



**For immediate release**

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## **GRID Alternatives Mid-Atlantic Welcomes Virginia Governor's Executive Order on Clean, Renewable Energy**

GRID Alternatives Mid-Atlantic, a regional affiliate of the nation's largest nonprofit solar installer, applauds Virginia's Governor for issuing an Executive Order expanding access to clean energy and growing the clean energy careers of the future in Virginia. Executive Order 43, signed today, directs agencies of the Commonwealth to develop a plan of action to produce 30% of Virginia's electricity from renewable energy sources by 2030 and 100% from carbon-free sources by 2050, while addressing issues related to equity and environmental justice. The Order also requires the development of an energy workforce plan, with "specific recommendations for creating pathways out of poverty through careers in renewable energy and energy efficiency."

"GRID Alternatives Mid-Atlantic applauds this vision for an equitable transition of Virginia's energy system towards clean, renewable energy. The Governor has set forth a bold plan for an energy future that includes everyone - this is exactly what we need today - action that lifts up our frontline communities and communities of color. At GRID, we echo this sentiment by doubling down on our commitment to bring clean energy and good careers to low and moderate-income communities in the Commonwealth," said Nicole Steele.

"We look forward to helping Virginia develop and implement forward-looking plans to achieve this vision, which will drive economic growth and environmental benefits in Virginia communities most impacted by underemployment, pollution, and climate change."

Executive Order 43 acknowledges that clean and renewable energy advancements offer opportunities "to address and prevent energy inequities facing Virginia's most vulnerable populations, including low-income communities and communities of color. Low-income households pay proportionately more than the average household for energy costs and often experience negative long-term effects on their health and welfare." To take full advantage of the opportunities that the energy transition presents, Virginia agencies must prioritize the voices and leadership of communities on the front lines of climate change in developing the energy plan of action.

### **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 267 solar systems for a total of 2.2 MW, with an additional 3 MW scheduled for 2019. GRID Mid-Atlantic helped households and housing providers save \$7.8 million in lifetime electricity costs while training over 860 people. For more information, visit [www.gridalternatives.org/midatlantic](http://www.gridalternatives.org/midatlantic).

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