



# Bundespreis Blauer Kompass

## Germany's National Adaptation Award: "Blauer Kompass"

The National Adaptation Award „Blauer Kompass“ (Blue Compass) is the highest state award for climate change adaptation projects in Germany. The award is jointly hosted by the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety, and Consumer Protection and the German Environment Agency. Projects can be submitted from January 16<sup>th</sup> to March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024. The goal of the competition is to present innovative, effective, and sustainable solutions for preparing for and adapting to the impacts of climate change, such as heat, droughts, and heavy rainfall. The award is endowed with a cash prize of €25,000 per each winner.

Heat, drought, floods, or wildfires – the consequences of climate change and associated extreme weather events can cause significant damage. With unabated climate change, the risks to our society from heavy rainfall, heat, and drought throughout the entire country will significantly increase in the future. Therefore, it is crucial that we take precautions and effectively adapt to the consequences of global warming.

With the National Adaptation Award „Blauer Kompass“, the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection and the German Environment Agency jointly recognize projects that confront this challenge. Whether it's climate-resilient product and manufacturing cycles, measures for heat or occupational protection, especially for vulnerable individuals, innovative concepts for dealing with new pathogens and invasive species, the cultivation of climate-adapted plant varieties, restored moors and forests, or nature-based measures for heavy rainfall prevention – projects and measures for adaptation to the consequences of global warming can be submitted until March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024.

### Who can apply?

The National Adaptation Award “Blauer Kompass” is awarded in four categories.



Projects can be submitted online at [www.uba.de/blauerkompass](http://www.uba.de/blauerkompass). The competition office answers questions and provides information about the application for the award. Support for the application is also available as part of a spotlight event by the [Zentrum KlimaAnpassung](#) (Centre for Climate Adaptation), which takes place on February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

### The deadline for application is March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024

The allocation to a category is based on the type of the applicant's organization. Applications from consortia, even across categories (e.g., a municipality together with a company) are welcome.

Apply at  
[www.uba.de/blauerkompass](http://www.uba.de/blauerkompass)

#### Who can I contact in case of questions?

- Competition Office  
„Blauer Kompass“  
co2online gemeinnützige GmbH  
Hochkirchstraße 9 | 10829 Berlin  
Rebecca Paersch  
Tel. 030/36 99 61 – 12  
[blauerkompass@co2online.de](mailto:blauerkompass@co2online.de)
- German Environment Agency  
Competence Centre for Climate  
Impacts and Adaptation  
Dr. Geronimo Gussmann  
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The submitted projects must include measures that contribute to adaptation to the consequences of climate change in Germany. However, climate adaptation does not have to be the sole objective of the project. The submitted project must not have been completed for more than three years and should be in at least the initial phase of implementation. Pure research works are excluded from participation.

## Selection procedure & evaluation criteria

The received applications will be evaluated based on the six “[criteria of good adaptation practice](#)” proposed by the German Environment Agency:

- ▶ **Effectiveness:** Does the project demonstrate success or shows promise in terms of precaution and dealing with the consequences of climate change?
- ▶ **Financial viability:** Does the project have a positive cost-benefit ratio?
- ▶ **Sustainability:** Does the project contribute to a sustainable, socially and environmentally just development of society?
- ▶ **Positive side effects:** Does the project generate additional positive effects beyond climate adaptation, for example regarding the environment and society?
- ▶ **Flexibility:** Can the project be adapted, further developed, or potentially reversed in response to changing conditions? Is modification possible with relatively low costs?
- ▶ **Robustness:** Can the project handle uncertainties regarding future climate change? Does the project have positive effects under different climate scenarios?

In May 2024, the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection and the German Environment Agency will nominate a total of twenty projects for the award. A jury consisting of experts from the Federal Ministry for the Environment Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection, the German Environment Agency, municipal associations, as well as – amongst others – representatives from the business and research sectors, will select one winner per category from the nominated projects by the end of June 2024.

## Online voting for the award of a Community Prize

Additionally, a Community Prize will be awarded, and the winner will be determined through an online voting starting from May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024. For three weeks, you can vote for the best project through the “[Tatenbank](#)” (Action database) of the German Environment Agency.

## What can be won?

The award comes with a cash prize of €25,000 for each winner. The five awarded projects will be honoured during an award ceremony held at the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection in Berlin on September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The winners will receive a special trophy and support for regional and nationwide press and public relations. Additionally, short films will be produced for all awarded projects, which the winners can use for their public relations activities.

### Overview

- ▶ **Competition start:**  
January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024
- ▶ **Online webinar:**  
February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024
- ▶ **Application Deadline:**  
March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024
- ▶ **Online voting:**  
May 28<sup>th</sup> to June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024
- ▶ **Jury meeting:**  
June 2024
- ▶ **Award ceremony:**  
September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024

### Imprint

The “Blauer Kompass” (Blue Compass) is jointly announced by the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety, and Consumer Protection together with the German Environment Agency. The competition office is entrusted to co2online gemeinnützige GmbH. The Institute for Ecological Economic Research (Institut für ökologische Wirtschaftsforschung) offers further support in the evaluation of applications. The Centre for Climate Adaptation (Zentrum KlimaAnpassung) assists in providing information about the competition and in public relations.