



**For immediate release**

## **GRID Alternatives Mid-Atlantic receives Washington, D.C.'s prestigious District Sustainability Award**

*Washington D.C.'s Department of Energy and the Environment recognizes GRID Alternatives' achievements in advancing sustainability and solar.*

**Washington, DC; December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016** – GRID Alternatives Mid-Atlantic has received Washington, D.C.'s 2016 District Sustainability Award from D.C.'s Department of Energy and the Environment (DOEE), in recognition of GRID's achievements advancing sustainability and solar energy in the District. GRID Alternatives Mid-Atlantic is an affiliate office of GRID Alternatives, America's largest non-profit solar installer, bringing clean energy technology and job training to underserved communities.

Since opening its doors in 2015, GRID Alternatives Mid-Atlantic will install 100 rooftop solar systems by the end of 2016, totaling 305 kilowatts generation capacity across the region, creating more than \$1.6 million in utility bill savings and avoiding more than 8,200 tons of greenhouse gas emissions. These projects have also trained nearly 500 volunteers in solar installation workforce skills.

"It is an honor to be recognized by the city we serve," said Nicole Steele, Executive Director of GRID Alternatives Mid-Atlantic. "This is a reminder we are moving in the right direction as an organization. Receiving this award after two fast-paced years of working in D.C. is amazing and humbling, and we will continue to bring renewable energy and solar jobs to underserved communities."

A major reason GRID Alternatives Mid-Atlantic was recognized with this award was due to our participation in DOEE's Green Zone Environmental Program, training local youth in solar installation and safety workshops. GRID has installed no-cost solar for nearly 50 income-qualified homeowners in D.C., bringing the benefits and savings of solar to the people who need it most. GRID also strives for sustainability within the office, recycling and implementing a compost program to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions put into the air by its staff.

GRID Alternatives Mid-Atlantic was one of six organizations to receive the prestigious award on the evening of December 13<sup>th</sup> at the Embassy of Finland. GRID Alternatives is proud to be recognized for its impact in the Mid-Atlantic region by the District of Columbia.

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### **About GRID Alternatives Mid-Atlantic**

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 through a network of community partners and philanthropic supporters. GRID has installed 7,858 solar electric systems for low-income families and affordable housing providers, with a combined installed capacity of 27MW, saving \$222 million in lifetime electricity costs, preventing 614,000 tons of greenhouse gas emissions, and providing over 29,000 people with solar training. GRID Alternatives Mid-Atlantic opened their doors in January 2015, and will complete its 100<sup>th</sup> solar installation in December 2016. For more information, visit

[www.gridalternatives.org/midatlantic](http://www.gridalternatives.org/midatlantic)