



## NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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KUB Community Relations

### **KUB Budget Proposal Includes No Rate Increases For Fiscal Year 2021**

At today's virtual meeting, the KUB Board of Commissioners reviewed a proposed budget for fiscal year 2021. Understanding the economic impact and future uncertainty of the pandemic, KUB staff recommended a slightly lower budget than last year, with no rate increases in any of its systems this year.

"Our original plan would have included rate increases in all four systems this year," said Gabriel Bolas, KUB President and Chief Executive Officer. "We had previously announced we would not be recommending increases in our electric and natural gas systems following discussions with the Board last fall, and the budget we presented today affirms that recommendation. In light of the current pandemic crisis, we have also recommended the deferral of planned increases in the water and wastewater systems until next year."

"We know what an impact utility bills have on customers' monthly budgets, especially now when so many in our community have lost income," KUB Board Chair Kathy Hamilton said. "This updated forecast is an example of KUB working to balance the impact of bills on our customers with maintaining safe and reliable utility systems."

Also presented today were details of a new water efficiency program for low-income homeowners and renters which would upgrade older toilets with new, low-flow versions while also providing additional direct installation of other energy efficiency measures. This \$500,000 program, funded by KUB and managed by the Knoxville Knox County Community Action Committee, is scheduled to begin later this summer. The new budget also pledges one million dollars to fund weatherization improvements for low-income customers in our community.

Additionally, announced at today's meeting was a community solar project between KUB and City of Knoxville through the Tennessee Valley Authority's Flexibility Research Project. A community solar project allows customers to share in the benefits of renewable energy without having to own and maintain a solar facility on their properties. The details of this program are still being finalized, but 700kW of new solar is expected to be operational in Knoxville in the next 18 to 24 months.

For more details on today's KUB Board Meeting, please visit [www.kub.org](http://www.kub.org). KUB's Board of Commissioners will vote on the proposed budget at its next meeting on May 21.

*KUB is a municipal utility serving Knox and parts of seven adjacent counties and provides electric, gas, water, and wastewater services to more than 464,000 customers.*

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