



german  
ecodesign  
award

*Factsheet*  
*for 2026 participation*

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# The German Ecodesign Award

The German Ecodesign Award honours designers, companies and students from Germany and Europe whose work contributes significantly to the sustainable transformation of our economy and society. The award has been presented annually since 2012 by the Federal Ministry for the Environment and the German Environment Agency in cooperation with the International Design Center Berlin. As a non-commercial award, it represents high standards of quality and credibility.

We honour pioneering products, services and concepts that are convincing from both an environmental and a design perspective. All submissions are reviewed by a panel of experts in a multi-stage process. An interdisciplinary jury then decides on the nominations and awards.

## What is it about?

Ecodesign goes beyond energy-efficient appliances and recycled materials. Ecodesign takes into account the entire life cycle of a product - from the extraction of raw materials, to production, distribution and use, and recycling or disposal. It encompasses energy consumption, responsible resource use, user behaviour, durability, and repairability.

**“Innovative and convincing sustainable products and services are already being developed in growing numbers, but have not yet become widely established on the market. It is therefore important to boost the visibility of those designers and companies that are following this path in exemplary ways. The German Ecodesign Award achieves this in a unique way that stands out for its consistency and quality.”**

Prof. Matthias Held,  
Jury Chairman

# Key Partners and Organisers

## Federal Ministry for the Environment

The Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMUKN) has been shaping Germany's environmental policy for the past 40 years. During this time, the ministry has been working to protect the public from environmental toxins and radiation, to promote the wise and efficient use of raw materials, to advance climate action and to ensure that natural resources are used in a way that protects the diversity of animal and plant species and preserves their habitats.

Within the German Ecodesign Award, the BMUKN serves as patron, sponsor and jury member. The highlight of the competition – the award ceremony – takes place in the atriums of the Federal Ministry for the Environment.

For more information, please visit:  
[www.bundesumweltministerium.de](http://www.bundesumweltministerium.de)



## German Environment Agency

**For our environment** (Für Mensch und Umwelt) is the motto of the German Environment Agency, or UBA. As Germany's main environmental protection agency, the UBA monitors and evaluates the state of the environment. It advises policymakers, collaborates on legislative proposals and informs the public on environmental issues.

The UBA is committed to minimising the environmental impact of products throughout their life cycle. The agency is responsible for key instruments such as the ecolabel Blue Angel, the Ecodesign Directive and the Ecodesignkit information portal. Thanks to this expertise, the UBA serves as an invaluable partner – not only as patron and jury member for the German Ecodesign Award, but in many other areas as well. In addition, around 50 employees of the German Environment Agency review submitted projects during the pre-evaluation phase and assess the environmental impact of the entries.

For more information, please visit:  
[www.umweltbundesamt.de](http://www.umweltbundesamt.de)



## International Design Center Berlin

Since its founding in 1968, the International Design Center Berlin (IDZ) has been a leading independent German design institution. Its members include around two hundred design-orientated companies, agencies, institutions and creative professionals. With its multidisciplinary member network, the IDZ provides knowledge and expertise from diverse fields and industries. The IDZ works in active exchange with representatives from politics, culture and science on national and international levels.

The International Design Center Berlin oversees the implementation of the German Ecodesign Award competition, and is responsible for all aspects of the project, from the call for entries, the organisation of the jury session and the exhibition design.

For more information, please visit:  
[www.idz.de](http://www.idz.de)



# Reasons to participate

## An award of high repute

The German Ecodesign Award is a state-supported award and is not commercially oriented. Apart from the participation fee, which is used exclusively for the implementation of the competition, there are no additional costs.

As the highest state award for ecological design, the prize stands for credibility and quality. The evaluation process is based on well-founded expertise and recognised criteria. Experts from various departments at the German Environment Agency evaluate the ecological quality of the submissions and,

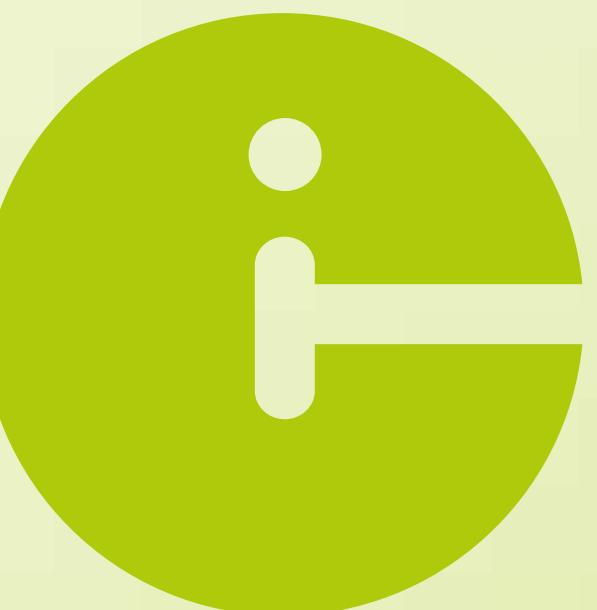
together with the advisory board, decide on admission to the jury session. An interdisciplinary jury of renowned designers and environmental experts determines the nominees and the award winners.

