

emPowerSBC Privacy Policy

Introduction

The County of Santa Barbara (the "County") offers the emPowerSBC program to provide voluntary financing for the installation of distributed generation renewable energy, energy efficiency and water efficiency improvements through a public private lending partnership.

www.empowersbc.org/ is the official website for the emPowerSBC program.

We are committed to respecting your privacy and recognize your need for appropriate protection and management of your information.

Collection and Use of Information

Our website does not collect personal identifying information about you unless you voluntarily provide it. This notice applies to all information collected or submitted on emPowerSBC.org. On some pages, you can request to receive materials or register for programs. In general, you can visit our emPowerSBC website without telling us who you are or revealing any personal information about yourself. If you choose to register an account or your contact information with emPowerSBC, either using our online application form or by submitting a paper registration you will need to provide some personal information. The types of personal information include, but are not limited to:

Name

Address

Phone number

E-mail address

When requesting information, the personal information you provide to us is used solely to process your request. We do not share this information with parties outside emPowerSBC unless necessary to complete your request. When this type of sharing does occur, we have agreements with our vendors that allow limited use of your personal information strictly for the purpose of providing the immediate service.

As a California governmental entity, emPowerSBC is subject to the California Public Records Act and the California Information Practices Act of 1977 ("Information Practices Act") and may be required upon request to release some types of information submitted through emPowerSBC.org.

If you supply your postal address online, you may receive periodic mailings from emPowerSBC. These mailings may include information on new programs, services, or upcoming events and news that may be of interest. If you do not want to receive such mailings from emPowerSBC in the future, please let us know by sending an e-mail to emPowerSBC@co.santa-barbara.ca.us.

If you supply your e-mail address online, we will only use it to answer e-mail received and possibly to send periodic email updates, unless otherwise stated. Such addresses are not used

for any other purpose and are not shared with outside parties unless necessary to complete your request.

Participation in emPowerSBC is voluntary and entering Personal Information on the emPowerSBC website is not required to access emPowerSBC financing. Information is collected from you primarily by our lending partners, CoastHills Federal Credit Union and Ventura County Credit Union. If you choose to submit an application for emPowerSBC financing, you will need to provide the lending partner with personal information. The lender must abide by all applicable privacy and confidentiality regulations and will only transfer certain information to the County using a unique identifier, which will not be associated with your personal information.

Renewable Funding, LLC is a private corporation and is designing, implementing and maintaining this website on behalf of the County under the emPowerSBC program. Information you provide through this website is submitted directly to Renewable Funding, LLC, which is conducting this work under contract with the County. Any personal information collected from you by Renewable Funding, LLC on behalf of the California Energy Commission is subject to the protections established by the California Information Practices Act

If you participate in emPowerSBC financing we may use the information you provide us with and that we collect from others about you to gather data regarding the measures and outcomes of the project. We may share your information with third-parties that we hire to provide services to us in connection with the emPowerSBC program, but they will be restricted from using your information for any reason other than providing services to us in connection with the emPowerSBC program. You may notify us that you do not wish us to share your personal information with any third parties; in that case, however, you may not be able to participate in the emPowerSBC program.

We do not sell or rent your Personal Information.

We may also disclose information about you, including personal information, in special cases when we have good faith belief that such action is necessary to: (a) conform to legal requirements or comply with legal process; (b) protect and defend our rights or property; or (c) act to protect the interests of our users or others. You may request access to any personal information that emPowerSBC has collected about you.

Email

If you send us an email, you should know that email is not necessarily secure against interception. So, if your communication includes sensitive information like your charge card or anything you feel or have been advised is confidential, please contact your intended recipient by postal mail or telephone rather than email. In addition, email correspondence may be saved on the recipient's computer and backup media for an indefinite period of time. Your correspondence may also be forwarded to others in order to fulfill your request and thus may be held on their systems as well. Responses from us to your request will also be retained on the sender's computer, the computers of those copied on the email and most likely on your own computer after you read the message.

Cookies

The emPowerSBC website may use cookies to personalize or enhance your user experience. A cookie is a small text file that is placed on your hard disk by a web page server. Cookies cannot

be used to run programs or deliver viruses to your computer. Cookies are uniquely assigned to you, and can only be read by a Web Server in the domain that issued the cookie to you.

One of the primary purposes of cookies is to provide a convenience feature to save you time. For example, if you personalize a web page, or navigate within a site, a cookie helps the site to recall your specific information on subsequent visits. Hence, this simplifies the process of delivering relevant content and eases site navigation by providing and saving your preferences and login information as well as providing personalized functionality.

The County reserves the right to share aggregated site statistics with third parties, but does not allow other companies to place cookies on the emPowerSBC website unless there is a temporary, overriding customer value. When statistics are aggregated, the information about you and other users is kept confidential and does not allow for you to be personally identified.

You have the ability to accept or decline cookies. Most web browsers automatically accept cookies, but you can usually modify your browser setting to decline cookies. If you reject cookies by changing your browser settings then be aware that this may disable some of the functionality on our website.

IP Address

An Internet Protocol (“IP”) address is a set of numbers that is automatically assigned to your computer whenever you log on to your Internet Service Provider (“ISP”) or through your company's local area network (“LAN”) or wide area network (“WAN”). Web servers, the powerful computers that provide web pages for viewing, automatically identify your computer by the IP address assigned to it during your session online.

We collect IP addresses for some purposes (for example, to build routine website traffic reports and to audit other features of our site). We do not link a user's IP address to a person's Personal Information. This means we will have a record of each user's session but the user remains anonymous to us.

We will use IP addresses to identify users of this site when we feel it is necessary to protect our service, site or other users from fraudulent or illegal behavior. Under some circumstances, we may make such information available to the affected ISP in order for them to become aware of and control fraudulent or illegal behavior originating from their systems. We may also be required by legal process to release this IP address information. Furthermore, under certain circumstances, IP address and/or domain names may be linked to personally identifiable information, when said information is stored in databases managed by Internet registrars or registries such as Network Solutions or ARIN (American Registry for Internet Numbers).

Your Consent

By using this website and otherwise participating in the emPowerSBC program, you consent to the terms of our Privacy Policy. If we change the Privacy Policy, we intend to take every reasonable step to ensure that these changes are brought to your attention by posting all changes prominently on our website for a reasonable period of time.

Contact Information

If you have any questions regarding this Privacy Policy, please contact Angie Hacker, Program Manager for emPowerSBC at (805) 568-3520.