

# Applying for funding for rainwater harvesting systems

If you plan to install a rainwater harvesting system, you can apply for funding 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

The retention and use of rainwater has a positive influence on the preservation and improvement of water quality as well as on the saving of drinking water. Against this background, the Senator for Climate Protection, Environment, Mobility, Urban Development and Housing wants to encourage Bremen's citizens to take the initiative and promote the wider use of rainwater harvesting systems by providing grants.

Funding is provided for the new installation and retrofitting of rainwater utilization systems in residential buildings for the purposes of toilet flushing and at least one other use, such as garden irrigation, provided they meet the requirements of the Technical Annex to these principles.

Rainwater utilization systems are devices that collect rainwater runoff from roof surfaces in decentralized storage tanks and make it available for the aforementioned purposes.

Funding is provided for up to one third of the eligible costs of a system, up to a maximum of 2,000 euros. In the event of unforeseen additional costs during the construction phase, subsequent approval can be requested in writing. However, the total subsidy of 2,000 euros may not be exceeded. Own contributions are not taken into account in the funding.

## Requirements

Prerequisites for a subsidy are that

- the house for which the rainwater utilization system is to be installed is located in Bremen or Bremerhaven,
- the applicant is a house owner, a tenant with the consent of the owner, or an association,

- the use of the rainwater for toilet flushing and another purpose (garden irrigation) is intended,
- the connection of at least 50 square meters of covered area and a tank of at least 2 cubic meters capacity are guaranteed and
- the measure is voluntary and there is no legal obligation, such as a requirement in the building permit.

## Procedure

The funding program for the construction of rainwater harvesting systems is handled by the Bremen Environmental Advisory Service on behalf of the Senator for Climate Protection, 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 direct the attached application form to this office (see service).

The overall financing of the facility 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.

Grants are approved by notice.

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

## More information

Rainwater harvesting systems are only subsidized if corresponding funds are available. There is no legal entitlement to funding. If the subsidies are not used appropriately, they can be reclaimed including interest.

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.