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**Immediate Release  
June 1, 2011****ENERGY-EFFICIENCY LOAN PROGRAM WILL HELP HOMEOWNERS AFFORD UPGRADES**

Indianapolis, IN—Mayor Greg Ballard was joined by the Indianapolis Neighborhood Housing Partnership (INHP) today in announcing the launch the EcoHouse Project, a three-year energy-efficiency loan program that assists Indianapolis homeowners in making energy-efficiency upgrades to their residences. The EcoHouse Project is funded through the US Department of Energy’s BetterBuildings program.

“It’s important that residents are able to make energy-efficiency improvements in their homes. The more efficient use of energy results in less money spent on energy—money that can instead be used to improve quality of life, such as education, consumer goods and services,” said Mayor Ballard. “We are teaming up with INHP because they have demonstrated success in working to advance affordable housing opportunities that foster healthy, viable neighborhoods.”

The City of Indianapolis Office of Sustainability was awarded \$10 million in BetterBuildings funding by the US Department of Energy’s Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program. The Office of Sustainability selected INHP to receive a portion of these funds to facilitate a loan program, now called the EcoHouse Project, specially designed for homeowners of low- and moderate-income to afford energy-efficiency upgrades that will ultimately save them money in the long run. Qualifying improvements under the loan program include insulation, caulking and sealing, HVAC, water heaters and appliance replacements.

“INHP is proud to be a part of efforts to help homeowners make their homes more energy efficient. We value the commitment homeowners make in the communities in which they live. Helping homeowners increase energy efficiency is one way to help them remain as long-term assets to Indianapolis neighborhoods,” says Moira Carlstedt, president of INHP.

INHP established a partnership loan pool with four banks: Huntington, M&I, Old National, and PNC. The banks have invested in a \$6 million loan pool from which INHP will draw funding for homeowner EcoHouse Project loans of up to \$15,000 each. Similar to loan pools established for its homeownership mortgage products, INHP will repay the loan pool as homeowners repay the EcoHouse Project loans.

Through the EcoHouse Project, qualified homeowners who have been approved for a loan and are interested in making energy efficiency upgrades begin with an energy assessment. The thorough and comprehensive assessment, performed by Thermo-Scan Inc. includes a “blower-door” test to evaluate air draft patterns and identify energy leakage points. The homeowner is presented with a list of potential energy-efficiency improvements, estimated cost for each improvement, estimated amount of savings per year for each improvement, and estimated time to recoup financial investment of each improvement, all based on previous usage history. The

homeowner then selects which improvements they wish to undertake, and INHP continues to work with them as contractors are hired to perform the work.

To qualify for the program, homeowners must have at least 12 months of primary residency in the property, live in Indianapolis, have a minimum credit score of 580 an income at or below 120% of the US Housing and Urban Development (HUD) area median income (AMI). For reference: According to HUD guidelines, a family of 4 earning \$68,700 is at 100% of AMI.

“Our hope is that many homeowners will participate in the EcoHouse Project, increase their energy efficiency, and decrease the amount they are spending—and using—in energy,” Carlstedt said. “The EcoHouse project is good for homeowners’ financial situations, it’s good for their personal comfort , and it’s good for the environment and the neighborhood.”

#### ***About The EcoHouse Project and BetterBuildings***

*The project is funded through the competitive portion of the U.S. Department of Energy’s Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program (EECBG). The BetterBuildings program combines the efforts of the U.S. Department of Energy, 35 state and local governments, and partnering organizations that received nearly \$500 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding to make energy-efficiency building upgrades accessible and affordable. BetterBuildings aims to provide energy upgrades to 200,000 residential and commercial buildings nationally, saving consumers about \$50 million annually on energy bills.*

#### ***About INHP***

*INHP is a trusted 22-year-old nonprofit that empowers working families and individuals to become and remain long-term, successful homeowners. The mission of INHP is to increase safe, decent, affordable housing opportunities that foster healthy, viable neighborhoods. During the most recent fiscal year, 2,287 families received homeownership assistance through INHP; and, INHP in collaboration with its partners and the community invested more than \$15 million in financing for low- and moderate-income families to purchase or repair their homes. Since 2000, more than 15,000 families have completed an INHP program, and INHP and its partners have invested more than \$210 million in mortgages for low- and moderate-income families.*