SAGE SPARK
fueling carbon negative culture

Fire fuels Burning Man culture; electric light is no substitute. Feeding those flames is fuel transported from afar, precluding carbon negativity. To reconcile this conflict of environment and culture, we propose a new tradition centered on energy crop permaculture and land attunement: the production of biomass fuel artifacts via a radically cooperative ritual.

SAGE SPARK proposes direct participation in energy production to serve two goals: carbon negative fire and an unforgettable, exportable experience with BM cultural practice. Physical and cooperative rather than thoughtless and solitary, energy production and consumption are unabstracted to becoming tangible points for reflection, discussion, and action.

Miscanthus giganteus, a perennial, non-invasive, sterile grass is an ideal energy crop that sequesters carbon and can grow on and improve marginal land. Visitors will journey across Fly Ranch, bringing harvested biomass from a verdant labyrinth into the playa. There it is transformed into fuel briquettes through cooperative interaction with an installation that serves both as a press and conduit of the elements.

The artifacts created are used to light festivities, heat cold nights, and visualize progress towards sustainable habitation at Fly Ranch.

“The more digital we get, the more ritual we need”
-Chip Conley
Burning Man Project board member