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Unsealing to improve  
Soil, Climate and  
Biodiversity



# GROUND:BREAKING WEBINARS

on Monday, 11.30 - 12.30

29 April

6 May

13 May

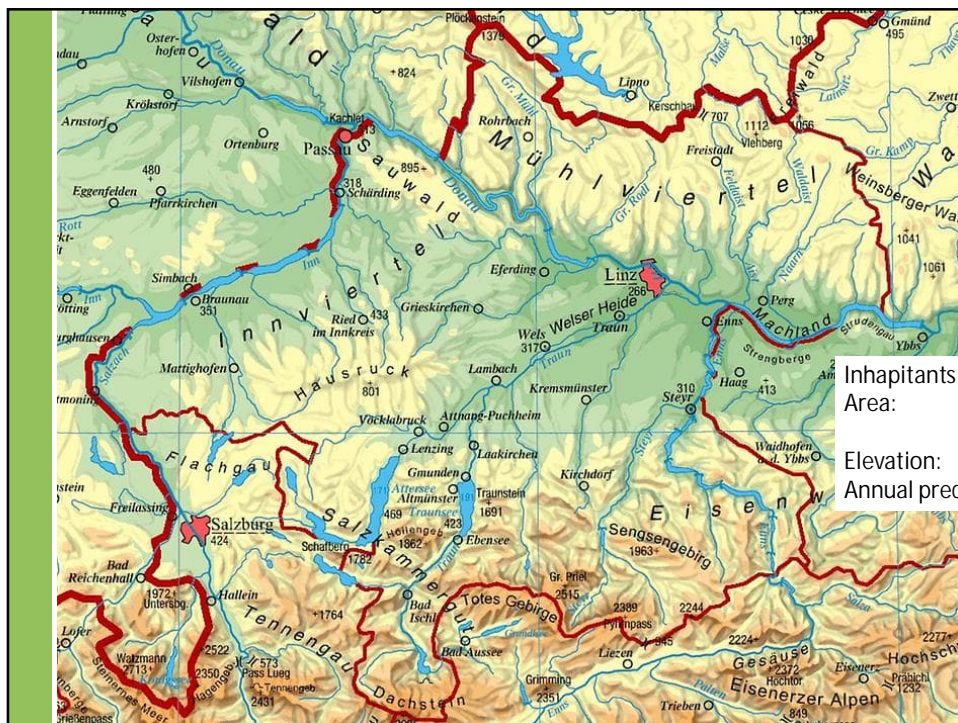
27 May

SAVE THE  
DATE

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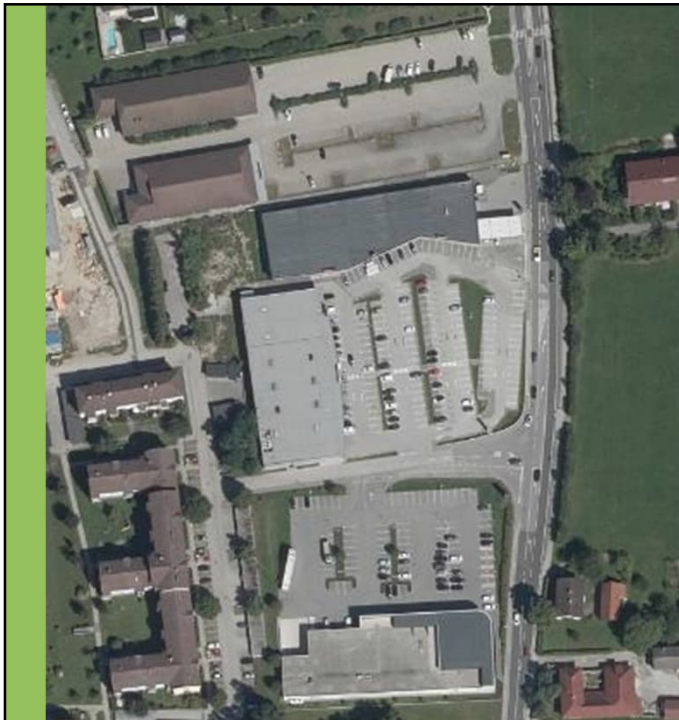
Inhabitants:           appx. 1,5 Mio.  
Area:                    appx. 11.700 km<sup>2</sup>  
  
Elevation:               226 - 2995 m a.SL  
Annual precepitation: 600 - 3000 mm





## Future challenges

- soil/land use
  - climate change adaption
  - sealing
- urban heat island  
→ biodiversity loss  
→ change in water household



## How it began (2021)

Funding for the planning and preparation of an greening and unsealing concept for this area (app. 40.000 m<sup>2</sup>)





## Political idea:



"Asphalt ackern in Haslach"  
asphalt ploughing

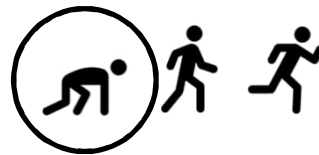
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## Background information

### first run

- open from oct. 2022 to oct. 2023
- focus on surface discharge reduction/ increase infiltration by unsealing
- only for municipalities



## Challenge

Permission for the discharge or percolation of "filtered, cleaned" precipitation water on sealed surfaces (exp. parking lots)

- definition how these surfaces should be constructed
- and how surface water should be cleaned before discharge in rivers or percolation to the underground

... need to adapt the actual permissions or to receive new ones

state of the technology and official guidelines

06.05.2024



## Lessons learned 2nd call (actual one) 1

fund for:

- unsealing of "one piece" with an area >100 m<sup>2</sup>

open for:

owners or authorized persons of the area

measures funded:

- unsealing (complete) with the goal to "remake" a typical soil for this site
- unsealing (partly) – goal: partly paved surfaces (gravel lawn, grass paved blocks,...) to improve the percolation on site
- measures for "site-typical" greenings



06.05.2024

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## Lessons learned 2nd call (actual one) 2



# €

Additional funding rules:

- submission of the application before beginning of any building activities
- no sealing the next 10 years
- time to finalize the constructions <1 year
- no danger to soil or (ground)water – permission for percolation or discharge
- proof/certificate for the appropriate waste removal
- 30 €/m<sup>2</sup> max. of 75.000 € per project and max. 70% of the overall investment costs per project
- if the community where the measure is done, is part of European Land and Soil Alliance 40 €/m<sup>2</sup> max. of 80.000 €
- period of funding: - 31. Dec. 2025



## Promotion





## Submissions since 2022

requests/fundamental questions: ~2-4 per week (phone, email)

number of submitted projects:	37
denied projects:	4
accepted projects	33
finalized projects	5 (60.180€ 1.523 m <sup>2</sup> ) in 2022 and 2023

Projects are highly heterogenous:

- area from 100 m<sup>2</sup> to >1.000 m<sup>2</sup>
- kind of "unsealing" – complete or partly
- private or public



## FAQs

- 100m<sup>2</sup> in one piece ?
- partly paved surfaces – examples ?
- Any specifications about drainage ?
- Is there any fund for not sealing ?





## Examples



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## further funds in Upper Austria

- Fund for e-charging stations includes some extra money for part-paved parking lots
- City of Linz; fund for greening and unsealing of "private owned" courtyards



06.05.2024

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## Activities.... besides funding desealing measures

### Soil protection as legal basis

- official experts for soil protection
- consultations for soil protection
- several funds
- soil awareness raising



**Thanks for your attention!**

### current team

- Sandra Urban
- Marina Aigner

### former team:

- Hermann Miesbauer
- Renate Leitinger

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