



Submission of applications and procedure

Natural, legal persons under private and public law are eligible to apply for project funding. Funding is generally granted in the form of an earmarked, non-refundable grant. The size of the grant is determined based on the project and the applicant. The informal applications must contain the following information:

- the funding recipient
- the subject matter and objective of the project
- the status of the related knowledge/technology
- the estimated cost of the project
- the budget broken down by cost type
- the type of financing
- the finance plan
- the type and scope of implementation
- the start and duration of the project
- the continuation of the project
- financial aid from other funding programs

For the purpose of an initial project proposal assessment, applicants can submit a brief, informative project sketch. If the proposal is essentially consistent with the DBU's support criteria, the branch office will request an extended application.

The DBU evaluates incoming project sketches and applications for support, requests any additional information necessary, conducts technical discussions with the applicants, and requests positions and expert opinions from third parties. The Board of Trustees or the Secretary General then make the final decisions on acceptance of the applications.

The Board of Trustees

The DBU is chaired by a Board of Trustees whose 16 members are appointed by the German government. You can find the current Board of Trustees online at:

www.dbu.de

Secretary General and the Branch Office

When it comes to day-to-day business, the Board of Trustees is represented by the Secretary General, who is responsible for carrying out the foundation's activities. He manages the DBU Branch Office in Osnabrück.

- **Secretary General**
Alexander Bonde
- **Chief of Staff**
Klaus Jongebloed
- **Department 1 – Finance and Administration**
Michael Dittrich
- **Department 2 – Environmental Technology**
Felix Gruber
- **Department 3 – Environmental Research and Nature Conservation**
Dr. Maximilian Hempel
- **Department 4 – Environmental Communication and Cultural Heritage Protection**
Dr. Cornelia Soetbeer

Addresses and communication

German Federal Environmental Foundation
An der Bornau 2, 49090 Osnabrück, Germany
Telephone +49 (0) 541 | 9633-0
Telefax +49 (0) 541 | 9633-190
Internet www.dbu.de

Press Office

Klaus Jongebloed, Telephone +49 (0) 541 | 9633-521

DBU Natural Heritage

Susanne Belting, Telefon +49 (0) 541 | 9633-600

DBU Center for Environmental Communication Public Relations

Prof. Dr. Markus Große Ophoff, Telephone +49 (0) 541 | 9633-901

Last updated: 01.12.2021



Founding and mission statement

The German Federal Environmental Foundation (Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt, DBU) was founded in 1990 on the basis of a federal law using the proceeds from the privatization of the federally owned Salzgitter AG. The revenue from the endowment capital, which currently totals EUR 2.32 billion, is used to fund innovative environmental protection projects.

The DBU was established as a civil law foundation with legal personality. The German Federal Environmental Foundation's statutes define the structure of the foundation, the objectives of its various divisions, its internal procedures and the management of its assets. The DBU is chaired by the Board of Trustees. The Secretary General is responsible for carrying out the DBU's work.

The DBU's objective is to fund projects and initiatives to protect the environment, particularly those involving small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). As a rule, the DBU aims to work outside the scope of other governmental funding programs, but may complement them. The foundation may accept donations and endowments.

Funding topics

In accordance with its mission and guiding principles, the DBU funds innovative, exemplary and solution-oriented projects for the protection of the environment. It pursues this objective with the goal of implementing sustainable development in terms of ecological, economic, social and cultural aspects, taking small- and medium-sized enterprises and their unique diversity into consideration. The DBU sees environmental protection as a public health issue.

The DBU's project funding is focussed on interdisciplinary project topics that are continually adapted to the changing requirements of environmental protection. At the same time, the DBU's »open topic« project funding offers the possibility of embracing innovative ideas from project partners and promoting innovative environmental protection projects that are particularly relevant and are outside of the pre-defined funding topics.

The only way to tackle complex environmental problems is through interdisciplinary, systemic approaches that also incorporate societal practice. The DBU considers climate change, loss of biodiversity, waste of resources and harmful emissions to be the main challenges we currently face. For this reason, the projects funded by the DBU draw on the latest scientific findings on the planetary boundaries as well as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set out by the UN.

The funding topics are equally distributed across research, development and utilisation of new technologies and products to help relieve the burden on the environment consistent with the principles of preventive, integrated environmental protection; the preservation and restoration of the national cultural heritage; and increasing awareness of environmental consciousness and environmentally conscious behaviour amongst the general public through information and environmental education measures. One important aspect running through all these topics is digitisation.

In addition to the topics listed below, the DBU also offers »open topic« project funding. This covers all projects with a major positive environmental impact that correspond to the DBU's objectives as outlined in its statutes.

For more information: www.dbu.de/projectFunding

The DBU funds projects in the following 12 areas:

0. »Open topic« project funding
1. Instruments and competencies for sustainability assessment and strengthening sustainability awareness and action
2. Sustainable nutrition and sustainable handling of food
3. Development, design, and acceptance of environmentally friendly consumer goods
4. Climate- and resource-saving construction
5. Energy- and resource-saving district development and renewal
6. Renewable energy, energy saving and efficiency
7. Resource efficiency through innovative production processes, materials and surface technologies
8. Closed material flows and efficient use of environmentally critical metals and mineral residues
9. Reduction of nitrogen emissions in agriculture
10. Integrated concepts and measures for the protection and management of groundwater and surface waters
11. Nature conservation and sustainable use of nature in human-modified environments and protected areas
12. Conservation and securing of nationally valuable cultural assets from harmful environmental effects

DBU project funding is subject to EU eligibility criteria (Art. 107, 108, Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union [AEUV]).