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Green IT initiative earns the state \$31,450 Project "removes" 66 cars from road

Columbus – Green IT efforts within the Ohio Department of Administrative Services' Office of Information Technology recently resulted in AEP Ohio providing the state with \$31,450 in grant funds.

The funds from AEP Ohio, a unit of American Electric Power, were disbursed to the state through [AEP Ohio's Custom Program](#). The program, one of several offered by AEP Ohio, rewards businesses that become more energy efficient by offering incentives for installing or purchasing high efficiency equipment and implementing industrial process improvements and technologies that reduce energy consumption and peak demand.

The Ohio Department of Administrative Services qualified for this program because of its server virtualization initiative. Server virtualization technology allows a single physical server to be "split" or "partitioned" so multiple operating systems can co-exist on one server. This approach to server consolidation significantly decreases energy costs while improving operational agility.

"We are appreciative that AEP Ohio is recognizing our green cost-savings efforts," said Sam Orth, state chief information officer who oversees the Office of Information Technology. "We consolidated 214 physical servers onto 20 virtualized servers. A total of 194 physical servers were removed – a 90 percent reduction."

This significant consolidation resulted in the following estimated savings:

- **Operating Power Savings:** A reduction in kilowatts demand for operating power of 106.966 kW, resulting in \$175,492 in savings over a three-year period.
- **Carbon Emission Reduction:** 796,006 pounds per year difference, which is the equivalent of removing approximately 66 vehicles from the road.

Economic concerns and decreased budgets demand that state agencies take a hard look at their IT operations and determine where cost savings and efficiencies can be realized. Governor Ted Strickland mandated that state agencies immediately cut costs and identify opportunities for savings in Executive Order 2009-07S, "Implementing Additional Spending Control Strategies."

The Ohio Department of Administrative Services continues its server virtualization efforts and is identifying and assessing other areas in which to implement similar green IT initiatives.