Internationaler ethecon Blue Planet Award 2026

Verkündung/Begründung

deutsche Version

Announcement of the laureate of the honorary award
International ethecon Blue Planet Award 2026

12 October 2026, International Day of Indigenous Resistance

„A political prisoner is someone who is out fighting for his or her people's rights and freedom and is imprisoned for that alone.“ (Leonard Peltier)

Part 1

Announcement of the honoring of
Leonard Peltier (USA)/ political prisoner
political prisoner and activist for the rights of the First Nations

The Board of Trustees and the Executive Board of the ethecon Foundation Ethics & Economics today, on the International Day of Indigenous Resistance and the premiere of the documentary 'Free Leonard Peltier' (on Netflix), honor the political prisoner and activist for the rights of the First Nations, Leonard Peltier from North America, with the International ethecon Blue Planet Award 2026.

Within the tension between ethics and economics, Leonard Peltier upholds fundamental ethical and moral principles in a most distinguished manner and actively safeguards the Blue Planet against the peril of becoming a dead and uninhabitable planet. He resists exploitation, oppression, human rights violations, the destruction of nature, social deprivation, and war to an exceptional degree.

Leonard Peltier acts in solidarity, guided by honest motives and seeking no personal advantage. For the social and peace-political interests of his fellow human beings, he unhesitatingly accepts conflicts with those in power and disadvantages to life and limb, or to his own existence. He embodies what is commonly termed social responsibility and empathy.

In a world increasingly oriented toward profit as the sole criterion of all decision-making and development, he defends the interests of humanity in resistance to the interests of the powerful. Repeatedly disadvantaged, marginalized, oppressed, and ultimately imprisoned for decades, cruelly treated and subjected to appalling conditions of detention, gravely damaged in health and threatened with possible death, he is among those who strengthen humanity in the struggle for peace, justice, and the protection of the environment.

Leonard Peltier is honored with the 2026 International ethecon Blue Planet Award in recognition of his actions and his lifework, and is personally honored thereby. Also very much as a representative of all those who dedicate themselves to saving the Blue Planet or who resist its descent into a dead, uninhabitable planet.

Accordingly, the 2026 International ethecon Blue Planet Award also understands itself as a mobilization for the cause of peace, justice, and environmental protection, and for resistance to warmongering, exploitation, and environmental destruction. It is intended to sensitize the public, to name those responsible, and to reveal the underlying connections.

The honoring of Leonard Peltier with the 2026 International ethecon Blue Planet Award stands, in keeping with the objectives of the ethecon Foundation Ethics & Economics, as a consistent complement to the parallel condemnation of Larry Fink, co-founder and Chairman/CEO of the financial corporation BLACKROCK (USA), with the 2026 International ethecon Dead Planet Award.

Part 2

Further grounds for the award
Leonard Peltier (USA)/ political prisoner
political prisoner and activist for the rights of the First Nations

In deciding to honor Leonard Peltier with the 2026 International ethecon Blue Planet Award, the Board of Trustees and the Executive Board of the ethecon Foundation Ethics & Economics relied upon news reports, facts that have in part been known to the public for years, information gathered by journalists throughout the world, publicly available documents, and investigations conducted by government agencies and activists of social movements in various countries.

Fundamentally, it must be assumed that the grounds for the decision would have been even more consistent and revealing had all information been comprehensively available, including that which has been withheld, suppressed, or possibly even destroyed by intelligence agencies, police, government, and others.

From the abundance of facts researched during the nomination procedure for the awarding of the 2026 International ethecon Blue Planet Award to Leonard Peltier, the following are cited by way of example:

Leonard Peltier is an outstanding activist in the struggle of Indigenous peoples for justice and a living admonition against institutional injustice.

For more than four decades he defied the walls of a prison to which a historically unprecedented and deeply contested trial in the United States had brought him, a trial that even the responsible prosecutor, as well as human rights organizations around the world, assessed as flawed and politically motivated. Peltier has turned his imprisonment not into bitterness but into an tireless, creative struggle against racism and for the rights of the oppressed.

