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German Federal Environmental Foundation

The Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt DBU (German Federal Environmental Foundation) is one of Europe's largest foundations and promotes innovative and exemplary environmental projects.

Since 1991, ca. 9000 projects have received financial backing totalling roundabout € 1,58 billion. The promotional activities concentrate on environmental technology and research, nature conservation, environmental communication and cultural assets.

It is a legal task for the DBU to award its German Environmental Award annually.

The Board of Advisors is the executive committee of the foundation, voting for the most important decisions. It consists of 16 members appointed by the Federal Government. Chairwoman is Rita Schwarzelühr-Sutter, parliamentary under-secretary of the department of the environment.

The DBU was established in 1990, subject to a law passed by the German Parliament on initiative of the then Finance Minister Dr. Theo Waigel: to use the amount of € 1.3 billion from privatising the former steel group Salzgitter AG for an environmental foundation. The income from its assets is used for the promotional activities.

Secretary General Dr. Heinrich Bottermann

Dr. Heinrich Bottermann worked from 1985 to 1990 as a tenured vet in the Borken. From 1990 to 1993 he was Head of Health Senator of the Free Hanseatic City of Bremen before he was from 1993 to 1995 Head of Unit in the Ministry of Health. He then worked as Head of Unit for animal welfare and veterinary medicines in the Department of Environment and Conservation, Agriculture and Consumer Protection of North Rhine-Westphalia (MUNLV, 1995-2007), director of the State Office of Food Economics and hunting NRW (2003 to 2006) and Deputy Head of Department of Agriculture in MUNLV .

From 1 August 2007 to 30 September 2013 Bottermann was President of the State Agency for Nature, Environment and Consumer Protection of North Rhine-Westphalia, an agency with approximately 1,400 employees.

Fields of support

The DBU guidelines are divided into the following nine fields of support:

I. Environmental Technology

Field of support 1: Ecological and health-friendly procedures and products

1. Ecological and health-friendly products
2. Ecological and health-friendly procedures

Field of support 2: Climate protection and energy

1. Climate protection
2. Energy efficiency and renewable energies

Field of support 3: Architecture and building and construction

1. Integral planning and land protection
2. Resource-saving building methods and products

II. Environmental research and nature conservation

Field of support 4: Applied environmental research

1. Scholarship programme
2. Sustainable chemistry - procedures and products
3. Biotechnological procedures and products

Field of support 5: Ecological land use

1. Agricultural procedures and produce
2. Sustainable forest use
3. Re-growing raw materials

Field of support 6: Nature conservation

1. Nature conservation in cultivated landscapes
2. Regeneration of degraded habitats
3. Nature conservation in populated areas
4. Nature conservation in natural landscapes and protectorates

III. Environmental communication and protection of cultural assets

Field of support 7: Communicating of environmental information

1. Methods and instruments
2. Testing and use of new media formats
3. Electronic media
4. Eco-management systems for small and medium-sized enterprises

Field of support 8: Environmental education

1. Interdisciplinary exchange and communication of knowledge about environment and nature
2. Education for sustainability
3. Professional environmental education and environmental consulting

Field of support 9: Environment and cultural assets

1. Protection of cultural assets under environmental aspects
2. Protection of historic cultural landscapes and nationally important gardens
3. Co-operation in protection of cultural assets and nature conservation