

# Land Art Generator Initiative

The goal of the Land Art Generator Initiative (LAGI) is to design and construct public art installations that have the added benefit of utility-scale renewable power generation. The sculptures continuously distribute clean energy into the even thousands of homes.

As the world works together to meet the targets of the Paris Climate Accord, the visual impact of renewable energy infrastructures, such as wind farms and solar arrays, is becoming more hotly debated. LAGI is working to provide site-specific solutions for cherished places in cities and countryside where man-produced, utilitarian infrastructures may be unifying. In doing so, we can inspire people about the beauty of our post-carbon future and engage local communities in the generation of culturally relevant energy solutions.

Presenting the former plant as public artwork—simultaneously enhancing the environment, increasing livability, providing a venue for STEAM learning, and stimulating local economic development—is a way to address a variety of social and environmental issues.

By nature of their functional utility, LAGI civic artworks cross disciplines from architecture and urban design to mechanical engineering and environmental science. This interdisciplinary result has the effect of both enhancing the level of innovation and broadening the audience for the work.

Educational programming and community collaboration are fundamental to all LAGI projects, beginning with early concept generation and continuing on site after each project is installed.

The Land Art Generator Initiative utilizes the design competition model as a platform to engage as many interdisciplinary teams of artists, architects, scientists, ecologists, landscape architects, and engineers around the world as possible to conceive aesthetic and pragmatic solutions for 21st century environmental challenges. The results of the competitions are made public in exhibitions, workshops, literature, and educational materials to inspire the general public about the potentials of our energy landscapes.

The design brief for the LAGI design competition contains the following baseline requirements (with the ability to vary unique elements to the site):

- The artwork is to capture energy from nature, cleanly convert it into electricity, and transform and transmit the electrical power to a grid connection point to be supplied by the city.
- Consideration should be made for the safety of the viewing public and for the educational activities that may occur on site.
- The design should be constructible (rather than theoretical).
- And it must respect the natural ecosystem of the design sites.

## LAGI 2010 Dubai/Abu Dhabi

In January of 2010, LAGI put out the first international call to artists, architects, scientists, landscape architects, engineers, and other creatives. The 2010 LAGI design competition was held for three sites in the UAE and we received hundreds of submissions from over 80 countries. The prize award and ceremony were sponsored by Masdar and took place at the 2011 World Future Energy Summit in Abu Dhabi, where UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon was introduced to the concepts.

## LAGI 2012 New York City

In partnership with New York City's Department of Parks & Recreation we held the 2012 LAGI design competition for a site within Freshkills Park the former Fresh Kills Landfill. We received 250 submissions from around the world.

## LAGI 2013 Copenhagen

LAGI came to Copenhagen during the year that the City was honored as the European Green Capital. We received 300 submissions from 85 countries and the European Commissioner for Climate Action presented the award to the winning design team at the Danish Design Centre.

## LAGI 2016 Santa Monica

LAGI 2016 was held in Southern California, with the City of Santa Monica as the partner. Interdisciplinary teams were invited to design a site-specific public artwork that generates clean electricity and/or drinking water for Southern California at a utility scale. The site included the brewhouse adjacent to the historic Santa Monica Pier, and offered the opportunity to utilize wave and tidal energy as well as wind, solar, and other technologies.

## Alongside our LAGI 2016 competition, we held a LAGI 2015-2016 Youth Prize

for those aged 18 and below. Using the LAGI 13-day Design Process Toolkit of activities, young designers participated on their own, through classrooms, and in after school programs.

In addition to LAGI design competitions, the project is engaged in consulting project delivery models. LAGI is working closely with cities in the USA, the UK, Africa, and South America to integrate renewable energy infrastructures into creative placemaking projects and mixed-use developments.

Participation design projects include developing a Solar Telescope collaboration with the homeless community of rural Yakima, Washington; developing culturally relevant energy solutions with Masao woman in Dorgesvala, Kenya; and working with urban youth to design and build 5kW solar sculptures that help to power local community centers and schools.

## WHAT ISSUES DOES LAGI ADDRESS?

Confronting the challenge of global climate change requires the communication of a positive vision of a sustainable future that can bring about a massive and organized social movement. After decades of scientific consensus on the issue, and a general agreement even within popular culture about the solution (a swift transition to a 100% renewable and GHG emissions-free infrastructure), there still exists a vocal constituency that is reactive against the proliferation of distributed and centralized renewable energy infrastructures.

Popular questions about the demanding spatial requirements of renewable energy systems and their aesthetic impact on the constructed environment have the potential to impede progress on the implementation of both solutions and proactive public policies. We see this effect within many communities that are opposed to wind and solar installations, especially when they can be seen from higher-value residential neighborhoods, or when they bring change to certain cherished view corridors and historic landscapes.