## Logo

The respective version of the official logo may be used without restriction for project communication by nominees and award winners. Distribution to other project participants or cooperation partners is permitted.



**german  
eco  
design  
award**  
nominated



**german  
eco  
design  
award**



**german  
ecodesign  
award**

# Reasons to participate

## Media relations

Following the jury meeting and award ceremony, BMUKN, UBA and IDZ publish a joint press release presenting the nominated and award-winning projects. Magazines in the fields of design, business and ecology, as well as the regional and national daily press, will be contacted via press distribution lists. Renowned media partners from design and business sectors support the German Ecodesign Award and report on the award-winning projects. Coverage is also disseminated via the social media channels of the organisers and the competition.

### »Fourteen outstanding ideas for the future win the German Ecodesign Award 2025«

Umwelt+ Klimapakt Bayern

### »Ecodesign Award for wool shoes and hemp materials«

Textilwirtschaft

### »From hemp to high-tech: Germany honours circular economy innovations«

SOLARIFY

## Media and Network Partners



H.O.M.E

Forum  
future economy

Design  
Perspectives

# Exhibition at the Metropolenhaus Berlin

All projects with a positive preliminary assessment will be exhibited in Berlin, where the jury will decide on nominations and prizes on 14 and 15 September. This exhibition offers an opportunity to share your project with the jury and the general public in the form of products, prototypes, models, posters and digital presentations.

The exhibition will be organised by the German Ecodesign Award project team at the feldfünf e.V. exhibition space in the Metropolenhaus, opposite the Jewish Museum Berlin.



# Awards ceremony

The German Ecodesign Award ceremony takes place in the courtyards of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMUKN) in Berlin at the end of November. Each year, the event brings together award winners, nominees and invited guests from the design and environmental scene, politics, business and the media.

In addition to the awards ceremony, guests will have the opportunity to learn more about the projects and to network in a pleasant atmosphere at the subsequent get-together with buffet. In this way, the German Ecodesign Award not only shines the spotlight on the award-winning projects, but also creates an inspiring platform that highlights the importance of sustainable design and innovative solutions.

↳ **Aftermovie 2025**



# Roadshow

GRASSI Museum, Leipzig - 2018



NOI Techpark Südtirol, Bolzano - 2023



All nominated and award-winning projects from the current competition are presented in an exhibition the following year. This touring exhibition can be viewed at trade fairs, in museums, at design and environmental festivals, and at conferences and congresses. Specialist events are held at the various exhibition venues, providing opportunities to showcase the projects in person. We co-operate with partners in Germany and other European countries.

Tallinn University of Technology - 2024



Bundeskongress Design, Munich - 2025



HfG Schwäbisch Gmünd - 2025



# Dates and Deadlines

**28.04. – 10.05.**

## **Formal assessment**

All submissions are reviewed for completeness and compliance with the participation requirements.

**19.01. – 02.04.**

## **Call for entries**

Submit your project

**11.05. – 06.07.**

## **Pre-evaluation**

In this phase, experts from the Federal Environment Agency and the project advisory board evaluate the submissions. They decide which submissions will advance to the next phase of the competition. These selected submissions will then take part in the jury session and be included in the exhibition at the Metropolenhaus Berlin.

**14.&15.09.**

## **Jury session**

All submissions advancing to the second phase of the competition will be evaluated by the jury during a two-day session. The jury will select the nominees and award winners through multiple rounds of evaluation.

**18.09. – 22.09.**

## **Vernissage and exhibition**

As part of the opening programme, selected participants will have the opportunity to present their projects in short presentations. These will take place at the Metropolenhaus alongside the public opening of the exhibition.

**30.11.**

## **Awards ceremony**

The highlight of the competition is the awards ceremony at the BMUKN, where the winners are formally honoured.



# Call for entries

## FAQs

### Who can participate?

The German Ecodesign Award is open to companies of all sizes and in all sectors, as well as individual designers. Start-ups and market leaders, local providers and global players are all equally invited, alongside design studios, marketing agencies, architectural and engineering offices. Submissions must be available on the European market or target this market as a service or concept.

**↳ application process video (de)**

### What can be submitted?

The competition is looking for durable and recyclable products, processes and systems that contribute to the transformation towards more sustainability. It is not limited to specific product groups, industries or design sectors. However, purely process-engineering solutions, material developments without practical application, and medical products without identifiable environmental benefits are excluded.

**↳ view gallery**

### When and how can you apply?

The call for entries for the German Ecodesign Award 2026 opens on 19 January and closes on 2 April. The application and administration process is conducted exclusively online.

