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Dept. launches green Web site

State's technology agency recruits conservation 'army'

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DOVER — The Department of Technology and Information launched Delaware state government's first Green Information Technology Web site on Wednesday.

It can be viewed at http://dti.delaware.gov/greenit.

With the Web site launching, the department also invited all state organizations and employees to join the "Green Army," and realize the benefits of energy cost reductions and other technology-driven savings.

Department Secretary Tom Jarrett said in announcing the initiative, "DTI has been leading by example — primarily limited within DTI thus far — by lowering its energy consumption, reducing waste and creating a more environmentally friendly computing environment. Our agency reduced our energy consumption in 2008 by 14 percent over 2007 through some fairly simple steps such as raising the temperature in our Dover data center by 2 degrees, installing (computer) power management tools in our office workspaces and adding motion light sensors in common areas. The amount of energy consumption saved on a monthly basis is the equivalent to the amount of energy needed to power 23.7 homes. We are now inviting other state organizations to join in the Green IT effort and have provided a Web site with the tools to help other state agencies realize these benefits within their organizations."

DTI is in the process of "virtualizing" servers, a method of combining data from several sources on one piece of equipment.

To date, 54 servers have been virtualized, eliminating the actual "boxes," and this will result in $92,000 in energy cost reductions.

"Think Before You Print," another commonsense initiative, has lowered DTI's paper usage by 10 percent.

Ideas for the Green IT Web site have been bounced around since early summer. It took a few months to get the Web site up and running.

"Everybody is talking about being green and we thought that in our business there were a lot of things people can be doing and already doing, and we wanted to bring attention to that," said Sec. Jarrett.

The Green IT site features numerous ways that state employees can individually assist in the cost reduction efforts, from scheduling conference calls instead of traveling to meetings to using "instant messaging" technology instead of placing in-state long distance calls to other state organizations.

A "Green Army" e-mail subscription service will provide state employees with the opportunity to receive updates and tips on other green activities for both work and home.

By the end of the week, Mr. Jarrett said that more than 120 people had signed up to become part of the "Green Army."

"We take this early enthusiasm as a very good sign. It is already outdoing our initial expectations," he said.

Wednesday's announcement to all state employees was the first step in sharing DTI's green computing expertise.

All state employees also received a copy of the first Green IT newsletter. A copy can be viewed at http://dti.delaware.gov/greenit/newsletter/greenIT-news-issue-1.pdf.