His deep humanity, his art, and his voice, which never fell silent despite censorship, make him a beacon of moral courage.

Out of the deepest isolation of imprisonment, he created a body of painterly work that captures the beauty of Lakota tradition, the tenderness of Mother Earth, and the pain of colonial oppression in colors that move the world. He teaches us that cultural genocide and the destruction of nature are inseparably connected, and that Indigenous wisdom is a vital component in the survival of humanity.

In a world that increasingly criminalizes Indigenous sovereignty and environmental activism, Leonard Peltier has unflinchingly called injustice by its name and placed human dignity above the arbitrary exercise of power.

Leonard Peltier has fought throughout his life and at great personal cost for the self-determination of the Indigenous peoples and nations of North America. As a member of the American Indian Movement (AIM), he stood at the forefront of resistance against a racist state authority that blanketed with leaden violence upon the rights of the First Nations. His conviction was not an act of the rule of law but a hostage-taking designed to behead an entire movement, an act of political revenge recorded as a dark chapter in the history of American justice.

Leonard Peltier resists in an outstanding way the global injustice that manifests itself as racism, war, exploitation, oppression, social deprivation, and the pillaging of nature. Within a capitalist environment, he defends the interests of humanity against the interests of a powerful elite and its greed for power and profit. Even behind bars, he has remained a voice of conscience, an artist, and a spiritual teacher.

Part 3
Statement by the Board of Trustees and the Executive Board of the ethecon Foundation Ethics & Economics

Following a conscientious review of the comprehensive information available on Leonard Peltier, the political prisoner and activist for the rights of the First Nations (USA), the Board of Trustees and the Executive Board of the ethecon Foundation Ethics & Economics hereby declare:

Leonard Peltier resolutely and courageously confronts injustice, state violence, and war crimes, irrespective of his own safety and the dangers to his health and life. He stands firmly not only for human rights, peace, and freedom of the press, but also for the extension of universal fundamental rights. He acts for the benefit of the human community. He upholds morality and ethics and resists the descent of the Earth into a dead, uninhabitable planet.

In a world increasingly oriented toward profit as the sole criterion of all decision-making and development, ethecon regards Leonard Peltier's actions as an outstanding contribution to the rescue and preservation of our Blue Planet. He is a 'Guardian of the Blue Planet' who, with radical ethical consistency, places peace, the protection of the Blue Planet, and solidarity with all the

oppressed and exploited above his own life, a shining example of a humanity that selflessly and courageously stands against the destructive primacy of economics.

On February 18, 2025, Leonard Peltier was released from the federal prison USP Coleman in Florida after nearly 49 years. A request for release on medical grounds had previously been rejected, and a petition for clemency remained unacted upon under President Biden. Ultimately, the competent parole commission converted the remainder of his sentence into house arrest. Indigenous organizations, human rights groups, and international bodies, among them Amnesty International and the UN Human Rights Council, welcomed the release but continue to demand a full pardon and formal acknowledgment of the miscarriage of justice.

In a first recorded address in March 2025, he thanked his supporters around the world and stated: 'I am not broken. My spirit is free, and I will use the time that remains to me to speak for those who have no voice, for the water, the land, and the generations to come.'

In summary, ethecon regards the actions of Leonard Peltier (USA), political prisoner and activist for the rights of the First Nations,as those of an outstanding guardian of our Blue Planet against ruin and destruction. For his exemplary defense of human ethics, the ethecon Foundation Ethics & Economics hereby honors Leonard Peltier with the 2026 International ethecon Blue Planet Award. May this honor encourage him, and may his actions stand as a shining example to us all.

Part 4
Announcement of the Award International ethecon Awards 2026

In December 2026, ethecon will present the 2026 International ethecon Blue Planet Award to Leonard Peltier, political prisoner and activist for the rights of the First Nations (USA).

In parallel, the 2026 International ethecon Dead Planet Award will be presented to Larry Fink, co-founder and Chairman/CEO of the financial corporation BLACKROCK (USA).

Part 5
Background on the two International ethecon Awards

Our Blue Planet is in grave danger. This can by now no longer be denied even by policymakers and scientists. Wars, social hardship, and environmental devastation are spreading. The collapse of ecological systems looms.