Participants may submit multiple entries; for each entry, a separate application form must be completed and the corresponding fee paid. All questions on the application form must be answered accurately and all required images and text materials must be provided in full.

Only applications submitted correctly and on time will be eligible to participate in the competition. The terms listed on this website apply.

# Call for entries

## FAQs

### Is a participation fee charged?

A fee applies for participating in the competition process in the Product, Service and Concept categories. This helps ensure that the competition is conducted to the highest technical standards and in line with rigorous sustainability criteria. There is no fee for the Young Talent category.

The amount due depends on the number of employees in the company. The classification according to the number of employees follows EU Recommendation 2003/361. The application process must include an accurate declaration of the number of employees.

For 2026, the fees are as follows:

- 300.00 euro (net) for companies with ***up to 10 employees***
- 600.00 euro (net) for companies with ***11 to 50 employees***
- 900.00 euro (net) for companies with ***51 to 250 employees***
- 1,800.00 euro (net) for companies with ***over 250 employees***

Payment is due per submission upon completion of the application process and receipt of the invoice by the participant. No additional fees are charged for winning entries or for inclusion in the touring exhibition.

# Category: Product

## Award-winning entries

This category is open to products that are available on the European market as well as prototypes that are expected to be launched in the near future. It includes products from a wide range of design sectors and industries, such as furniture, fashion, technology, consumer goods, vehicles, innovative goods, but also construction products and intelligent infrastructures, among others.

Note: The product must either be in serial production or in pre-production, about to be launched.



### Shiftphone 8

SHIFT GmbH | 2025

The SHIFTphone 8 achieves an IP protection rating previously unattained by repairable smartphones through modular construction and water resistance.



### Sleep 'til Infinna™

ARMEDANGELS – Social Fashion Company GmbH | 2024

These circular pyjamas are made from the innovative Infinna™ fibre, which is made from at least 99% recycled post-consumer textiles.



### Kynd Hair – plant-based synthetic hair

Kynd Hair GmbH | 2024

A pollutant-free hair fibre made from plant-based cellulose, reusable and tailored to the needs of Black people.

# Category: Service

This category covers services that promote sustainability in innovative ways, for example through resource-efficient use, circular economy principles or the advancement of environmental awareness.

It includes offerings for both end consumers (B2C), such as sharing or rental models, repair, education or consulting services, as well as business-to-business solutions (B2B), such as software solutions or take-back systems to promote sustainable lifestyles.

