



**For immediate release**

## **GRID Alternatives Mid-Atlantic Executive Director Nicole Steele to Step Down in Mid-January**

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**WASHINGTON, D.C.; Jan. 6, 2020** — After more than five years leading GRID Alternatives Mid-Atlantic, Executive Director Nicole Steele will step down from the position in January. Steele was the organizations' first executive director.

"GRID Mid-Atlantic is ready for new leadership. I look forward to the new and exciting ways GRID will continue to impact our community," Steele said. "I may be stepping down, but I'm not going away. I'll always support this family."

"I am immensely proud of our accomplishments over the years and the uncompromising work that it took to make them a reality," Steele continued. "It is heartening and inspiring to hear the stories from our clients and workforce trainees whose lives have been positively affected by the work that we do. I personally would like to thank the many people who have supported me and GRID Mid-Atlantic over the last five years. It has been an honor to be part of the GRID Mid-Atlantic family — for the first five years as the leader and, soon, as a supporter."

Steele was the founding executive director of GRID Mid-Atlantic when it opened its doors in 2014 as an affiliate of GRID Alternatives, a national nonprofit leader in making renewable energy technology and job training accessible to under-resourced communities and communities of color. During Steele's time as executive director, GRID Mid-Atlantic installed more than 300 solar photovoltaic systems at no cost to its clients — saving families more than \$8.4 million in energy costs and preventing more than 54,400 tons of greenhouse gas emissions. In total, GRID Mid-Atlantic has installed 2.3 megawatts (MW) of solar for exclusively low- to moderate-income households in the Mid-Atlantic region, with another 3 MW planned to come online in early 2020.

Under Steele's leadership, GRID Mid-Atlantic designed and administered the Solar Works DC program under Solar for All, a program of the District of Columbia's Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE) that seeks to provide the benefits of solar electricity to 100,000 low-income households and reduce their energy bills by 50% by 2032. More than 130 individuals have graduated from Solar Works DC, which provides hands-on solar workforce training and soft career skills.

"Nicole's efforts have had an immense impact on residents in the Mid-Atlantic region. Her work has helped hundreds of low- and moderate-income families save money on electric bills, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and build careers in a growing solar industry," GRID Alternatives co-founder and CEO Erica Mackie said. "We are thankful for her leadership and for her giving GRID Alternatives a strong foothold in Maryland, Virginia, and our nation's capital."

Steele has also led GRID Mid-Atlantic to become an important advocate for environmental justice, helping to grow low-income solar policies and programs throughout the region and beyond. Increasingly, GRID Mid-Atlantic provides feedback and advocates for policy at the local, state, and national level to promote a transition to clean energy that includes everyone.

"It has been a pleasure working with Nicole to provide solar energy and solar jobs to people in the region that truly need it," said George Ashton, president of GRID Mid-Atlantic's Board of Directors. "Her vision and her dedication have helped GRID Mid-Atlantic grow into an organization that truly changes lives."

"Nicole Steele is a force in the clean energy industry. She has done an incredible job of making solar power and solar workforce training more accessible in the Mid-Atlantic region," said Katherine Hamilton, immediate past president of GRID

Mid-Atlantic's board. "Our industry needs more people like her that are willing to push boundaries, fight for equity, and increase opportunity."

**About GRID Alternatives Mid-Atlantic**

GRID Alternatives Mid-Atlantic is an affiliate of GRID Alternatives, a national leader in making clean, affordable solar power and solar jobs accessible to low-income communities and communities of color. Using a unique, people-first model, GRID Mid-Atlantic develops and implements solar projects that serve qualifying households and affordable housing providers, while providing hands-on job training. GRID Mid-Atlantic has installed solar for more than 300 families to-date and helped households and housing providers save \$8.4 million in lifetime electricity costs while training over 860 people. For more information, visit [www.gridalternatives.org/midatlantic](http://www.gridalternatives.org/midatlantic).