

# KARNES ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

## Operating Policy No. 702

Effective Date: December 27, 2022

### **SUBJECT: Website Privacy Policy**

#### **Introduction**

Karnes Electric Cooperative, Inc. (“**Company**” or “**We**”) respect your privacy and are committed to protecting it through our compliance with this policy.

This policy describes the types of information we may collect from you or that you may provide when you visit the website <https://karnesec.org/> (our “**Website**”) and our practices for collecting, using, maintaining, protecting, and disclosing that information.

This policy applies to information we collect:

- On this Website.
- In email, text, and other electronic messages between you and this Website.
- Through mobile and desktop applications you download from this Website, which provide dedicated non-browser-based interaction between you and this Website.
- When you interact with our applications on third-party websites, if those applications or sites include links to this policy. Third-party websites include organizations such as:  
<https://voicesforcooperativepower.com/>  
<https://www.touchstoneenergy.com/>  
<https://www.texas811.org/>  
<https://texascooppower.com/my-coop/>  
<https://ercot.com>  
<https://www.puc.texas.gov>  
<https://www.nisc.coop/>  
<https://www.formstack.com/>

It does not apply to information collected by:

- Us offline or through any other means, including on any other website operated by Company or any third party; or
- Any third party, including through any application or content (including advertising) that may link to or be accessible from or on the Website

Please read this policy carefully to understand our policies and practices regarding your information and how we will treat it. If you do not agree with our policies and practices, your choice is not to use our Website. By accessing or using this Website, you agree to this privacy policy. This policy may change from time to time (see *Changes to Our Privacy Policy*). Your continued use of this Website after we make changes is deemed to be acceptance of those changes, so please check the policy periodically for updates.

### **Children Under the Age of 13**

Our Website is NOT intended for children under 13 years of age. No one under age 13 may provide any personal information to or on the Website. We do not knowingly collect personal information from children under 13. If you are under 13, do not use or provide any information on this Website or through any of its features, register on the Website, make any purchases through the Website, use any of the interactive or public comment features of this Website, or provide any information about yourself to us, including your name, address, telephone number, email address, or any screen name or user name you may use. If we learn we have collected or received personal information from a child under 13 without verification of parental consent, we will delete that information. If you believe we might have any information from or about a child under 13, please contact us at [communications@karnesec.org](mailto:communications@karnesec.org).

### **Information We Collect About You and How We Collect It**

We collect several types of information from and about users of our Website, including information:

- By which you may be personally identified, such as name, postal address, e-mail address, telephone number, social security number, drivers license number, credit card number, standard industrial classification (SIC) codes and any other identifier by which you may be contacted online or offline (“**personal information**”); and
- About your internet connection, the equipment you use to access our Website, and usage details.

We collect this information:

- Directly from you when you provide it to us.
- Automatically as you navigate through the site. Information collected automatically may include usage details, IP addresses, and information collected through cookies, web beacons, and other tracking technologies.
- From third parties, for example, our business partners.

### *Information You Provide to Us*

The information we collect on or through our Website may include:

- Information that you provide by filling in forms on our Website. This includes information provided at the time of registering to use our Website, including SmartHub, subscribing to our service, posting comments or material, or requesting further services. We may also ask you for information when you enter a contest or promotion sponsored by us, and when you report a problem with our Website.
- Records and copies of your correspondence (including email addresses), if you contact us.

- Your responses to surveys that we might ask you to complete for research purposes.
- Details of transactions you carry out through our Website and of the fulfillment of your requests for service. You may be required to provide financial information before placing a request for service through our Website.
- Your search queries on the Website.

You also may provide information to be published or displayed (hereinafter, “**posted**”) on public areas of the Website, or transmitted to other users of the Website or third parties (collectively, “**User Contributions**”). Your User Contributions are posted on and transmitted to others at your own risk. Although we limit access to certain pages/you may set certain privacy settings for such information by logging into your account profile, please be aware that no security measures are perfect or impenetrable. Additionally, we cannot control the actions of other users of the Website with whom you may choose to share your User Contributions. Therefore, we cannot and do not guarantee that your User Contributions will not be viewed by unauthorized persons.

#### *Information We Collect Through Automatic Data Collection Technologies*

As you navigate through and interact with our Website, we may use automatic data collection technologies to collect certain information about your equipment, browsing actions, and patterns, including:

- Details of your visits to our Website, including traffic data, location data, logs, and other communication data and the resources that you access and use on the Website.
- Information about your computer and internet connection, including your IP address, operating system, and browser type.

The information we collect automatically is only statistical data and does not include personal information, but we may maintain it or associate it with personal information we collect in other ways or receive from third parties. It helps us to improve our Website and to deliver a better and more personalized service, including by enabling us to:

- Estimate our audience size and usage patterns.
- Store information about your preferences, allowing us to customize our Website according to your individual interests.
- Speed up your searches.
- Recognize you when you return to our Website.

The technologies we use for this automatic data collection may include:

- **Cookies (or browser cookies).** A cookie is a small file placed on the hard drive of your computer. You may refuse to accept browser cookies by activating the appropriate setting on your browser. However, if you select this setting, you may be unable to access certain parts of our Website. Unless you have adjusted your browser setting so that it will refuse cookies, our system will issue cookies when you direct your browser to our Website.