However, the cause is being denied: responsibility for the developments that endanger humanity and the environment lies with the profit principle, which is inseparably bound up with the globally dominant capitalist economic system, and with the destruction of fundamental ethical principles by economics that accompanies this disastrous economic law. The compulsion toward maximum profit inherent in the dictatorship of profit systematically and inevitably fosters injustice, exploitation, and ecological ruin, all the more so as the profit principle increasingly becomes the sole criterion for the shaping of society and the environment.

ethecon works to embed ethical principles in the economy and thereby in society. What is required is a shift away from profit toward a system of solidarity. The rescue of the planet will only be possible with the overthrow of the profit principle.

Already in its founding year, 2004, the idea took shape at ethecon to promote efforts to preserve and rescue fundamental ethical principles through a foundation award. There have been and continue to be many prizes that honor achievements in the most varied areas of society, but far too few prizes that honor resistance against the abuse and ruin of ethics and morality, with its consequences of environmental destruction, war, and exploitation.

However, the discussion process that began around this prize quickly made clear that it is not enough to honor deeds and actions in the struggle for ethics and morality; it is equally necessary to denounce the misdeeds and crimes against ethics and morality. Thus the idea emerged of two interconnected ethecon prizes: the honorary award International ethecon Blue Planet Award and the ethecon 'shame prize,' the International ethecon Dead Planet Award. They form a unity; they are two sides of the same coin. Together they mirror the condition of the ethical principles that shape our world, and at the same time illustrate the vision of an ethics and morality that makes possible a world without exploitation and oppression.

Thus the two ethecon prizes denounce exploitation, war, and environmental destruction, and are guided by the ideals of peace, environmental protection, and justice. They call for resistance, transformation, and engagement in the service of these ideals; they advocate a future worth living and the preservation of this, our world.

While the one prize, the International ethecon Blue Planet Award, honors commitment to the preservation and rescue of the Blue Planet and highlights the urgent scope for action and the opportunities at hand, the other, the International ethecon Dead Planet Award, denounces the desecration of our Earth and the peril of a dead, uninhabitable Planet, and brands indifference and ignorance. Together, the two International ethecon Awards demonstrate: There is hope. The power lies within us, in every single one of us.

As a matter of principle, the two prizes honor only individuals, not institutions. This is intended to counteract the growing and deliberately pursued anonymization of decision-making. Particularly

where negative developments are concerned, those responsible all too gladly hide behind the facades of institutions and invoke supposed constraints to which their decisions are said to be owed, as it were, of their own accord. Yet in the positive as in the negative, one thing always holds: it is always people who make the decisions and bear the responsibility.

The two international ethecon prizes were first awarded in 2006. Since then, the presentation has taken place annually, with few exceptions. Each January, while the elites who determine the course of business and politics worldwide gather in Davos, Switzerland, for the World Economic Forum, ethecon issues an internationally circulated call for nominations for the two international ethecon prizes. Through a thorough selection process, the prize winners are determined by the foundation by August of each year and thereafter publicly announced.

As many civil society actors from around the world as possible are involved in the award activities, advisedly not from the ruling circles and institutions, but from the resistance movements for peace, ecology, and justice. This is intended to emphasize and make visible the inseparable bond between the two prizes and these movements, and the importance of the prizes for commitment to these goals.

The trophies for the positive awards are invariably designed by artists. At a time when art and culture are likewise increasingly subjugated to the dictatorship of profit, ethecon, through the artistic design of the ethecon Blue Planet trophies, creates the opportunity to position art in resistance to exploitation, environmental destruction, and war, and in the service of peace, ecology, and justice.

When the two International ethecon Awards came into being in 2005, the world-renowned Otto Piene spontaneously agreed to create the trophies to be awarded annually for the International ethecon Blue Planet Award as unique and valuable glass-and-wood sculptures. He was among the truly great artists of the 20th and 21st centuries. His work ranged from painting to kinetic art, from multimedia installations to performance art. He is regarded as a pioneer of light and fire art as well as of Sky Art. In 1958, together with Heinz Mack and Günther Uecker, he founded the journal 'ZERO,' which lent its name to one of the most important international avant-garde movements of the 20th century.