**Note:** The focus is on services that are already in use or scheduled for implementation in the near future.

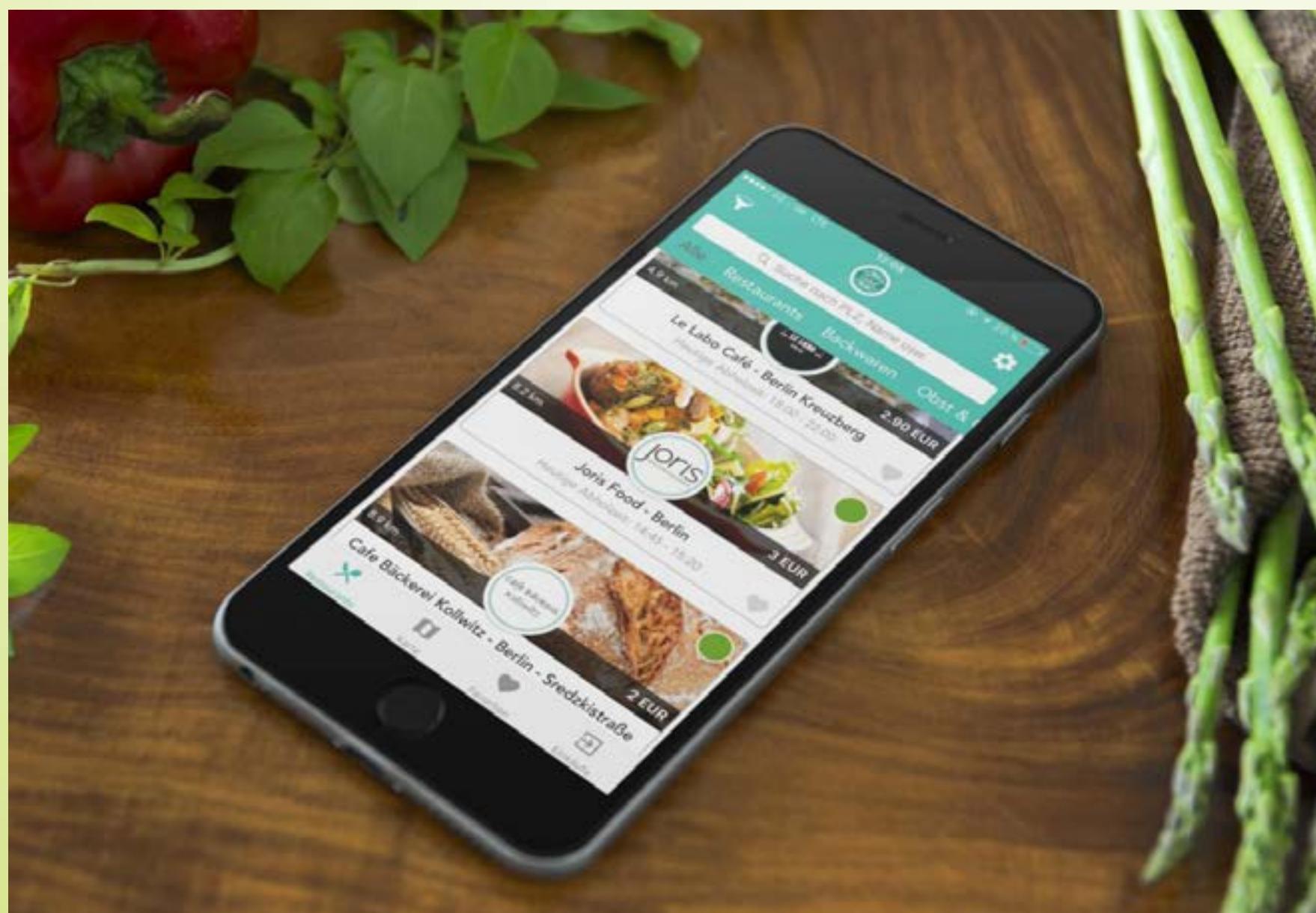
## Award-winning entries



### Tork PaperCircle®

Essity Professional Hygiene Germany GmbH | 2024

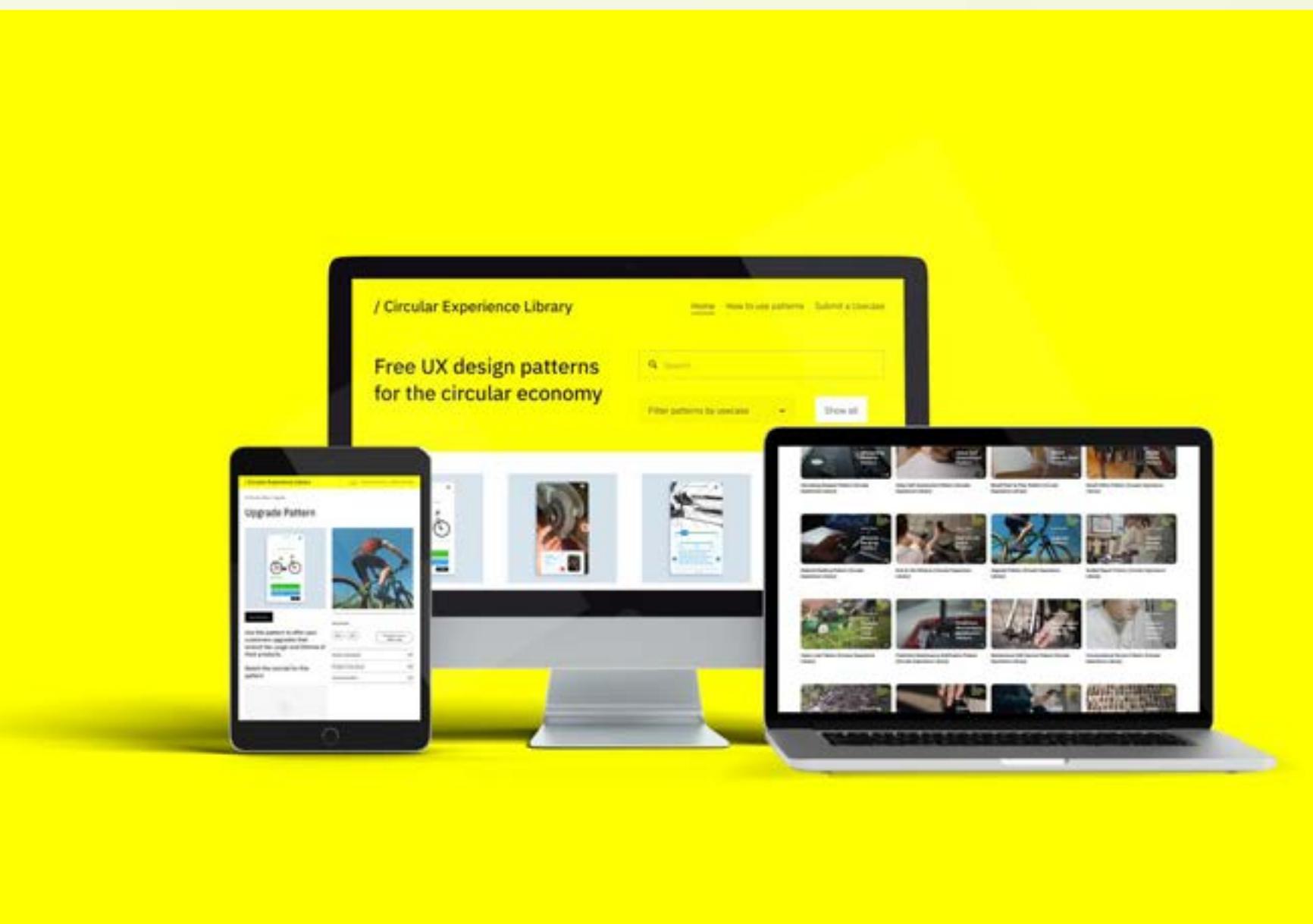
The service helps to close the loop for used Tork paper towels by recycling them locally into new tissue products.



