SMUD®

Board Profile:

Director Heidi Sanborn
Ward 7

Board President – 2023
Board Vice President – 2022

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About SMUD
As the nation's sixth-largest, community-owned, not-for-profit electric service provider, SMUD has been providing low-cost, reliable electricity to Sacramento County for more than 75 years. SMUD is a recognized industry leader for its innovative energy efficiency programs, renewable power technologies and for its sustainable solutions for a healthier environment. SMUD's goal is to completely eliminate carbon in its electricity production by 2030 while maintaining reliability and keeping rates among the lowest in California — on average, 50% lower than its neighboring, investor-owned utility. For more information on SMUD's Zero Carbon Plan and its customer programs, visit smud.org.

Heidi Sanborn was first elected to the SMUD Board of Directors in 2018 and began serving on the SMUD Board in January 2019. She was reelected to serve a second term in 2022. She represents Ward 7, which includes Arden Arcade, Carmichael, Antelope, Foothill Farms and North Highlands.

Heidi is the Founder of the National Stewardship Action Council and has served as its Executive Director since 2015. She is also the founding Director of the California Product Stewardship Council where she served for 12 years prior. These nonprofits are dedicated to reducing waste, increasing recycling and advocating for an equitable, circular economy. She was appointed by State Treasurer Fiona Ma to the Green Bond Market Development Committee in 2019 tasked with efficiently raising billions of dollars in new and affordable capital to build climate-friendly infrastructure. She also was appointed by CalEPA to serve on the Statewide Commission on Recycling Markets and Curbside Recycling in June of 2020 and was elected Chair. The voluntary Commission submitted 34 policy recommendations to the California Legislature, with full consensus votes in its first 18 months, resulting in numerous bills passing in 2021-22 legislative session that were groundbreaking for the field.

Heidi has a personal interest in going green. Heidi and her husband have remodeled their house to be all electric including induction stove, solar panels and a heat-pump water heater and HVAC units. She is proud to be a SMUD Greenergy® customer.

Heidi is also active in the community. She is on the Board of the Children's Receiving Home of Sacramento and is co-chair of the Giving Tree committee of the Kiwanis Club of Carmichael which has managed 4 plantings in Ward 7. She served as the President of the Sacramento Chapter of the National Alliance for Mental Illness – spearheading a walk for mental health, conducting police trainings and teaching family-to-family classes. She was also a Big Sister for six years to a local graduate from the Sacramento Unified School District.

Over the past 15 years, Heidi and her husband have volunteered with Front Street Animal Shelter, fostering 67 dogs to date.

Born in Pennsylvania, Heidi also lived in Delaware, Massachusetts and Michigan before moving out west. She earned a bachelor's degree in Political Science-Public Service from UC Davis and a master's degree in Public Administration from USC. Heidi and her husband have lived in Sacramento for 35 years.

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