



Electromagnetic Field 2024

Theme Guide + Invitation to Build Things

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What's in a theme at a hacker festival?

We don't get prescriptive. Electromagnetic Field is all about creativity!

For the "official" content built by our teams - everything from signs to booklets to the design of the event's spaces - our theme helps us create a unified and cohesive identity with lots of neat details.

For attendees and contributors, it's here as a suggestion and inspiration. If you'd like to flavour your creations, building on the atmosphere of the event may help give your creations more weight and drive interest.

We would also like to invite you to make contributions to our collaborative projects, which we will collect together to fill themed areas to bursting with delightful details.

Our 2024 Theme is **Solarpunk**

*Solarpunk is a literary and artistic movement that envisions and works toward actualizing a **sustainable future interconnected with nature and community**. The "solar" represents solar energy as a renewable energy source and an optimistic vision of the future that rejects climate **doomerism**, while the "punk" refers to the countercultural, post-capitalist, and decolonial **enthusiasm** for creating such a future.[1]*

[1] <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Solarpunk>



**Electromagnetic Field is an amazing
festival because of the incredible
contributions you all bring**

We invite you to bring your creations, or
to help us build artwork and objects!

Creativity wanted!

Large and Outdoor installations and artworks

These are managed by the arts & installations team - you can submit your ideas to the [call for participation](#)!

Indoor Galleries - Bar and Lounge

For 2024, we are introducing two indoor display spaces - in the Lounge and the Bar.

We want to fill these aerial galleries with as many of your creations as possible. Taking inspiration from our theme graphic, we want to join natural and mechanical forms into a glowing, chaotic network.

Community Cultivation Compilation (CCC)

We are building a community plant sharing installation where you can share and trade cuttings of your favourite plants, exchange saved seeds and get inspiration for Solarpunk growing!

Sewing and fabricating from instructions

We would also welcome sewing and fabrication help from folks who would rather follow or adapt from a plan than invent something new.

Read on for more information and [how to sign up!](#)



Large, interactive and outdoor installations

For works outside the Bar and Lounge galleries, we request you submit an Installation Proposal if it involves any of:

Safety concerns — it involves fire, lasers, whirling blades, large structures, etc

Location — it needs a lot of space, is noisy, or won't be in your tent/village area

Null Sector — you would like to submit an installation for inclusion in the themed Null Sector area

Power — it has power requirements beyond a normal 13A plug/Ceeform

You can also submit an installation if you'd like to apply for tickets, funding, or transport support.

Please find more information on this on the [Call for Participation](#) page.



Bar lighting and artwork

This year's bar tent (a big top) will feature a large structure high in the centre, home to spotlights and dangling addressable lights on cords.

Installations for this space will be out of reach and viewed from a distance, so we would like to invite contributions of medium-to-large lightweight sculptures and sculptural lampshades. We also welcome other decorations to enhance the space.

Forms:

- Huge sculptural or fabric lampshades to cover bare bulbs (we will supply bulbs)
- Self-contained sculptures to hang from the structure (connection to be confirmed, it may be possible to supply power)
- Vines, wires, conduits, greenery, and illuminations to decorate the central structure, and to distribute around the edges of the tent and bar

Note: As the central installations will be hung at height, sculptures must be shipped to us in advance of the event, or delivered to site by close of play Tuesday 28th of May.

Artwork must be light enough not to cause harm when dropped from height (we suggest less than 400g), or well-engineered enough not to fall - [sign up](#) with details of your proposal for guidance. We suggest your artwork is no larger than 1 metre in any axis, but this is only a guide.

Bar layout

A large, central pillar (truss) holds up the pointed roof of the square bar tent.

Attached high up to this truss will be a scaffolding structure supporting spotlights, hanging lights, and festoons of bulbs which will connect to the exterior of the tent.

Here is a rough sketch showing the main 'gallery' area in relation to the bar structure.





Lounge lighting and artwork

The lounge is intended to be a quiet, relaxing space to sit, lounge and socialise. It inhabits low, curved white tents, full of diffuse natural light during the day and softly lit at night and with a variety of seating.

In one section of the lounge, we plan to build a structure under the curving ceilings which will support a tangled network of digital, mechanical and organic-looking components. We invite you to build things which glow, move or just look beautiful to hang here, as well as elongated or network items to contribute to the 'network' itself and fill it with gently pulsing light and the impression of life.

The gallery will be viewed at closer range than the bar, with attendees standing, sitting and lounging beneath it.