### Too Good To Go

Too Good To Go GmbH | 2017

The app that rescues food from an undue fate, catering establishments can sell their over-produced foodstuffs at a discounted price to customers.



### Circular Experience Library

Circular-Experience.org | 2023

To improve the customer experience in the circular economy, the Circular Experience Library provides UX components to designers and companies free of charge.

# Category: Concept

This category is open to visionary ideas and concepts that have not yet been realised but demonstrate high potential for sustainable innovation.

These may include product ideas, material developments with practical applications or business models offering new solutions to ecological challenges. Examples may come from fields of architecture, urban planning, product design, communication design and other disciplines.

Note: This category is open to prototype projects, designs and ideas that are still in the development phase.

## Award-winning entries



### Design Study: Vooper – Circular Vacuum Cleaner

Miele & Cie. KG, Design: Miele Design Center | 2025

The vacuum cleaner concept combines brand and design quality with consistent recyclability and ease of use.

### Expedition 2 Degrees

Zurich University of the Arts, University of Fribourg | 2020

This multimedia installation with VR illuminates the challenges of climate change using the example of ongoing research in the high alpine region.

### WOODSCRAPER

Partner und Partner Architekten | 2019

WOODSCRAPER is a resource-positive multi-storey circular building, which consists primarily of renewable raw materials such as wood and straw.

# Category: Young Talent

This category is aimed at students and recent graduates who are at the beginning of their careers. Both final theses and ideas, concepts and prototypes developed during their studies that demonstrate innovative, sustainable approaches may be submitted.

Please note: This category is only open to young talents who graduated no more than one year ago before the start of the competition (19 January 2026). The university must be located in Europe.

