

# Bauhaus der Erde

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## PRESS RELEASE

# **A big bang for “Bauhaus der Erde” in Germany**

Federal Government and State of Brandenburg join forces with climate scientist Hans Joachim Schellnhuber to transform the built environment

**Potsdam, 17.09.21** – Today, the German Federal Government and the State of Brandenburg announced their support for the “Bauhaus der Erde” (Bauhaus Earth) initiative, which aspires to create a global movement to *build* climate sustainability and inclusiveness. “Without a radical shift to organic building material in the construction sector and a bio-based circular economy in general, the Paris climate agreement will fail,” said Schellnhuber, Director Emeritus of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK) and Co-Managing Director of “Bauhaus der Erde” at today’s press conference in Potsdam.

The German Environment Ministry supports the approach. “The initiative will make a significant contribution to more climate protection in the building sector,” said Parliamentary State Secretary for the Environment Florian Pronold (SPD), according to the Brandenburg Ministry of Science and Culture. The State of Brandenburg plans to fund the project with 500,000 euros per year starting in 2022, announced Science Minister Manja Schüle (SPD). Climate protection was “the central task of politics in the coming years”, Schüle said, and “with its renowned climate research institutions, Potsdam is the perfect location for this initiative.”

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During the press conference, Pronold noted that the Federal Government wants to “increase the sum tenfold”. There was already a corresponding understanding between the Federal Ministry of Finance and the Environment Ministry. The Laudes Foundation, based in Zug, Switzerland, has provided 2.5 million euros for the start-up phase.

According to Schellnhuber, “this is a historic moment” in climate politics and a “big bang for the new Bauhaus movement”. In the 2015 Paris climate agreement, numerous countries pledged to limit global warming to well below 2 degrees. The building sector is responsible for a significant share of that impact: 40% percent of global greenhouse gas emissions in 2020, according to UN figures.

Against this background, the “Bauhaus der Erde” movement aspires to “break the mould of conventional construction” by 2027, catalyze systemic change in the construction sector and demonstrate that organic, circular, polycentric, community-based and beautiful construction is both feasible and critically important. Together with newly appointed Co-Managing Director Philipp Misselwitz – the former Director of the Architecture Institute at Technical University Berlin - Schellnhuber aims to bring at least 50 scientists, construction experts and creatives to this new Potsdam-based project. The team already includes Innovation Labs Director Alan Organschi, Principal of Gray Organschi Architecture and Senior Faculty in Design and Construction Technology at the Yale School of Architecture, who will work with Schellnhuber, Misselwitz and the “Bauhaus der Erde” team to establish a global network of experimenters and labs facilitating design research, prototype development and testing and multi-scalar demonstration projects.

Schellnhuber also advises EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen on the “New European Bauhaus” movement, which was inspired by his idea. The original Bauhaus, founded by Walter Gropius in Weimar in 1919, aimed to combine artistic design and craftsmanship as a school for architects, artists and designers. It left a mark on the building sector, as numerous buildings in Dessau, Berlin and Bernau show, but also the design of furniture and objects such as tableware and lamps. Today, rather than responding through design, artistry, and industry to the continental cataclysm of World War, the new “Bauhaus Earth” seeks to address the looming threat to global ecosystems through the collaboration and integration of science, design, art, and regenerative industry.

Further information can be found at [www.bauhausdererde.org](http://www.bauhausdererde.org)