Forms:

- Lampshades to cover bare hanging bulbs we will supply
- Self-contained sculptures to hang from a wire network (connection to be confirmed)
- Vines, wires, conduits, greenery, and illuminations to enhance and conceal the structure

Artwork must be light enough not to cause harm when dropped from height (we suggest less than 400g), or well-engineered enough not to fall - [sign up](#) with details of your proposal for guidance. We suggest your artwork is no larger than 50cm in any axis, but this is only a guide. Artwork can be shipped to us in advance, and larger pieces should ideally be delivered to site by the 28th of May.

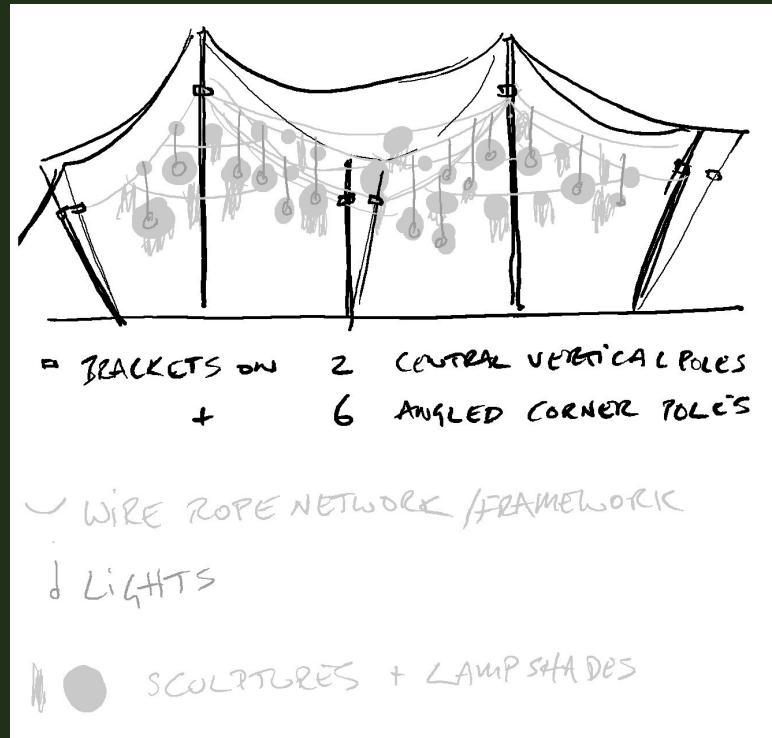
Fixing method: Objects must have a small loop so they can be hung with a carabiner or similar.

Lounge layout

The lounge will be an L-shape made of three tents. The central corner section will be the gallery area, which we will fill with your sculptures, lights and other dangling creations.



An empty lounge



A side view of hanging lights and sculptures

Things to consider when building for the bar and lounge

- Safety:
 - Hanging sculptures need to be safe - this means they're small and light enough to do no harm if they fall, or robust if larger
 - Electronics must be self-contained, with no bare wires; power may be supplied if agreed in advance (24VDC or 240VAC)
- Comfort
 - No flashing or flickering, only slow fades
 - Preferably slow movement, if your sculpture includes motors or moving parts
 - If it's to be in the Lounge it should be as quiet as possible
- Robustness
 - It must survive handling by non-experts
 - It must be able to get to the event intact - collapsible or modular is ideal!
- Installation
 - We need them in time to hang them
 - If it carries its own power supply, we won't be able to change batteries during the event
- Ultimate fate
 - Make sure you're OK with it taking damage - it'll be handled with care but will be in uncontrolled situations and on display in a public space.
 - Do you want to take it back afterwards? If so, ensure you can collect it, and note this may need to be a day or two after the event for anything hung in the bar.
 - If you are OK with it being disposed of, is it biodegradable? Will it be landfilled/recycled/composted?

Talk to us if you'd like to discuss your idea in more detail; there is a full technical spec available.