The prizes he created for the International ethecon Blue Planet Award take their place within his well-known work cycle 'Blue Planet' and formed the basis of the collaboration launched in 2005 between the artist and the ethecon Foundation Ethics & Economics within the framework of the international ethecon Blue Planet Project, a collaboration that continued until his death in 2014.

After Piene crafted the prize trophy for the last time in 2009, Katharina Mayer, the distinguished photographic artist and student of Becher (born 1958), created the trophies from 2010 to 2018, endowing them with a new and distinctive character of their own.

In 2019, ethecon embarked on an entirely new path. With the support of the D sseldorf artist Klaus Klinger and the street-art collective 'Farbfieber,' we brought the 2019 International ethecon Award

laureate, her lifework, and the International ethecon Honorary Award into the public realm through a wall design on Toulouser Allee in D sseldorf. The large-scale mural was created by Klaus Klinger. The prize trophy itself featured an art print of the 'Blue Planet' by Otto Piene as well as an art photograph of the mural signed by Klaus Klinger.

The trophies for the 2020 and 2021 Blue Planet Awards were created in glass by the glass artist Günter Pohl, just as Otto Piene had done before. In Pohl's works, the fragility of our Planet, the threatening perils of ruin, and the possibilities for action to save it were all given material expression in equal measure.

The 2024 trophy was designed by the artist Mechthild Hartung. The interlinked arms depicted on the trophy symbolize solidarity and collective action, more essential today than ever in the struggle to preserve our Blue Planet.

The trophy for the 2026 International ethecon Blue Planet Award to Leonard Peltier will once again be created by Günter Pohl.

The 'shame trophy' of the International ethecon Dead Planet Award is created in an entirely different manner. It consists of a globe industrially produced from plastic under exploitative and environmentally harmful conditions and subsequently defamiliarized into a 'Dead Planet' in keeping with the looming ruin. The design of this object is deliberately not undertaken by an artist, but by a young person on whose shoulders, as a representative of his own and of the generations to come, the full burden of the destruction of our 'Blue Planet' rests. Thus the 'shame trophy' is invested with meaning and admonitory force, while at the same time it is avoided that a valuable object would be created with the trophy of the International ethecon Dead Planet Award especially since it is awarded to persons who, in the truest sense of the word, do not deserve such appreciation.

It is telling, moreover, that those denounced with the International ethecon Dead Planet Award as a rule refuse and disregard the trophy awarded to them. Not one of the 'shamed' has, in the more than twenty-year history of the conferral of the 'international' ethecon shame prize, personally accepted the trophy and publicly confronted the criticism associated with it. At best, the globe could be handed to an emissary for instance, an employee of a press office. Often ethecon even witnessed the destruction of the 'shame prize' trophy at the hands of security personnel.

*translated by an artificial intelligence

Part 6

Further information
on the awards and the foundation

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Mission

„For a world without exploitation and without oppression."

Only by developing and implementing environmentally sound and humane economic and social models can impending ecological and social catastrophes be averted. ethecon \u2013 Foundation Ethics & Economics works with vision and perspective, reaching far beyond generational change.

ethecon
> in keeping with fundamental ethical and human principles, advocates social justice, peace, and environmental protection in the economy and society;
> works internationally and builds on equitable and solidarity-based cooperation;
> is independent of political parties, religious denominations, and financial interests;
> is a foundation from below and operates largely on an honorary/voluntary basis;
> egards the key to solving ethical, ecological, and social problems as lying in a shift away from the profit principle toward solidarity, equality, and international friendship among peoples.

Finanzen

ethecon is a foundation 'from below.' It does not build on additional endowments from the rich and wealthy, nor on state, church, or institutional funds, but rather on volunteerism and financing through (small) donations, supporting contributions, and smaller and small additional endowments from many committed individuals. All contributions are handled in accordance with foundation and tax law. In its annual reports, ethecon provides comprehensive information on its finances.

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