National Environmental Leadership Program Recognizes Bethlehem IT as a 2017 Silver Award Winner

[Bethlehem, NY - 3/9/2018] – The Town of Bethlehem MIS Department recently received a Silver Award for its achievements in the State Electronics Challenge, a comprehensive nationwide environmental sustainability initiative that currently reaches more than 223,000 employees in 39 states. The Town was recognized for its accomplishments in green purchasing and responsible recycling of electronic office equipment in 2017.

“The Town of Bethlehem is truly an outstanding example of a commitment to environmental leadership,” commented Lynn Rubinstein, State Electronics Challenge Program Manager. “This is the first time that the Town has earned recognition from the program, and that is a major accomplishment.” She added that “Bethlehem is one of only 16 organizations nationally being recognized this year and the only one in New York.”

As a result of its environmental initiatives, in 2017 the Town avoided greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to removing 821 cars from the road per year, as well as avoiding the generation of solid and hazardous waste.

The State Electronics Challenge offers its participants annual opportunities to document their achievements and receive recognition for those accomplishments. In 2017, the reported actions of 31 participants in green purchasing of electronic office equipment, power management, and responsible reuse and recycling:

- Prevented the release of 5,503,212 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent. This reduction in greenhouse gases is equivalent to the annual emissions from 1,163,470 passenger cars.
- Saved enough energy to supply almost 5,000 homes per year
- Avoided the disposal of hazardous waste equivalent to the weight of 1,258 refrigerators
- Avoided the disposal of solid waste – garbage – equivalent to the amount generated by more than 750 households/year.

A full list of winners and their environmental accomplishments can be found on the State Electronics Challenge website (www.stateelectronicschallenge.net).

“The State Electronics Challenge provides state, tribal, regional and local agencies, as well as schools, colleges and universities and non-profit organizations with a great opportunity to integrate concepts of sustainability and waste reduction into their operations,” added Ms. Rubinstein. “It’s inspiring to see programs such as this one developed and implemented by the
Town of Bethlehem to ensure that the highest environmental practices are met through the lifecycle of electronic office equipment.

Jeff Dammeyer, the town’s Director of MIS stated, “Susan Alexander, Information Services Specialist for the town, handles the recycling of our old equipment and this recognition demonstrates the extra effort she puts in to ensure it is done in an environmentally friendly manner”.

The State Electronics Challenge awards were made possible through donations from Samsung and the R2/RIOS Program.

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**About the State Electronics Challenge**

The State Electronics Challenge assists state, regional, tribal, and local governments to reduce the environmental impact of their office equipment. It annually recognizes the accomplishments of Partner organizations. The Challenge is administered by the Northeast Recycling Council (www.nerc.org). Currently, 168 state, tribal, regional, colleges, schools, universities, and local government agencies, and non-profit organizations, representing more than 223,000 employees, have joined the SEC as Partners. For more information on the SEC, including a list of current Partner organizations, visit www.stateelectronicschallenge.net.