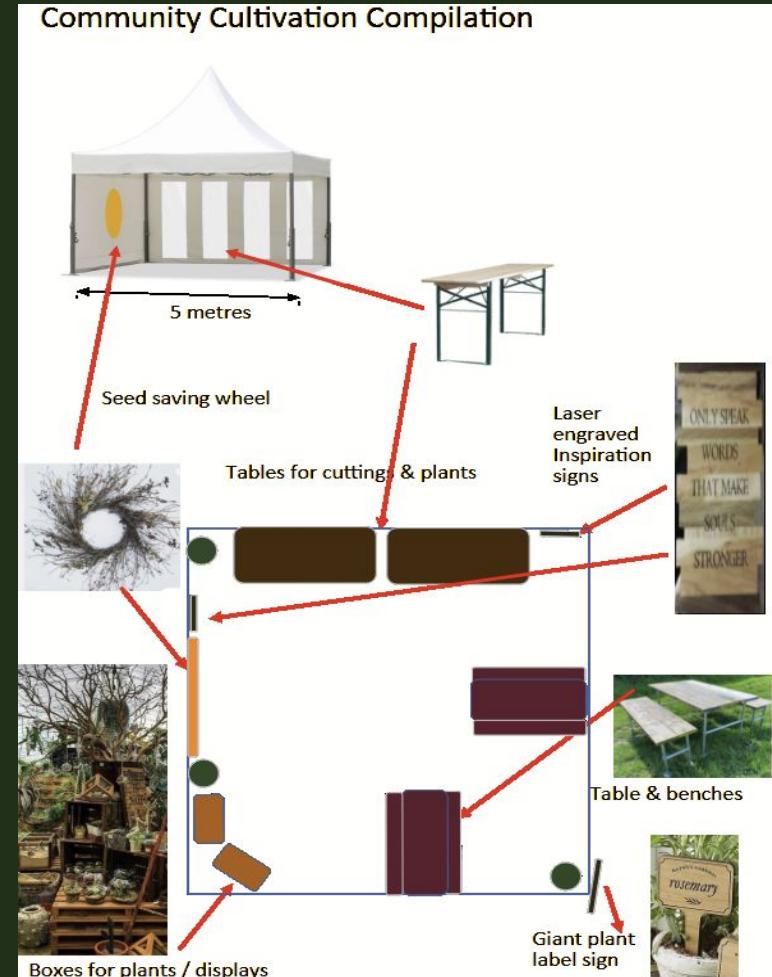
The Community Cultivation Compilation (CCC)

What we'd love for you to bring:

Spare house plants, herb, climber cuttings, vegetable seedlings, garden flowers, baby trees...!

Cuttings rooted in water – small containers – ideally not glass or in plastic bags as some containers will be provided. Plants rooted in compost in small pots – preferably biodegradable.

Spare packets of bought or home saved seeds, any type of plant, must be labelled & preferably not too old.



Contributing to the CCC - green thumbs wanted!

Makers - Can you bring macrame or other home made hanging containers for plants?

Wildlife sounds - Do you have a Birdweather PUC, BirdNET-Pi, Locus Sonus, Nature's Audio or other Natural sound stream you would like to install to provide a soundscape for visitors?

Gardening tech projects - Have you a portable example of growing, automatic watering, temperature, light or CO² level monitoring systems?

Would you be able to give a demonstration - eg. willow weaving, making seed bombs (guerilla gardening), wild food & drink / foraging, compost making (!), window box gardening?



Sewing and fabricating from instructions

If you would like to help but don't have as much time or the head-space to create something from scratch, we also hugely appreciate assistance from folks who are happy to sew or fabricate things at home from our plans, patterns and instructions.

Previously contributors have sewn:

- Bunting
- Lampshades
- Flags
- Inflatable tentacles

This time we would also like to invite folks to create fabric, paper, wood and perhaps electronic things to order - if this is of interest, [sign up](#) and we will share plans as we make them available.

Interested in contributing or helping out?

For any installations outside of the galleries, you'll probably want to submit to the [Call for Participation](#).

You only need to submit an installation if any of the following are true:

Safety concerns — it involves fire, lasers, whirling blades, large structures, etc

Location — it needs a lot of space, is noisy, or won't be in your tent/village area

Null Sector — you would like to submit an installation for inclusion in Null Sector

Power — it has power requirements beyond a normal 13A plug/Ceeform

You can also submit an installation if you'd like to apply for tickets, funding, or transport support.

If you'd like to add your art to the galleries, or would like to help us build kits or artwork before the event, let us know by filling out [this form](#) and we'll get in touch!



2024 Graphics and Colours

2024 theme elements

This year's theme graphic features a hexagonal network of circuits, roots and water which connect a bright collection of things:

- Energy generation
 - Solar panel
 - Wind turbine
 - Water wheel
 - Bio-digester
 - Geothermal plant
- Energy transfer/storage
 - Pumped reservoir
 - Fuel cell
 - Heat exchanger
 - Impeller
- Domestic
 - 3-pin plug
 - Lamp
 - Computer terminal (Lear Siegler ADM-5)
 - Aerial
- Transport
 - Train (branch line :P)
 - Bike wheel
- Biological
 - Pea
 - Sunflower
 - Fern
 - Mushrooms
 - Bullrushes
 - Apple
 - Wheat





Mood Board

MOOD BOARD



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