

**United States Department of Energy (US DOE)
Privacy Voluntary Code of Conduct (VCC)
Mission Statement**

The purpose of the United States Department of Energy Federal Smart Grid Task Force Voluntary Code of Conduct is to describe principles for voluntary adoption that:

- (1) encourage innovation while appropriately protecting the privacy of Customer Data and providing reliable, affordable electric and energy-related services;
- (2) provide customers with appropriate access to their own Customer Data; and
- (3) do not infringe on or supersede any law, regulation, or governance by any applicable federal, state, or local regulatory authority.

The VCC's recommendations are intended to apply as high level principles of conduct for both utilities and third parties.

The VCC is intended to be applicable to, and voluntarily adopted by, both utilities and third parties. However, it is envisioned that the VCC could be most beneficial to either entities that are not subject to regulation by applicable regulatory authorities, or entities whose applicable regulatory authorities have not imposed relevant requirements or guidelines.

The intent is for utilities and third parties to consider adopting the VCC in its entirety. However, a utility or third party could potentially adopt the principles of the VCC with some limited exception, such as when laws, regulatory guidance, governing documents, and/or prevailing state/local business practices indicate a different approach. In these instances, utilities or third parties should explicitly note the reason for the deviation(s) and prominently indicate such in any depiction that they have adopted the VCC, such as in a privacy policy or other notice of adoption. Nothing in this VCC is intended to change, modify, or supersede state/local laws or regulatory guidance.