

Company: Ameresco Inc., Framingham, MA

Nomination Submitted by: Greenough Agency

Company Description: Ameresco, Inc. is a \$1.7 billion leading energy solutions provider dedicated to helping customers through the global energy transition. Its work in advancing energy efficiency and renewable energy infrastructure has never been more important due to the increased need to cut global emissions to meet decarbonization goals and combat climate change.

Nomination Category: Sustainability Categories

Nomination Sub Category: Climate Hero of the Year

Nomination Title: Nicole Bulgarino



1. Which will you submit for your nomination in this category, a video of up to five (5) minutes, explaining the achievements since July 1, 2023 of the nominated individual, OR written answers to the questions? (Choose one):

Written answers to the questions

2. If you are submitting a video of up to five (5) minutes in length, provide the URL of the video here, OR attach it to your entry via the "Add Attachments, Videos, or Links to This Entry" link above, through which you may also upload a copy of your video. If you are providing written answers to the questions, provide them in the appropriate spaces below:

3. Briefly describe the nominated individual: history and past performance (up to 200 words):

Total 188 words used.

Nicole Bulgarino has been committed to combating climate change for over 25 years. As a recognized leader in renewable energy, she currently serves as President of Federal Solutions and Utility Infrastructure at Ameresco. In a field dominated by 74% of men, Nicole stands out by helping customers like the Department of Defense, Department of Energy, and Environmental Protection Agency reduce costs, achieve net-zero goals, and build resilient energy infrastructure through smart, community-focused solutions.

She has overseen the development of over \$3 billion in energy projects, including Smart Building controls, advanced microgrids and energy storage solutions, and clean behind-the-meter and front-of-meter generation systems. Her leadership has not only driven technical innovation but also positioned her work at the forefront of sustainable infrastructure development.

She has grown from an ambitious engineer with a passion for climate action into a true champion for her team and the communities her work supports. Her projects do not only increase energy efficiency, but they also create local jobs, improve animal habitats, and educate future generations on sustainability, while maintaining industry leadership and inspiring young women hoping to dedicate their lives to solving climate change.

4. Outline the individual's achievements since July 1 2023 that you wish to bring to the judges' attention (up to 250 words):

Total 248 words used.

Under Nicole's leadership, groundbreaking solutions have been implemented that transform local communities by stimulating job markets, creating healthier environments for wildlife and reducing carbon footprints.

One example of her leadership in action is with Kūpono Solar, a solar site on O'ahu that supplies 24/7 energy and adds critical grid reliability, advancing the state closer to its renewable energy and carbon neutrality goals and helping overcome unique environmental challenges. The project reduces more than the equivalent of 12,000 cars in CO₂, and powers 10,000 residences, bringing significant community benefits, creating local jobs, supporting STEM education, and providing stability in energy costs for residents. In addition to reducing reliance on imported fossil fuels, Kūpono Solar embodies Nicole's environmental stewardship, demonstrated by relocating over 500,000 bees to new habitats and using sheep grazing to maintain the site sustainably.

She's also demonstrated excellence in leadership through her work on sustainable energy solutions that powers Fort Detrick's mission-critical research and operations—boosting the facility by providing frequency regulation services to the local electric grid and setting a benchmark for energy independence and sustainability across U.S. Army Installation.

Nicole spearheaded the launch of the Center of Excellence to equip employees with best practices for the latest energy technology and foster continuous learning within Ameresco's workforce. She's not satisfied with personal success but is constantly thinking of ways to empower her employees.

These projects exemplify Nicole's visionary leadership, demonstrating how her initiatives tangibly enhance local communities while advancing a more sustainable future.

5. Reference any attachments of supporting materials throughout this nomination and how they provide evidence of the claims you have made in this nomination (up to 250 words):

6. Explain why the achievements you have highlighted are unique or significant. If possible compare the achievements to the performance of other players in your industry and/or the individual's past performance (up to 250 words):

Total 225 words used.

Overseeing 350 professionals, Nicole is never far from the initial excitement and curiosity about the physical world that inspired her to pursue a career in engineering, and she is a champion for the power of innovation to solve the world's climate and sustainability crisis.

Nicole's leadership has come at a pivotal time when the workforce isn't replacing itself rapidly enough. As one of the company's female C-suite leaders, she manages one of the biggest portfolios across the brand, paving the path for other women to lead the industry and actively combat climate change.

Kūpono Solar Project stands as a powerful testament to her leadership and her belief that renewable energy should drive both environmental and economic sustainability at the local level. Her initiatives go beyond serving people; they also nurture ecosystems. By implementing innovative practices such as relocating bees to support pollination and using sheep for natural vegetation management, Nicole ensures that clean energy development coexists harmoniously with nature. These efforts not only enhance energy efficiency and environmental health, but also uplift communities and inspire future generations—especially young women—to see their potential in shaping a more sustainable world. Nicole is a trailblazer in the climate space, not only for the measurable impact of her work and her contributions to global climate solutions, but for exemplifying the transformative power of women's leadership in this critical field.

Attachments/Videos/Links:

[Nicole Bulgarino](#)



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