

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Energy Innovation Design Challenge is an Opportunity for Creatives Around the World

In partnership with the City of Mannheim and BUGA23, the Land Art Generator will launch a unique renewable energy design challenge in April 2022 with USD\$40,000 in awards.

Mannheim, June 1, 2021—The scale of the technical and social transformations required over the next three decades to meet the challenge of climate change can sometimes seem daunting.

The LAGI 2022 Mannheim design competition will bring renewable energy to the human scale for the urban context. A partnership with the German national horticultural exhibition—BUGA23—the unique design challenge from the Land Art Generator will invite proposals for renewable energy systems designed for a range of scales for the City of Mannheim, from the private garden to the city square.

It can be challenging to imagine what renewable energy might look like in the city beyond rooftop solar, but a just and equitable 100% clean energy future will most certainly require more creative thinking.

How can cities and towns take advantage of the opportunity presented by the energy transition, deploying renewable energy in ways that not only increase urban sustainability but also support human culture?

How can distributed energy resources across a variety of scales help to advance the UN Sustainable Development Goals of food security, economic justice, public health, education, gender equity, or clean drinking water?

Because energy is so fundamental, thinking deeply about the co-benefits of distributed energy resources can lead to a paradigm shift in the way that we design all of our urban support systems.

The LAGI 2022 Mannheim design challenge is an opportunity to propose solutions that can weave renewable energy into our lives in ways that improve human thriving.

As a part of the German Bundesgartenschau that will open in Mannheim in April of 2023, the design challenge brings together a number of themes and ideas for inspiration. Just as a garden is a productive landscape for nourishment that also brings us joy and pleasure, how can we re-imagine our energy landscapes so that they bring joy and pleasure to our communities? How can renewable energy be integrated in beautiful ways into everyday life so that it is not some cold and utilitarian technology, but is instead an indispensable accessory that we all desire to have? What does a residential scale renewable energy system look like if it is designed to be a statement of personal expression, similar to how our

automobile is a reflection of who we are? At the same time how can we make renewable energy accessible to everyone so that the benefits are equitably shared?

LAGI 2022 Mannheim will expand what is possible using existing clean energy technologies to create beautiful, sculptural modules that can plug into the smart postcarbon city. According to Elizabeth Monoian and Robert Ferry, LAGI Directors, “The design challenge seeks proposals that can exist simultaneously across a variety of scales—variations for a residential context or for a civic space—using modular components or scalable solutions. The goal is to open a window onto a world beyond carbon where quality of life and social equity have been vastly improved as a consequence of the energy transition.”

About the Land Art Generator Initiative

With a mission to advance a just and equitable energy transition in response to the climate crisis, the [Land Art Generator Initiative](https://landartgenerator.org) (LAGI) helps design places for people that share land use with distributed renewable energy generation and other sustainable infrastructures. The Land Art Generator works with public and private organizations to help them meet their greatest potential as they plan, design, and implement new clean energy projects and regenerative communities. LAGI design competitions bring forward innovations in sustainable design that capture the imagination of the world. Co-design projects and Solar Mural installations demonstrate the benefit of applying best practices of creative placemaking, urban design, and civic art to renewable energy projects.

More about the Land Art Generator Initiative: <https://landartgenerator.org>

About the Bundesgartenschau 2023

The German national garden show (“BUGA”*= short for “Bundesgartenschau”) will be taking place in Mannheim from April through to October 2023. [BUGA 23](https://buga23.de) is a lot more than just a flower show: It will improve the sustainable quality of life and lifestyle in Mannheim. Over seven Kilometers long, a stretch of green, will create new places to walk, play and relax, at the same time improving the city’s air quality and climate. BUGA is also part of Mannheim’s North East Green Corridor Project, connecting 230 hectares of green areas forming a corridor stretching into the city centre.

One major highlight will be a 2 km long (funicular) overhead cable car system spanning the river Neckar, and connecting Luisenpark with the new BUGA-Grounds.

Creating a healthy environment for Mannheim’s future, climate-neutral in harmony with the natural environment, BUGA23 is an innovative experimental field for living together in the city sustainably. It complies with the UN Sustainability goals which are incorporated in Mannheim’s mission statement for 2030. Solutions to problems and challenges of our time will be explored relating to climate, the environment, sustainable agricultural production and food security.

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