- **Web Beacons.** Pages of our Website may contain small electronic files known as web beacons (also referred to as clear gifs, pixel tags, and single-pixel gifs) that permit the Company, for example, to count users who have visited those pages and for other related website statistics (for example, recording the popularity of certain website content and verifying system and server integrity).

### **Third-Party Use of Cookies and Other Tracking Technologies**

Some content or applications on the Website are served by third parties, including application providers. These third parties may use cookies alone or in conjunction with web beacons or other tracking technologies to collect information about you when you use our website. The information they collect may be associated with your personal information or they may collect information, including personal information, about your online activities over time and across different websites and other online services.

We do not control these third parties' tracking technologies or how they may be used. If you have any questions about an advertisement or other targeted content, you should contact the responsible provider directly. For information about how you can opt out of receiving targeted advertising from many providers, see *Choices About How We Use and Disclose Your Information*.

### **How We Use Your Information**

We use information that we collect about you or that you provide to us, including any personal information:

- To present our Website and its contents to you.
- To provide you with information, products, or services that you request from us.
- To fulfill any other purpose for which you provide it.
- To provide you with notices about your account.
- To carry out our obligations and enforce our rights arising from any contracts entered into between you and us, including for billing and collection.
- To notify you about changes to our Website or any products or services we offer or provide through it.
- To allow you to participate in interactive features on our Website.
- In any other way we may describe when you provide the information.
- For any other purpose with your consent.

We may also use your information to contact you about goods and services that may be of interest to you. If you do not want us to use your information in this way, please adjust your user preferences in your account profile. For more information, see *Choices About How We Use and Disclose Your Information*.

### **Disclosure of Your Information**

We may disclose aggregated information about our users, and information that does not identify any individual, without restriction.

We may disclose personal information that we collect or you provide as described in this privacy policy:

- To contractors, service providers, and other third parties we use to support our business and who are bound by contractual obligations to keep personal information confidential and use it only for the purposes for which we disclose it to them.
- To a buyer or other successor in the event of a merger, divestiture, restructuring, reorganization, dissolution, or other sale or transfer of some or all of Karnes Electric Cooperative's assets, whether as a going concern or as part of bankruptcy, liquidation, or similar proceeding, in which personal information held by Company about our Website users is among the assets transferred.
- To fulfill the purpose for which you provide it. For example, if you give us an email address to use the "email a friend" feature of our Website, we will transmit the contents of that email and your email address to the recipients.
- For any other purpose disclosed by us when you provide the information.
- With your consent.
- We may also disclose your personal information:
  - To comply with any court order, law, or legal process, including to respond to any government or regulatory request.
  - To enforce or apply our *terms of use* and other agreements, including for billing and collection purposes.
  - If we believe disclosure is necessary or appropriate to protect the rights, property, or safety of Karnes Electric Cooperative, Inc., our customers, or others. This includes exchanging information with other companies and organizations for the purposes of fraud protection and credit risk reduction.

### **Choices About How We Use and Disclose Your Information**

We strive to provide you with choices regarding the personal information you provide to us. We have created mechanisms to provide you with the following control over your information:

- **Tracking Technologies and Advertising.** You can set your browser to refuse all or some browser cookies, or to alert you when cookies are being sent. If you disable or refuse cookies, please note that some parts of this site may then be inaccessible or not function properly.

### **Accessing and Correcting Your Information**

You can review and change your personal information by logging into the Website and visiting your account profile page.

You may also send us an email at [communications@karnesec.org](mailto:communications@karnesec.org) to request access to, correct or delete any personal information that you have provided to us. We cannot delete your personal information except by also deleting your user account. We may not accommodate a request to change information if we believe the change would violate any law or legal requirement or cause the information to be incorrect.

If you delete your User Contributions from the Website, copies of your User Contributions may remain viewable in cached and archived pages or might have been copied or stored by other Website users. Proper access and use of information provided on the Website, including User Contributions, is governed by our *terms of use*.

### **Data Security**

We have implemented measures designed to secure your personal information from accidental loss and from unauthorized access, use, alteration, and disclosure. All information you provide to us is stored on our secure servers behind firewalls. Any payment transactions and personal information will be encrypted using PCI-DSS-compliant technologies

The safety and security of your information also depends on you. Where we have given you (or where you have chosen) a password for access to certain parts of our Website, you are responsible for keeping this password confidential. We ask you not to share your password with anyone.

Unfortunately, the transmission of information via the internet is not completely secure. Although we do our best to protect your personal information, we cannot guarantee the security of your personal information transmitted to our Website. Any transmission of personal information is at your own risk. We are not responsible for circumvention of any privacy settings or security measures contained on the Website.

### **Changes to Our Privacy Policy**

It is our policy to post any changes we make to our privacy policy on this page with a notice that the privacy policy has been updated on the Website home page. If we make material changes to how we treat our users' personal information, we will notify you through a notice on the Website home page. The date the privacy policy was last revised is identified at the top of the page. You are responsible for ensuring we have an up-to-date active and deliverable email address for you, and for periodically visiting our Website and this privacy policy to check for any changes.

### **Contact Information**

To ask questions or comment about this privacy policy and our privacy practices, contact us at:

communications@karnesec.org or via our toll-free number: 888-807-3952.

**APPROVED BY BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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Paul T. Brysch, Jr., President