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**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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BURLINGTON RECEIVES TOP NATIONAL RECOGNITION

Home Depot Foundation Award of "Excellence for Sustainable Community Development" Made at National League of Cities Conference

Burlington, VT – December 6, 2010. The City of Burlington announced today that it has received the 2nd annual Home Depot Foundation Award of Excellence for Sustainable Community Development, in partnership with the Champlain Housing Trust. The award recognizes cities that are incorporating real-world sustainability initiatives into their day-to-day operations, with a focus on efficient use of municipal budget funds while increasing the livability of the community for all residents. Burlington won the “small city” award and joins Tacoma, Washington, winner of the large city award, as one of two national winners of this prestigious honor. Mayor Bob Kiss and Sustainability Coordinator Jennifer Green accepted the \$75,000 award – to be shared between the City and Champlain Housing Trust – at the National League of Cities “Congress of Cities” December 3 in Denver, CO. A video was produced for each winner and presented with the award.

“Burlington’s acknowledgement as the top small city in the country promoting the environment, equity, education, and the economy together for a sustainable future is the result of years of commitment and the common goal of meeting people’s needs,” said Mayor Bob Kiss. “The Legacy Project’s long-term vision for the city, combined with the mission of the Champlain Housing Trust and the model of the Burlington Co-Housing project, underpin this exceptional recognition. Congratulations to Burlington!”

Burlington was recognized for the creation and implementation of the Legacy Project Action Plan and the highlighted Burlington Co-Housing East Village project. East Village is directly aligned with the goals of the Burlington Legacy Project Action Plan and demonstrates best practices in housing, natural resources, land use, and development. The Champlain Housing Trust was a partner in the Co-Housing East Village development as part of its mission of creating perpetually affordable housing.

"The City of Burlington has been a tremendous partner for us over so many years. Our shared commitment to equity, the environment, and sustainable economic development helps us all achieve success where others would surely fail," said Brenda Torpy, CEO of the Champlain Housing Trust.

"The City was an active partner in the Co-Housing project, which brought a new sustainable housing model to Burlington along with several affordable housing units," said Joan Knight of Burlington Co-Housing, "With the vision of the Legacy Project, this was a key to making the project happen."

"What makes the Burlington Legacy Plan special," said Joe Speidel, Legacy Steering Committee Co-Chair and UVM's Director of Local Government and Community Relations, "is the comprehensive way it captures our community's vision – and integrates all the elements of equity, education, economic development, and the environment. This is a good example of how the Legacy Plan helped to realize an important project in the City of Burlington."

The Foundation's award to Burlington was part of a rigorous selection process, drawn from projects by cities throughout the United States. The award recipients were selected by an advisory committee of experts 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 Home Depot Foundation defines a large city as 150,000 population or greater.

"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 Burlington's success will offer insight, inspiration and a roadmap for other cities to follow as they face the economic challenges that still lie ahead."

More information about the Home Depot Foundation and full case studies is available at www.homedepotfoundation.org and www.sustainablecitiesinstitute.org/city_program. Burlington's video can be found at: www.homedepotfoundation.org/video-burlington2010.html. More information about the Burlington Legacy Project, Champlain Housing Trust, and Burlington Co-Housing is available at: <http://burlingtonlegacyproject.org/>, www.champlainhousingtrust.org/, and www.bcoho.org/, respectively.

The City will hold an event on December 13 to recognize project partners, discuss plans for community engagement to follow up on the award, and show the Burlington video. More details about the event will follow later this week.