

Privacy Policy

Last updated: September 15, 2025

The **Brownsville Business Development Group** ("BBDG," "we," "us" or "our") respects your privacy. This Privacy Policy explains how we collect, use and share information from visitors and users of **brownsvillebdg.org** and **ecoep.org** (collectively, the "Sites"). ECOEP is the Education and Community Outreach Engagement Program, a campaign initiative operated by BBDG. By visiting or using our Sites, you consent to the practices described in this Policy.

1. Information We Collect

We collect information from you in several ways:

A. Information You Provide

1. **Contact Forms and Program Sign-Up.** When you use a contact form or sign up for ECOEP, we ask for your name, organization name, email address, phone number and (for ECOEP) verification that you are a non-profit, educational or government entity. You may also provide a message describing your needs.
2. **Donations and Payments.** When you make a contribution on ecoep.org, you provide payment details such as credit card or bank account information. Payment information is processed by our third-party payment processor; we do not directly store your full payment card details.
3. **SMS and Email Consents.** On ECOEP program forms you can choose to receive transactional text messages related to your account or promotional messages about our services. You are not required to opt in. Message frequency may vary; message and data rates may apply. You can opt out at any time by replying **STOP** to a text message or contacting us.
4. **Communications.** If you contact us by email, phone or social media, we collect the information you provide in those communications.

B. Information Collected Automatically

1. **Usage Data.** Our Sites automatically collect certain technical information about your visit, such as your IP address, browser type, device type, operating system, pages viewed and referring URL. We use this data to understand how the Sites are used and to improve functionality.

2. **Cookies and Tracking Technologies.** We use cookies and similar technologies to remember your preferences, perform analytics and facilitate site features. You can control cookies through your browser settings, but disabling cookies may limit certain functionality.
3. **Google reCAPTCHA.** We use Google's reCAPTCHA service to protect our forms from spam and abuse. The reCAPTCHA service may collect information from your device (such as IP address and browsing behaviour) and share it with Google for verification. Google's use of this data is governed by its Privacy Policy and Terms of Service.

2. How We Use Your Information

We use information collected through the Sites to:

- Provide, maintain and improve the Sites and our services;
- Respond to your inquiries and communicate with you about our programs;
- Verify your eligibility for ECOEP (for example, confirming non-profit, educational or government status);
- Process donations and payments, and send confirmations and receipts;
- Send transactional or marketing messages if you have consented to receive them;
- Personalize your experience and analyse how the Sites are used;
- Protect the security and integrity of the Sites;
- Comply with legal obligations and enforce our Terms of Service.

3. How We Share Your Information

We do **not** sell your personal information. We may share information:

1. **Service Providers.** We share information with third-party vendors who perform services on our behalf, such as payment processors, email service providers, customer relationship management tools and website analytics providers. These service providers are authorized to use your information only as necessary to provide services to us.
2. **Partners and Affiliates.** We may share information within BBDG and with our campaign or program partners for purposes consistent with this Policy (for example, verifying your qualifications for ECOEP).

3. **Legal Requirements.** We may disclose information if required to do so by law or in response to a subpoena, court order or government request, or to protect our rights, property or safety or those of others.
4. **Business Transfers.** If BBDG merges with another organization or transfers part of its assets, your information may be transferred to the successor entity subject to the terms of this Policy.

4. How We Protect Your Information

We employ technical, physical and administrative safeguards to protect the information we collect. For example, we use secure socket layer (SSL) technology to encrypt data transmitted between your browser and our Sites, and we limit access to your personal information to authorized staff and service providers. However, no method of transmission or storage is completely secure, and we cannot guarantee absolute security.

5. Your Choices and Rights

- **Opt-Out of Communications.** If you no longer wish to receive marketing emails, you can unsubscribe using the link in the email or contact us at the address below. To stop text messages, reply **STOP** to any message or contact us.
- **Cookies.** You can adjust your browser settings to refuse cookies or notify you when a cookie is being sent. Some features of the Sites may not function properly without cookies.
- **Update Your Information.** You may request that we update or correct your personal information by contacting us.
- **California & Other Jurisdictions.** If you reside in a jurisdiction with specific privacy rights (such as California), you may have the right to request access to or deletion of your personal information. To exercise these rights, please contact us. We will not discriminate against you for exercising any privacy rights.

6. Children's Privacy

The Sites are not intended for children under 13 years of age. We do not knowingly collect personal information from children under 13. If we learn that we have collected personal information from a child under 13 without verification of parental consent, we will delete that information.

7. International Transfers

We are based in the United States, and the information we collect is subject to U.S. law. If you are accessing the Sites from outside the United States, please be aware that your information may be transferred to, stored and processed in the United States or other countries where our service providers are located.

8. Changes to This Policy

We may update this Privacy Policy from time to time to reflect changes in our practices or applicable law. If we make material changes, we will post the updated Policy on this page with a new "Last updated" date. Your continued use of the Sites after any update signifies your acceptance of the revised Policy.

9. Contact Us

If you have any questions or concerns about this Privacy Policy or our data practices, please contact us:

- **Brownsville Business Development Group**
- 2100 Old Port Isabel Rd Unit A, Brownsville, TX 78521
- Phone: +1 956-420-8700
- Email: information@brownsvillebdg.org