



**Community Advisory Panel
Meeting Minutes for October 3, 2024**

Members attending the meeting:

- Christina Bouler
- Janet Testerman
- Barbara Kelly
- Stephen Smith
- John Nolt
- Terry Ledford
- Ty Hall
- Tiki Dixon
- Keira Wyatt
- Claudia Mata

Others in attendance:

Facilitator: Dawn Ford

KUB Staff: Erin Gill, Chasity Hobby, Susan Edwards, Mark Walker, Tiffany Martin

New Business

The Community Advisory Panel met at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 3rd, 2024, at KUB's Hoskins Operations Center (4505 Middlebrook Pike).

Facilitator Dawn Ford asked if there were any changes to the June meeting minutes. There were no changes, and the panel approved the minutes.

Ms. Ford introduced the meeting's topic as KUB's renewable energy programs. She then introduced Erin Gill, Vice President of Sustainability & Government Relations to give a presentation on this program.

Ms. Gill presented an overview of KUB's Renewable Energy Program. This included KUB's commitment to renewable energy through the TVA Green Invest and Generation Flexibility programs and KUB's Community Solar program.

Terry Ledford asked if there was a plan to make up the anticipated 500 megawatts (MW) when the Green Invest program was first announced. Ms. Gill said the changes were due to supply chain and project issues. She discussed future investments later in her presentation.

Ty Hall asked if there is a timeline for the Optimist and Tullahoma solar sites. KUB confirmed these projects are expected to come online by 2027.

Keira Wyatt asked what 5% of generated power looks like for KUB and the customer. Ms. Gill said it can be described as a formula in which on average all of the power KUB buys from TVA across all of the hours in a year and that comes to about 32 megawatts. It translates to the power to serve about 32,000 homes. There was discussion about the amount of land it takes to support this amount of solar power production and challenges related to locating that in the Knoxville area. For this reason, the programs include options to partner on projects outside of the KUB service area.

Following Ms. Gill's presentation, Ms. Ford shared that the panel would now break into groups. One group discussed Generation Flexibility while the other group discussed Community Solar. The groups had 30 minutes for discussion before joining back together to share their thoughts. Representatives from KUB joined the groups as a resource for any questions that were brought up during the discussion.

Following the group discussions, the panel reconvened to share their thoughts.

For Generation Flexibility, the group shared the following:

- Ensure KUB provides clarity on price impacts for the customer when KUB enters flexibility contracts.
- Consider procedures and timelines for projects to keep public trust on delivering completed projects in timely manner.
- Prepare to address customer concerns on aesthetics and locations of arrays and provide information on why locations were selected/not selected.
- Determine if the federal Solar for All program is applicable.
- Consider communicating why solar is the predominant energy source KUB is pursuing.
- To celebrate milestones, consider celebrating actionable items like purchase of land, starting construction, and project completion.
- There were questions related to emissions reduction calculations and solar plus storage considerations.

For Community Solar, the group shared the following:

- The group expects high interest in another community solar project in the KUB area.
- The group feels cost / the opportunity for cost savings is an important factor for KUB customers related to community solar.
- The group also feels aesthetics are important, as well as how the project strengthens reliability of the electric grid.
- They also feel an important factor is how the project helps customers in need and how they can have opportunity to subscribe.
- The group expressed interest in a project being located in the Vestal area.

There were questions about a battery storage project. KUB staff discussed pursuing grant opportunities to make a battery storage project more affordable for KUB ratepayers.

Christina Bouler shared a suggested to survey current Community Solar subscribers to learn more about their perspectives on the program.

Terry Ledford asked if KUB is aware of customers who are interested in subscribing to Community Solar but cannot because it's full. KUB staff confirmed there are several commercial customers who expressed interest and at least one residential customer who signed up for the waiting list.

Ms. Ford announced that the next meeting would be December 5, 2024.

No members of the public addressed the panel during the public forum.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.