

# Applying for support for the unsealing of land

If you plan to unseal land on your property, you can apply for funding for this purpose from the Senator for Climate Protection, Environment, Mobility, Urban Development and Housing.

## Competent Department

- [Die Senatorin für Bau, Mobilität und Stadtentwicklung](#)
- [Die Senatorin für Umwelt, Klima und Wissenschaft](#)

## Basic information

If rainwater can infiltrate better, this promotes the renewal of groundwater and relieves the burden on the sewage system. Against this background, the Senator for Climate Protection, Environment, Mobility, Urban Development and Housing promotes the unsealing of surfaces as a contribution to the sustainable use of rainwater.

Funding is provided for the unsealing of sealed surfaces (e.g. overbuilt or impermeably paved) and their conversion into unsealed surfaces (vegetation surface) or water-permeable paved surfaces (partial unsealing or change of pavement). Unsealing must result in complete decoupling of the area from the sewer system. The entire precipitation water accumulating on the unsealed area must be infiltrated decentrally on site.

Funding is available for up to one third of the eligible costs of a system, up to a maximum of 3,000 euros. The maximum subsidy per square meter of unsealed area is 12.50 euros. In the event of unforeseen additional costs during the construction phase, a subsequent grant can be applied for in writing. However, the total subsidy of 3,000 euros may not be exceeded. Own contributions are not taken into account for the subsidy.

## Requirements

Prerequisites for funding are that

- the property is located in Bremen or Bremerhaven,
- the area to be unsealed is larger than 10 square meters,
- the applicant is the owner of the land and building or otherwise entitled to dispose of it in rem (e.g. heritable building rights or tenants with the owner's declaration of consent),
- the entire precipitation water accumulating on the unsealed area can percolate on site,

- no soil or groundwater hazards arise as a result of unsealing, and
- the measure is voluntary, i.e. there is no legal obligation to carry it out, such as a requirement in the building permit.

## Procedure

The funding program for the unsealing of surfaces is handled by the Bremen Environmental Advisory Service on behalf of the Senator for Climate Protection, the Environment, Mobility, Urban Development and Housing. Interested parties can obtain advice on the implementation of projects and help with the application process here by prior appointment. In addition, citizens should send the attached application form to this office (see office).

If applicable, proof of proper disposal of removed materials must be provided.

Total funding for the installation must be secured at the time of application.

The measure may not be started before the grant is approved. Exceptions are decided by the granting authority upon application.

The Senator for Climate Protection, Environment, Mobility, Urban Development and Housing checks whether the measure is technically, ecologically and economically feasible and determines the eligible costs (construction costs including technical ancillary costs). The area to be unsealed can be inspected before and after implementation of the measure by the granting authority or by a body appointed by it.

The subsidies are approved by notice.

The subsidy is paid after completion of the system and after submission of the cost receipts and after inspection of the system by the approval authority or a body appointed by it.

## More information

Unsealing measures are only subsidized if corresponding funds are available. There is no legal entitlement to funding. If the subsidies are not used properly, they can be reclaimed, including interest. If unsealed areas are resealed within 10 years, disbursed subsidies can be reclaimed.

The funding of a measure by the Senator for Climate Protection, Environment, Mobility, Urban Development and Housing does not include any approval by the building authorities that may be required.

In the event of complete decoupling of the property, the companies responsible for wastewater disposal in Bremen or Bremerhaven must be informed of this.

In accordance with Section 5 of the Act on the Enforcement of a Minimum Wage in Bremen (State Minimum Wage Act) of July 17, 2012 (Brem.GBl. p. 300), which came into force on September 01, 2012, the Free Hanseatic City of Bremen and the municipalities of Bremen and Bremerhaven only grant subsidies if the recipients undertake to pay their employees at least the statutory minimum wage of currently €8.50 (gross) per hour worked.

### **What deadlines must be paid attention to?**

The entitlement to a subsidy expires after 12 months. The period begins with the date of the grant decision. In justified cases, this period can be extended once upon request.