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### **Connecticut Valley Hospital is First Hospital Partner in National Initiative**

The Department of Mental Health and Addictions Services (DMHAS) inpatient psychiatric hospital, Connecticut Valley Hospital, located in Middletown, has joined the State Electronic Challenge. Connecticut Valley Hospital is the first hospital in the nation to become a State Electronics Challenge (SEC) Partner. The SEC assists efforts to reduce energy use and greenhouse gases through computer power management. The goal of the SEC is to save both energy and material resources through equipment reuse and recycling while reducing operating costs.

The State Electronics Challenge (SEC) is a voluntary program that provides free support to state, tribal, regional, and local governments, including public and private schools, colleges, universities, and other public entities to:

- Advise on the purchase of greener computer equipment,
- Conserve energy and paper, and
- Manage obsolete computers in an environmentally safe way.

Government agencies and tribal government participate as "Partners" in the program. The SEC provides Partners with free resources and technical assistance for improving computer equipment management, annual sustainability reports, and annual recognition to Partners that have achieved program goals. Improved computer management can decrease energy use, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, decrease hazardous waste and result in cost reductions.

"It is exciting to have a resource that will assist the Department in continuing to provide quality care in a cost efficient manner" said DMHAS Commissioner Pat Rehmer. "This is a welcome addition to our ongoing green efforts to lesson our impact on the environment without compromising on services."

Almost 100 government and tribal entities in 35 states—representing 145,000 employees—have signed on as SEC Partners, making a commitment to improve the environmental footprint of their computer assets. For more information on the SEC visit <http://www.stateelectronicschallenge.net/>