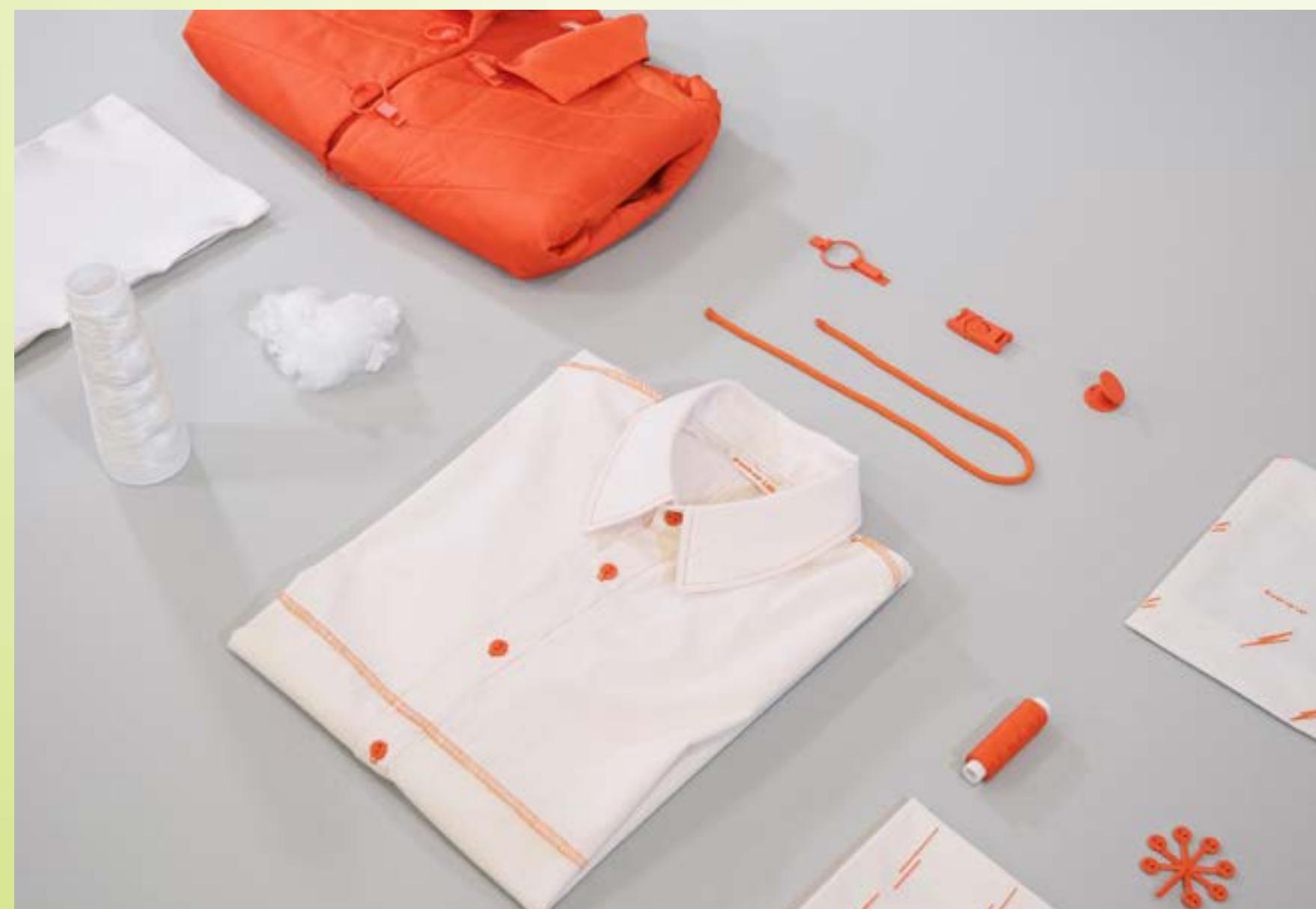
## Award-winning entries



### Amber - AI monitoring device

Levin Budihardjo Welim & Emma Rahe  
Hochschule für Gestaltung Schwäbisch Gmünd | 2025

Amber is an AI-powered, non-invasive device designed for the early detection of bark beetle infestations, which gives foresters critical time to stop the spread.



### Break-up Lab

Sophia Reissenweber, Burg Giebichenstein University of Art and Design Halle | 2024

The project is conducting research into how organisms can help to break down the polyester in used textiles, with the aim of developing recyclable garments.



### Platzhalter

Lasse Schlegel, David Schwarzer  
Braunschweig University of Art | 2021

The project transforms surfaces previously used only for messages of consumption into places of encounter where people can come together and exchange ideas.

# Application and competition tool

## 1. Create profile

If you want to participate in the competition, you must first create a profile with your contact details. You can view and edit this profile at any time via your personal login. If you forget your password, a new one can be sent to your e-mail address.

## 2. Start submission

Click on the *New project* link to access the application form. You can submit as many projects as you wish under the same user profile. A separate application form must be completed and the entry fee paid for each project.

## 3. Fill out the application form

The application form contains questions on the design and ecological quality of your competition submission and provides space for individual descriptions. For example, questions are asked about

the innovative aspects compared to the state of the art and about the environmental benefits achieved by the submitted product, service or concept along the value chain. Questions will also be asked about the environmental impact as well as the impact on everyday culture and consumer behavior.

Please note the following when completing the on-line application form:

- All entries are automatically saved as soon as you leave the edited text field.
- Once you have created a project, click on the *Edit project* link to return to the form and you can continue to complete your application until the end of the deadline.
- Complete and review your application by the end of the application period.
- Via the link *View project* you have the possibility to view the information you have entered for the project (even after the submission).

## 4. Submit project

Once all fields are completed, the *Submit project* link will appear in the project overview. Clicking this link registers your project as a binding submission. Your project will be included in the competition process; once submitted, your project can no longer be edited. You will then be officially registered as a participant and will receive an invoice for the participation fee according to the terms and conditions. No fee is charged in the Young Talent category.

Apply now at  
[wettbewerb.bundespreis-ecodesign.de](http://wettbewerb.bundespreis-ecodesign.de)  
or click here:

## registration

## ↙ terms and conditions

# Pre-evaluation & the assessment criteria

In the German Ecodesign Award, environmental and design aspects are given equal importance. The evaluation of submissions follows a multi-stage process.

## Evaluation by the Advisory Board

All competition entries that meet eligibility requirements are forwarded on to an advisory board, which is composed of specialists from the German Environment Agency and members of the Advisory Board. The experts determine which submissions qualify for the next stage of the competition. All admitted participants are invited to submit their entries for presentation at the jury session.

↳ the Advisory Board

## Criteria matrix

During the evaluation process, the focus is on innovation, design quality and environmental performance. The impact on everyday culture and consumer behaviour is also taken into consideration. The full product life cycle is considered, from preliminary production stages through to production, distribution, use and end of life.

The criteria matrix serves as a guide for the evaluation and provides orientation for applicants when presenting of their competition entries. It should not be understood as a checklist. The significance of the various ecological aspects differs from project to project, and it is therefore not required for all points of the matrix to be explicitly addressed.

↳ the criteria matrix

## Ecodesignkit

The Ecodesignkit is a service provided by the German Environment Agency. It functions as a portal, a guide, and a toolbox, offering guidance and helping you ask the right questions throughout your creative process.