LAGI is working to address the issue of public awareness and to expand public support for renewable energy infrastructures by engaging individuals and communities through the medium of public art.

The civic engagement that LAGI catalyzes has proven to be a powerful mechanism for positive social change. The presentation of beautiful examples of utility-scale clean infrastructures that beautify public spaces can help citizens to feel a sense of pride in our collective energy landscapes. It's also an effective way to teach people about new technologies. LAGI is able to reach the next generation of designers, engineers, scientists, and policy makers, who will forever incorporate the creative integration of sustainable systems into their work.

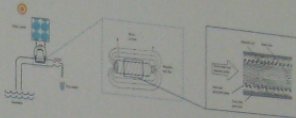
Cities around the world are setting a course towards energy self-sufficiency in response to climate change, and in preparation for future cost uncertainties in conventional fuels. Some are starting from scratch and others are engaging to retrofit themselves to carbon neutrality. Public amenities that provide energy to the grid can give urban planners a new and versatile tool for bringing renewable energy generation into cities both small and large.

to date LAGI has collected over 1,000 design ideas for aesthetic sustainable infrastructure from over 80 countries. Cities and developers around the world are looking to LAGI to provide unique solutions for integrated and distributed renewable energy installations that also serve as tools for creative placemaking and economic development. In addition to the partnerships that make possible LAGI Glasgow, just LAGI partnerships and supporters have included NYC Department of Parks & Recreation, NYC Department of Sanitation, NYC Mayor's Office (2012), the European Commission for Climate Action, Copenhagen Municipality, Capital region of Denmark, Masdar of Abu Dhabi, the Danish Design Centre, the National Environment for the Arts, EY University Copenhagen, Zayed University, and many more.

[www.landartgenerator.org](http://www.landartgenerator.org)

## The Pipe

2016 Youth Prize winner by Benjamin Roberts, 16



**TEAM** Benjamin Roberts, Ryan Kelly, Logan Gaudier, Steve Smith, Adam Ross, David Egan  
**TEAM CATEGORY** General Public  
**ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES** photovoltaic solar  
**WATER TECHNOLOGIES** microhydroelectric  
**WATER CAPACITY** 1000-1500 gallons (3800-5700 liters) of water daily

The beach is a primary feature on the horizon. The intended form of the sculpture is that of a pipe, or tunnel, with a circular opening at the end. The sculpture is to be made of a material that is both durable and aesthetically pleasing. The sculpture is to be made of a material that is both durable and aesthetically pleasing.

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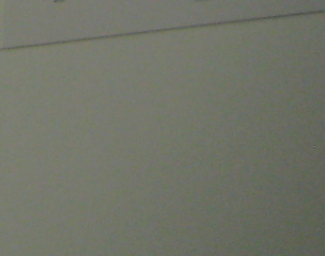
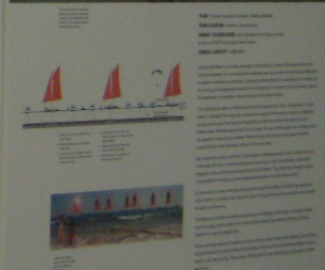
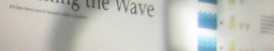
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## Catching the Wave



**TEAM** Benjamin Roberts, Ryan Kelly, Logan Gaudier, Steve Smith, Adam Ross, David Egan  
**TEAM CATEGORY** General Public  
**ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES** photovoltaic solar  
**WATER TECHNOLOGIES** microhydroelectric  
**WATER CAPACITY** 1000-1500 gallons (3800-5700 liters) of water daily



**Wind Mills**



**Beyond the Wind**



Two informational posters on the left wall. The first, titled 'Wind Mills', features a landscape image and text. The second, titled 'Beyond the Wind', features an aerial view of a solar farm and text.

### Energy Duck



Energy Duck is a duck-shaped water turbine that harnesses the power of flowing water to generate electricity. It is designed to be installed in rivers and streams, providing a clean and sustainable source of energy. The duck's unique shape allows it to capture the kinetic energy of the water flow and convert it into electrical power. It is a small, compact device that can be easily installed and maintained.

### The Solar Hourglass



The Solar Hourglass is a unique architectural structure that captures and stores solar energy. It is designed to be installed in open areas, providing a clean and sustainable source of energy. The structure's unique shape allows it to capture the maximum amount of solar radiation and convert it into electrical power. It is a small, compact device that can be easily installed and maintained.



A long, low-profile glass display case sits on a wooden table. Inside the case, several brochures are laid out. One prominent brochure features the word 'ENERGIES' in large, bold letters. The case is empty of other items.