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GRID Alternatives Mid-Atlantic Wins “Best In Air” Award for Outstanding Leadership to Improve Air Quality
Clean Air Partners 20th Anniversary Awards Recognizes GRID Alternatives Mid-Atlantic for Long-Standing Commitment and Impact on Regional Air Quality

WASHINGTON, D.C. (May 17, 2017) – Regional air quality organization Clean Air Partners celebrated 20 years of dedication to improving the greater Baltimore-Washington region’s air quality at last night’s Annual Awards Celebration. Clean Air Partners has reinvigorated the celebration with the Best In Air Awards, honoring industry leaders COPD Foundation, GRID Alternatives, and Lyft for their exemplary commitment to decreasing air pollution and protecting public health. The Awards also recognized middle and high school students for their outstanding creativity as part of the *On the Air* education awards. The full list of Award winners can be found at www.cleanairpartners.net.

“This is a celebratory year for Clean Air Partners – you don’t turn 20 twice, says Jennifer Desimone of Clean Air Partners. “We wanted to take it up a notch and commend organizations and companies for their commitment to improving our region’s air quality and protecting the health of our residents. We nominated nearly 20 organizations and opened it up to public voting – we are honored to have the support from the incredible winners.”

The Champion Award recognizes outstanding leadership, vision, and contribution with a lasting impact on our region’s air quality. After a four week public voting period, GRID Alternatives secured the most votes in the Champion category.

GRID Alternatives Mid-Atlantic provides the benefits of solar energy to underserved communities in Maryland, DC, and Virginia. To date, they have installed 440 kilowatts of solar in the region, equivalent to taking 2,192 cars off the road each year. GRID Alternatives long-term impact will only continue to grow with the Solar for All program, included within D.C.’s Renewable Portfolio Standard Expansion Act of 2016. The program will provide 100,000 low-income families access to solar by 2032.

"Many thanks to the GRID community and Clean Air Partners for recognizing our leadership in the region. The work we do impacts an intersection of social issues including clean air. We are honored to be part of such a distinguished list of nominees," said Nicole Steele, Executive Director of GRID Mid-Atlantic.

Pepco’s Edison Place Gallery served as an exceptional venue for more than one hundred guests who enjoyed networking with industry leaders, winners, and interactive demonstrations from Casey Trees, Pollinator Partnership, and Urban Jungle. Speakers and special guests included:

- [Tom Van Arsdall](#), Pollinator Partnership Director of Public Affairs. His advocacy efforts have been instrumental in the enactment of pollinator conservation and research provisions.
- [Brian O’Malley](#), Clean Air Partners Chair and President and CEO of Central Maryland Transportation Alliance. Brian advocates for improving transportation resources throughout metropolitan Baltimore.

About GRID Alternatives

GRID Alternatives Mid-Atlantic is an affiliate of GRID Alternatives, America's largest nonprofit solar installer, bringing clean energy technology and job training to underserved communities. GRID Alternatives has nationally installed 8,519 solar electric systems for low-income households to-date, with a combined installed capacity of 31MW, saving \$250 million in lifetime electricity costs and preventing 678,000 tons of greenhouse gas emissions. 32,000 people have also received training through the program. For more information, visit www.gridalternatives.org/midatlantic

About Clean Air Partners

Clean Air Partners is a public-private partnership that educates the greater metropolitan Baltimore-Washington region about the health risks associated with poor air quality and the impacts everyday actions have on the environment. For 20 years, Clean Air Partners has helped individuals and organizations take simple actions to reduce their impact on the environment and exposure to air pollution during unhealthy air quality days. Clean Air Partners' Air Quality App is a free resource that provides air quality forecasts and real-time health notification. For more information and to download the app, visit www.cleanairpartners.net.