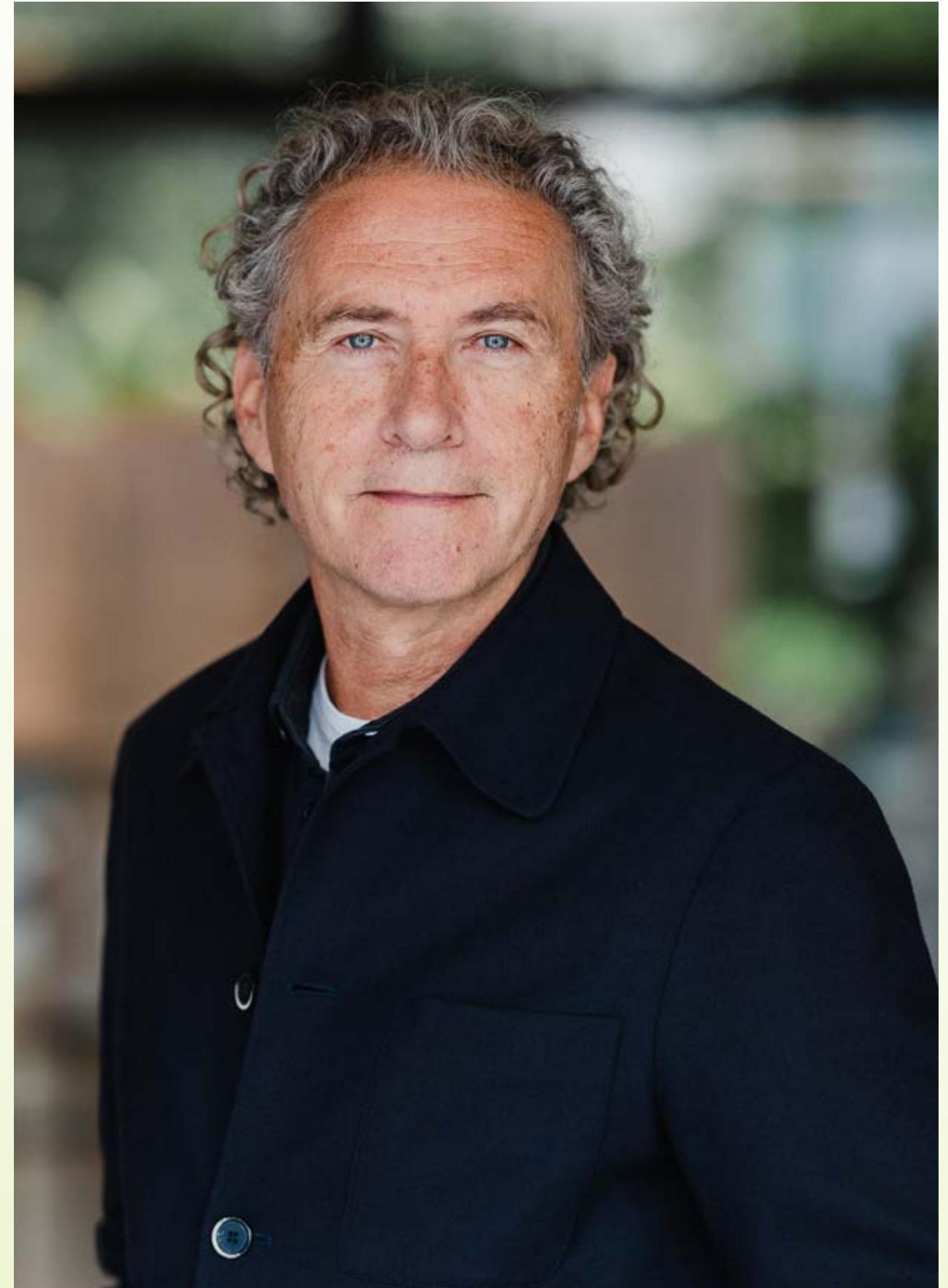
↳ the ecodesignkit (de)

