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Klever Birne

Sustainability Competition Kleve

Terms and Conditions for Participants

Preamble

The future starts here and now. People of action are needed – all those who live and embody the idea of sustainability, who are not afraid to take charge and make things happen – to tackle global challenges right here at the local level. Our natural living conditions need protecting so that good lives are possible for everyone on Earth, starting with Kleve. Thus, the Klever Birne Sustainability Competition was born to find and showcase projects of passion, vision and enthusiasm that will lay the foundations for our city's sustainable development.

1. General provisions

The 'Klever Birne' sustainability competition is organised by the TransRegINT project of Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences in cooperation with the town of Kleve. Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences (contact person) is responsible for the organisational implementation. The prize is awarded by the City of Kleve and Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences.

2. Eligible participants and exclusion criteria

Anyone who sees themselves as shaping the future in terms of sustainability can apply. Civil society organisations, non-profit organisations, private individuals or private groups, students of Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences, public institutions (schools, kindergartens, libraries, adult education centres, etc.), educational institutions, companies, start-ups or associations are eligible to participate.

For the "Kreis Klever Schulen" additional prize, general education schools (grades 1–13) from the entire district of Kleve are explicitly eligible, even if the project is not implemented in the City of Kleve.

Employees of the City of Kleve and Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences as well as sponsors and members of the jury are not eligible to participate. Furthermore, ideas that have already won an award cannot be honoured again.

Applicants who are not of legal age or under guardianship must have the written consent of their legal guardians or carers, who thereby accept the conditions of participation on their behalf. This consent can be written informally and attached to the application documents as a scan file (in PDF format) by e-mail.

3. Requirements for submissions

We are looking for projects and initiatives that have a forward-looking impact on sustainability and contribute to the realisation of the global development goals:

- The submitted idea is in an active planning or implementation phase and produces tangible impact for **Kleve** (or, for the **Kreis Klever Schulen** additional prize, for the district of Kleve).
- The idea addresses one or more of the **17 UN Sustainable Development Goals**.
- For the **regular prizes**, the project must be implemented in the **City of Kleve**.
- For the **“Kreis Klever Schulen” additional prize**, the project must be implemented in the **district of Kleve**.
- The prize money goes towards the project presented

4. Submitting an application

A fully and correctly completed application form is required to enter the competition. The information must be truthful and up-to-date. Any changes must be communicated immediately. Applicants guarantee the accuracy of the information and ensure that the application is submitted by a person authorised to represent the company and to release company data.

Participation in the competition is possible by completing and sending the application form by e-mail to transregint@hochschule-rhein-waal.de. The application form must be **submitted within the application period from 1 May 2026 to 30 June 2026**.

In order to ensure equal opportunities, only one submission per applicant can be accepted for one project. Commercial products and services can be submitted as projects if they offer a solution to a sustainability problem through a novel idea.

The application and competition languages are German and English.

The **deadline for applications is 30.06.2026**. The award organisers are entitled to extend the application deadline. Legal recourse is excluded.

Applicants agree to the conditions of participation by submitting their application documents.

5. Competition and selection

The Klever Birne Sustainability Competition has two phases.

Phase 1: In the application phase from 1 May 2026 to 30 June 2026, all ideas can be submitted via the application form. This will be followed by an initial review of the ideas by the competition's expert panel (Kleve University of Applied Sciences and the city of Kleve). Of the ideas submitted, 10 will be selected to be presented to the public at the award ceremony on 10 September 2026.

Phase 2: The ideas presented at the award ceremony on 10 September 2026 will be re-evaluated by an expert jury and the public. The three best ideas will then be honoured with the ‘Klever Birne’ sustainability award. An audience award will also be presented. The award

can be waived if the jury does not consider any of the submitted applications to be worthy of an award. The jury's decision cannot be contested. Furthermore, a separate additional prize will be awarded to participating general education schools from the district of Kleve.

The people whose ideas have been selected for presentation on 10 September 2026 will be informed of this no later than ten days after the closing date for applications and the result will be made public. The remaining applicants will then also be notified. The selected persons (groups) will have two months to prepare for the presentation of their idea and will be supported by the Klever project team.

6. Prizes

The three best ideas, as determined by the jury, will be honoured with a prize. An audience prize will also be awarded.

The three main prizes are provided by the City of Kleve and are exclusively for projects implemented in the City of Kleve. General education schools from the district of Kleve outside the City of Kleve are excluded from these three main prizes.

A separate additional prize will be awarded to general education schools in the district of Kleve (including those in the town of Kleve), sponsored by the two regional companies FLUXANA GmbH & CO. KG and Omexom Smart Technologies GmbH, each contributing €500.

If a general education school from the City of Kleve wins one of the three main prizes of the “Klever Birne”, it is automatically excluded from receiving the “Kreis Klever Schulen” additional prize. Double funding is not allowed.

The prizes are endowed as follows:

1. prize 2,000 euros + coaching + certificate

2. prize 1,500 euros + coaching + certificate

3. prize 1,000 euros + coaching + certificate

Audience prize: gift basket + coaching + certificate

Legal recourse is excluded.

7. Publication and privacy

Applicants consent to the publication of their submitted project name, photos, description and details, the name of the team/organisation, its location and a link to its website on the official competition website www.kleverbirne.de, the ideas's relevance to specific SDGs, and publication of the idea in other advertising outlets for the Klever Birne Sustainability Competition. Submitted information is not considered confidential.

Applicants are not legally entitled to have their submitted information published. The competition organizer's reserve the right to edit or make changes to the submitted descriptions.

The competition organizers are entitled to retract publications if applicants violate the terms and conditions of the Klever Birne Sustainability Competition or it becomes untenable for competition organizers (in their own reasonable discretion) to maintain published submissions, particularly if the conduct of the responsible applicants could potentially damage the reputation of the organizers and of the competition, either directly or indirectly.

Personal and organizational data submitted via an official entry form will be collected, saved and processed for the purpose of conducting the competition. This data will not be disclosed to third parties.

By submitting an entry form, applicants confirm that they are in full possession of the rights to any submitted images or videos, or that they have received appropriate permission to submit said images or videos to the competition organizers. Applicants also guarantee that the submitted images or videos are free of third-party intellectual property rights and that any pictures or depictions of individuals do not violate any personal rights, in particular copyrights within the meaning of § 22 of the Artistic Copyright Act (*KUG*). If one or more individuals are identifiable in any submitted images or videos, these individuals must consent to publication. Applicants affirm that they have obtained necessary consent from affected individuals for the aforementioned use or, if necessary, can obtain this consent in writing.

8. Contact

The contact person for queries regarding the conditions of participation for the Klever Birne is Christina Martens, coordinator of the Interaction Hub in the TransRegINT project (transregint@hochschule-rhein-waal.de).