GRID Alternatives is Bringing Solar to Communities Across the U.S. Through $140,000 U.S. Energy Dept Award, Will Participate in National Solar Competition

May 11, 2017, Oakland, CA– Today, GRID Alternatives, America's largest non-profit solar installer, announced that seven of its projects or partners around the country were selected to participate in the U.S. Department of Energy SunShot Initiative's Solar in Your Community Challenge, a $5 million prize competition that aims to expand solar electricity access. Three of the projects also received financial and technical assistance awards totaling $140,000.

Over the next 18 months, GRID will be working with multiple partners in several states to develop innovative projects targeting low-income communities through community, multifamily and rooftop solar and workforce development.

"There are so many ways that people can benefit from solar power," said Erica Mackie, CEO and co-founder of GRID Alternatives. "We're excited to work with the Department of Energy to innovate new models for serving communities that wouldn't otherwise have access." [pending approval]

GRID Alternatives and its partners will join hundreds of other teams from around the country in their pursuit of solar projects and programs that expand solar access to low- and moderate-income households and nonprofit organizations. All teams will compete for $1 million in final prizes, which will be awarded by judges based on each project or program's innovation, impact, and replicability.

GRID's projects include an innovative new utility community solar program in Colorado, community solar projects in New York, new tribal shared solar and financing models with the San Pasqual reservation in San Diego County and Blue Lake Rancheria in Northern California; a new community-based community solar model serving multifamily affordable housing in Denver; a groundbreaking for-profit / nonprofit community solar development partnership model; and a first-of-its kind solar partnership serving affordable housing in Virginia. The projects will expand low-income solar access into new regions and to hard-to-serve residential customers and renters, demonstrate new, scalable financing and deployment models, as well as generate jobs and job training opportunities. Together they create a portfolio of models that are replicable and scalable across the country.

Media Contact: Julian Foley, jfoley@gridalternatives.org, 510-731-1188

About GRID Alternatives

GRID Alternatives is America's largest nonprofit solar installer, bringing clean energy technology and job training to underserved communities through a network of community partners and philanthropic supporters. GRID has installed nearly 8500 solar electric systems for low-income families and affordable housing providers with a combined installed capacity of 30MW saving $280 million in lifetime electricity costs, preventing 742,000 tons of greenhouse gas emissions, and providing nearly 32,000 people with

solar training. GRID has eleven regional offices and affiliates serving California, Colorado, the Mid-Atlantic, the New York tri-state area, Tribal communities nationwide, Nicaragua and Nepal. For more information, visit www.gridalternatives.org.

About the Solar in Your Community Challenge

The Solar in Your Community Challenge, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy SunShot Initiative and administered by SUNY Polytechnic Institute, is a $5 million prize competition that aims to expand solar access to low and moderate income households; and state, local, and tribal governments; and non-profit organizations.

More information about the selected teams and the Solar in Your Community Challenge is at www.solarinyourcommunity.org.

About the SunShot Initiative

The U.S. Department of Energy SunShot Initiative is a national effort to drive down the cost of solar electricity and support solar adoption. SunShot aims to make solar energy a low cost electricity source for all Americans through research and development efforts in collaboration with public and private partners. Learn more at energy.gov/sunshot.