↳ notes on materials

# The Jury

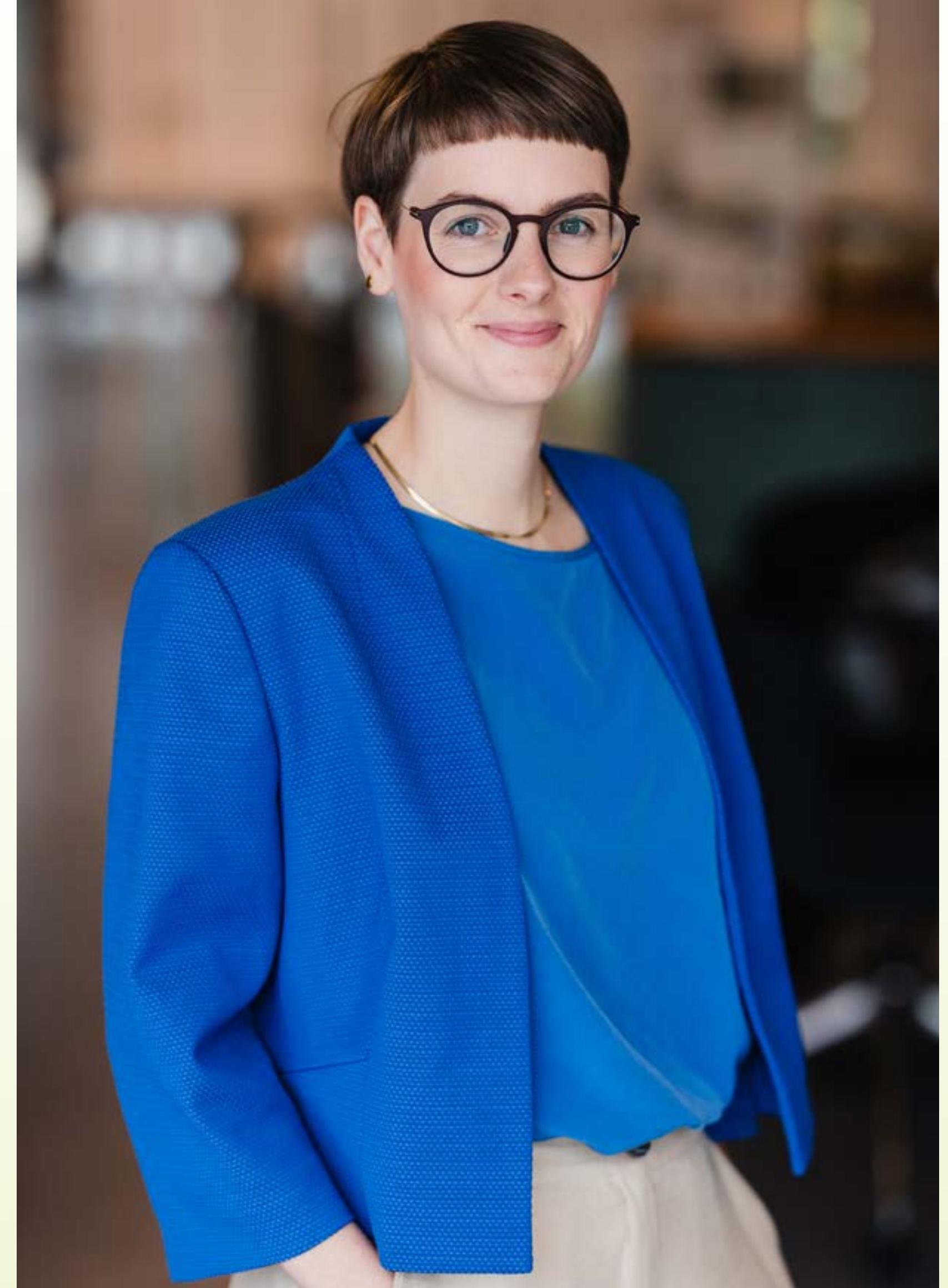
The jury of the German Ecodesign Award is interdisciplinary, with expertise in design, sustainability, and environmental protection. It includes experts from the fields of product, fashion and communication design, sustainability and environmental sciences, as well as representatives from the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMUKN) and the German Environment Agency (UBA). This interdisciplinary composition allows for a holistic assessment of submitted projects.

The jury session will take place on 14 and 15 September at the Metropolenhaus in Berlin.



**Werner Aisslinger**

Product designer, honoured with numerous international design prizes, part of the collection of the Museum of Modern Art in New York and the Neue Sammlung in Munich



**Ina Budde**

Fashion designer, co-founder and CEO of sustainable and innovative agency circular.fashion, which provides consultancy and software solutions to transform the textile industry

# The Jury

**Prof. Matthias Held**

Product designer, Prorector for Research and Transfer at the School of Design Schwäbisch Gmünd, member of the German Society for Design Theory and Research DGTF

**Prof. Dr. Claudia Perren**

Architect, director of the FHNW Academy of Art and Design, numerous national and international publications and exhibitions

**Siddharth Prakash**

Head of Subdivision Circular Economy and Global Value Chains in the field of Sustainable Products and Material Flows at Öko-Institut, Freiburg

**Paula Raché**

Communication designer, works with Material Stories on exhibitions, publications and interdisciplinary workshops

# The Jury



**Dr. Bettina Rechenberg**

Head of Division III “Sustainable Production and Products, Waste Management” at the German Environment Agency



**Rita Schwarzelühr-Sutter**

Parliamentary State Secretary at the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety; Member of the German Bundestag



**Michael Volkmer**

Founder of the creative agency Scholz & Volkmer and the see conference, one of the largest design conferences in Germany

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**IDZ** International  
Design Center Berlin

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Referat G II 2  
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Produktbezogener Umweltschutz  
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10117 Berlin

## German Environment Agency (UBA)

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