and with help from the Mile High Youth Corps, and implemented the Xcel Energy Day of Service and the DaVita Village Green Earth Day. During the workdays, students and community volunteers built and painted two touch tables, built and installed one bench, created fence decorations, planted 55 plants and maintained IES plants along the trail. On March 17, we installed informational trail kiosks at each end of the trail, and built and installed a second bench in the community space. Despite setbacks such as hard soil composition, vandalism and inclement weather, IES accomplished the goals and objectives for the project, and looks forward to beginning work on the 2020 Sheridan Trail Enhancement and Restoration Project (TERP). The 2019 Sheridan CTIP final video is available on YouTube or at www.i4es.org. The project Final Report will be out shortly. Thanks to our generous project funders: The Colorado Health Foundation, Outdoor Happiness Movement (McKee Foods), Xcel Energy Foundation and Great Outdoors Colorado (through the City of Sheridan), and to our partners: Fort Logan Northgate School, Sheridan School District No. 2, the City of Sheridan and South Suburban Parks and Recreation District. More information, Carrie Martin-Haley, carrie@i4es.org.



No soap? No problem!



A healthy home in 2020 is one that maintains safe conditions and avoids harmful chemicals. Common sanitizing products can contain antimicrobial ingredients that unnecessarily pollute our water. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), washing your hands with old fashioned soap and water is the best way to get rid of germs in most situations and helps battle the rise in antibiotic resistance. If washing your hands with soap and water is not an option, here is an easy and effective way to keep your hands clean. Use IES's hand sanitizer recipe to make a handy and contaminant-free sanitizer at home.

Make sure to use rubbing alcohol that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cleaning your hands frequently with soap and water or hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol is one of the most important steps you can take to stay healthy and stop the spread of germs to those around you.

Ingredients

2 parts rubbing alcohol (60% or higher concentration)

1 part aloe vera gel or aloe vera juice

A few drops of essential oils for fragrance (optional)

Combine these ingredients in a bowl or cup. Transfer to a small squeeze bottle or an old hand soap bottle and apply as needed. You can view the short IES video showing you how to make it here:

<https://youtu.be/mVXVbRAXDCU>. More information: Austin Duncan, Austin@i4es.org

Remote learning allows IES to expand ecological education outside classroom walls

Classroom time during the 2019-2020 school year came to an abrupt halt for Kullerstrand Elementary School this spring due to COVID-19. This required IES to reimagine plans to conduct two classroom workshops and two outdoor planting days with the students as part of the 2020 Nature Play Connections Project (NPCP). IES now has a new plan for the NPCP with exciting ideas to get students outdoors during the spring and summer. Kullerstrand Elementary students, along with all others in Colorado, are using a remote learning online format for the remainder of the school year. IES is developing online modules to encourage students to participate in outdoor educational activities with their families. These activities will promote environmental stewardship and the importance of trees. We will follow the original NPCP theme of native pollinators. The NPCP will continue next fall, with two hands-on planting days and a follow-up classroom workshop. The online modules IES is developing for these students will encourage students to stay active outdoors, and will also prepare them to complete the NPCP in the fall. The online format is a new challenge for IES. We look forward to the new techniques we are learning with support from our partners in the TRAILS program at Kullerstrand. Online lessons and remote learning activities will enable IES to extend its educational reach further than before. IES will post this workshop on the IES website, so it can be replicated by other educators. More information, Laura Prickett at Laura@i4es.org.



IES Institute News

IES welcomes Janel Abbott to the Chemical Footprint Project team. Janel has an MS in Chemical and Biological Engineering from the University of Buffalo (New York).

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.

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.

ReFUND Colorado: "Donate to a Colorado Nonprofit". Search for Institute for Environmental Solutions on your Colorado income tax refund. Our registration number is 20063002845.



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