



The Home Depot Foundation Announces Winners of Awards of Excellence for Sustainable Community Development

Awards Highlight Cities Making Their Communities More Livable and Affordable

ATLANTA, December 3, 2010 — Today, The Home Depot® Foundation awarded its second annual Awards of Excellence for Sustainable Community Development to Tacoma, Washington, Burlington, Vermont, and Boston, Massachusetts. The awards recognize and celebrate cities that are incorporating real-world sustainability initiatives into their day-to-day operations, with a focus on wise use of budget dollars and increasing the livability of each community for all residents. Each winning city will receive a \$75,000 grant and the runner up will receive a \$25,000 grant to further their sustainability initiatives.

“Cities around the country are feeling the profound impacts of the current economic downturn. As a result, many are finding innovative and successful ways to save money by implementing sustainable practices into their policies and operations,” said Kelly Caffarelli, president of The Home Depot Foundation. “We hope that identifying, recognizing and showcasing these success stories will offer insight, inspiration and a roadmap for other cities to follow as they face the economic challenges that still lie ahead.”

Each winning city partnered with a local nonprofit organization to complete the project showcased by the Foundation’s Awards of Excellence. From rebuilding on abandoned land and providing easy access to transit, schools and jobs to providing energy efficiency retrofits to homes owned by moderate income families, these cities are demonstrating that it is possible to make policy and development choices that respect the relationship between the economy, environment and equity.

Winner and Runner Up Descriptions

Large City Winner

Tacoma, WA and Tacoma Housing Authority:

- The City of Tacoma has incorporated sustainability throughout its comprehensive plan ensuring that sustainable policies and business practices are considered when making all departmental decisions.
- Salishan, a HOPE VI project developed by the Tacoma Housing Authority, has been recognized as a best-in-class example of the successful completion of a sustainable community. On the site of a former WWII housing project, the new housing development is compact, affordable, accessible to transit, schools, jobs and bike trails and contains a community health center, community garden and a playground. The project meets recognized environmental standards and boasts green and efficient building and maintenance practices saving residents up to 30% on their energy bills.

Large City Runner Up

Boston, MA and Mass Energy:

- The City of Boston recognized that planning, promoting and supporting sustainability was essential for its long-term viability and developed their Sparking Boston’s Climate Revolution plan to address those issues.
- The Renew Boston Residential Energy Efficiency Pilot Program is a partnership between Mass Energy and the city of Boston to implement the energy efficiency goals in the plan. Through the program, Mass Energy and Next Step Living provided energy assessments and efficiency upgrades including insulation, air sealing, and water saving devices and high-efficiency light bulbs for

moderate income homeowners. As a result of the program, each participating homeowner saw an average of \$230 in energy savings per year.

Small City Winner

Burlington, VT and Champlain Housing Trust:

- In response to increasing urban sprawl that posed a threat to economic and social vitality as well as the environmental health of the community, the City of Burlington, local residents and businesses came together to identify and implement a strategic road map for the future called the Legacy Project Action Plan, which represents a holistic approach to creating a sustainable community.
- Burlington Cohousing East Village is directly aligned with the goals of the Burlington Legacy Project Action Plan. Completed in 2007, Burlington Cohousing East Village is Vermont's only urban cohousing community. Cohousing offers private homes with shared common spaces, including community gardens, outdoor courtyards and laundry facilities. This 32-home development exemplifies best practices in housing, natural resources and land use and development.

Full case studies and videos on each winner are available at www.homedepotfoundation.org and www.sustainablecitiesinstitute.org/city_program.

Drawn from applications submitted by cities across the country, the award recipients were selected based on a number of criteria, including environmental sustainability, economic vitality, social equity, community engagement, as well as how well the highlighted project exemplifies the city's sustainability plan and meets the needs of the local community while maintaining affordability for the residents. Population of the city was the determination of categorical division. Based on national standards, the Foundation defines a large city as 150,000 population or greater.

An advisory committee of experts from a variety of organizations representing a diversity of interests including municipalities, affordable housing, community development, building sciences and the environment participated in the selection process. The committee included representatives of AEON, Center for Neighborhood Technology, City of Atlanta, City of Minneapolis, The Funder's Network for Smart Growth, Institute for Sustainable Communities, Jonathan Rose Company, National League of Cities, Reconnecting America, Southface, The Sustainability Institute, U.S. Green Building Council and Urban Land Institute

About The Home Depot Foundation

Created in 2002, The Home Depot Foundation supports nonprofit organizations dedicated to creating and preserving healthy, affordable homes as the cornerstone of sustainable communities. The Foundation's goal is for all families to have the opportunity to live in healthy, efficient homes they can afford over the long-term; to have access to safe, vibrant parks and greenspaces; and to receive the economic, social and environmental benefits of living in a sustainable community. Since its formation, The Home Depot Foundation has granted \$190 million to nonprofit organizations and supported the development of more than 95,000 homes, planted more than 1.2 million trees, and built or refurbished more than 1,875 playgrounds, parks and greenspaces.

###

For more information, please contact:

Paula Drake
The Home Depot
770-384-3439
paula_drake@homedepot.com

Catherine H. Woodling
The Home Depot Foundation
(770) 384-2304
catherine_woodling@homedepot.com

Twitter: @HomeDepotFdn and @SustCitiesInst
Facebook: www.facebook.com/homedepotfoundation
YouTube: youtube.com/homedepot
Blog: www.homedepotfoundation.org/blog/