

ECOMAP Community Guidelines

Welcome to ECOMAP, a digital mapping platform dedicated to fostering entrepreneurship in eastern North Carolina. Our mission is to create a comprehensive directory of resources, organizations, and assets that support small businesses and startups in our region. To maintain a valuable, respectful, and inclusive community, we have established the following guidelines. By using ECOMAP, you agree to adhere to these standards.

Respectful Conduct

- **Professionalism:** Engage with others in a respectful and courteous manner. Your interactions should promote a positive environment that encourages growth and collaboration within the entrepreneurial community.
- **No Harassment or Hate Speech:** Harassment, bullying, or hate speech of any kind is strictly prohibited. This includes derogatory comments, slurs, or any content that attacks individuals or groups based on race, ethnicity, nationality, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, or any other characteristic.
- **No Hate Crimes:** Any content that promotes, incites, or glorifies violence, prejudice, or hatred against individuals or groups is strictly forbidden. This includes threats, advocacy of violent acts, or any expression that could be considered a hate crime.
- **Privacy Respect:** Do not share personal or confidential information about others without their explicit consent.

Appropriate Content

- **Relevance to Entrepreneurship:** Ensure that all content posted is relevant to entrepreneurship, business resources, or community events in eastern North Carolina. The platform is intended to support and inform entrepreneurs.
- **Accuracy of Information:** Provide accurate and up-to-date information when listing businesses, resources, or events, **and remember to make necessary edits to listings as changes arise**. Misleading information undermines the platform's integrity and can negatively impact users.
- **No Inappropriate Material:** Refrain from posting content that is obscene, defamatory, or otherwise inappropriate for a professional and inclusive community.

Prohibited Activities

- **Illegal Content:** Do not post or share content that is illegal or promotes illegal activities under local, state, or federal laws.
- **Spam and Misrepresentation:** Avoid posting spam, repetitive content, or misleading information. Do not impersonate others or misrepresent your affiliation with any entity.
- **Intellectual Property Rights:** Respect all copyrights, trademarks, and other legal rights. Only share content that you own or have permission to use.

User Interactions

- **Constructive Feedback:** Offer feedback and critiques in a constructive manner that aims to support and improve the community.
- **Dispute Resolution:** Handle disagreements professionally. If conflicts arise, consider private communication or involve a moderator to mediate.
- **Reporting Violations:** If you encounter content or behavior that violates these guidelines, please report it to the ECOMAP administration team.

Advertising and Promotion

- **Relevant Promotion:** You may promote your business, services, or events as long as they are relevant to the entrepreneurial community and adhere to these guidelines.
- **No Unsolicited Messaging:** Do not send unsolicited messages or promotional content to other users without their consent.

Enforcement and Compliance

- **Monitoring and Moderation:** ECOMAP reserves the right to monitor content to ensure compliance with these guidelines and to take appropriate action when necessary.
- **Consequences of Violations:** Violations may result in content removal, account suspension, or termination, at the discretion of the ECOMAP administration team.
- **Right to Appeal:** If you believe an enforcement action was taken in error, you may appeal by contacting the ECOMAP support team.

Protecting Freedom of Speech

- **Open Dialogue:** We encourage open, respectful, and diverse discussions that contribute to the entrepreneurial ecosystem.
- **Balancing Expression and Safety:** While we support freedom of speech, content that violates these guidelines or threatens the safety and inclusivity of the community will be moderated.

Privacy and Data Use

- **Compliance with Privacy Laws:** Adhere to all applicable privacy laws and regulations when handling personal data.
- **Transparency:** Be transparent about any data you collect from users and ensure it is used ethically and legally.

Updates to the Guidelines

- **Periodic Revisions:** These guidelines may be updated periodically to reflect the evolving needs of the community.
- **Notification of Changes:** Significant changes will be communicated to users via the platform or email.