PASSIVE HOUSE CALIFORNIA

MAY 2021 NEWSLETTER

20TH ANNIVERSARY MUNICIPAL GREEN BUILDING CONFERENCE + EXPO
MAY 21st-22nd, Online

The time is now! Join us virtually at MGBCE 2021! Passive House California will have an exhibit at this year's conference and we hope to see you there! We will be reachable via a videoconference link that you will find on our virtual exhibitor booth.

This year the community and conference are coming together online to build a greener future for all with action-oriented sessions, interactive expos, workshops, and more. Learn more about our part on May 21-22 in the Virtual Expo Hall.

You can register and find the full event agenda at the link below. Use code #TAKE25 for $25 off your registration with a standard-priced ticket! #mgbce2021 @usgbcla

Click Here to Learn More and Register

·PASSIVE HOUSE AIR QUALITY·

PASSIVE HOUSE AIR QUALITY
By Steve Mann

Passive House buildings rely on a constant supply of filtered fresh air, provided by a heat or energy recovery ventilator (HRV/ERV). Fresh air is delivered to the primary living areas, and stale air is exhausted from the "wet" areas—bathrooms, kitchens, and laundry rooms. (Note—the kitchen exhaust is not a replacement for a properly-sized range hood.)

There are several important characteristics of this equipment...
Click below to check out the full article!

Full Article

Indoor Air Quality Video

·SHOW US YOUR CA PASSIVE HOUSE BUILDING!·

WE WANT TO SEE YOUR PASSIVE HOUSE PROJECTS IN CALIFORNIA!

We want to know about your Passive House (PHI) building or project located here in California — in planning, under construction or recently completed. Passive House California (PHCA) wants to spread the good news about the Momentum we are seeing on the West Coast in recent months. Here is how you can contribute and be part of the movement.

- Provide us with a virtual video tour of your completed Passive House building.
- Provide us with a virtual tour of your Passive House building currently under construction - we love to see how it is coming together.
- Send us renderings, photographs, and/or information about your Passive House building — in any stage of the process (design, engineering, permitting, or Passive House certification).
- If your Passive House building includes Prefab components or modules, send send us video, photographs, and information about the project and the process

We would like to include and possibly showcase your project on the new Passive House California (PHCA) website, incorporate it into events around the International Passive House Open days in June 2021, and post your work on our PHCA social media platforms. If you or anyone involved in your Passive House project is a member of PHCA, please consider submitting the project for inclusion in the Project Database on the PHCA website (LINK).

(Note: All projects shall be in compliance with Passive House Institute

(PHI) requirements and have a verified Passive House Planning Package (PHPP)).

Stay tuned for more information about the International Passive House Open Days taking place on June 25-27, 2021.

(Image: Carmel by the Sea Passive House, Rick Pharoah)

Click Here to Learn More

·UPCOMING EVENTS FROM OUTSIDE PHCA·

PASSIVE HOUSE AWARD 2021 by PHI
Deadline to submit projects: June 1, 2021

The Passive House Institute has announced the Passive House Award 2021 which highlights pioneering projects of energy efficient construction. Special consideration will be given to the renewable energy supply of the buildings by an international panel of judges. Quality assurance of the building through certification is a prerequisite for participation in the Passive House Award 2021. The award will be presented during the 25th International Passive House Conference in September which will be held in Wuppertal and online.

Click Here to Learn More

PRE-FABRICATED LOW CARBON MASS TIMBER FACADES FOR HIGH RISE BUILDINGS
May 20th 10AM-11AM PDT, RDH

The push towards low energy and low carbon has led to rapid innovation in mass timber, including the development of cutting-edge prefabricated façade systems for tall wood buildings. This presentation will discuss the evolution of prefabricated

systems, drawing on case studies to show the scale of progress and opportunity in this sector. Case studies will include groundbreaking projects such as Canada's Earth Tower, a mixed-use Passive House project of up to 40 storeys, currently being developed in Vancouver, Canada. Attendees will come away with a better understanding of how prefab mass timber facades can achieve carbon and energy goals while meeting stringent fire and durability requirements.

Click Here to Register

HIGHER PERFORMANCE BUILDING ON THE CENTRAL COAST- ALL ELECTRIC CONSTRUCTION
PART 1: HEAT PUMPS
May 25th 12PM-1:15PM PDT, 3CREN

Gain clarity and expertise on today's higher-performance all-electric construction. Part 1 of the two-part series will focus on heat pumps for space conditioning. Topics will include why heat pumps are quickly becoming the preferred system for heating and cooling, how they work, design considerations, sticking points and solutions, as well as cost variables. Emphasis will be on residential, multi-family and small commercial on the Central Coast or similar climates.

Click Here to Register

·NAPHN ON DEMAND TRADESPERSON TRAINING·

ON DEMAND TRAINING

MAY 20,27& JUNE 3,10,17,24 & JULY 1: Thursdays, 2-3 PM PDT Each Day

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NAPHN is offering On-Demand Tradesperson Training in May and June.

This course is for all building professionals: tradespeople, site supervisors, general contractors builders, and construction managers, who will be involved in the construction of Passive House building. This course can also be appropriate for architects, MEP and structural engineers, developers, and owners' representatives. NAPHN currently offers the CPHT training online, in collaboration with our partner, Emu Systems.

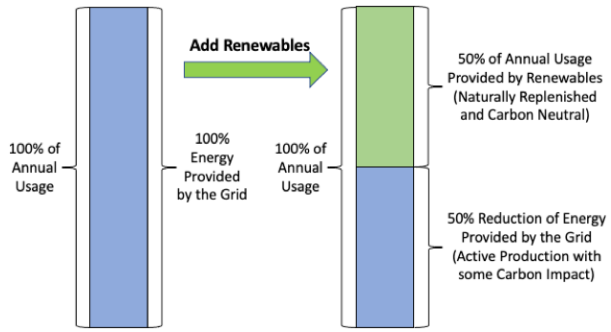
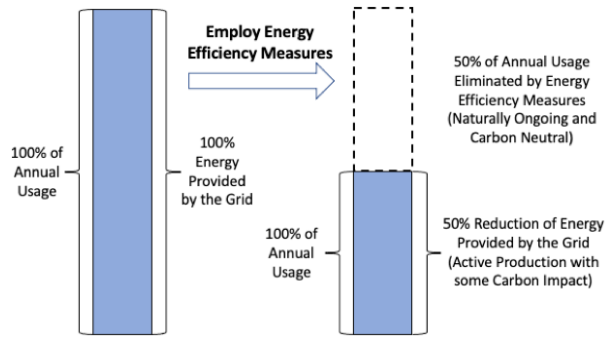
This course has 10 units and is structured as an online on-demand training. The dates below correspond to the live online webinar unit reviews with our expert trainers. The March course is over a 7 week period and the September course is a shorter schedule over a 4 week period.

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER

PHCA Monthly epiPHany

Is Efficiency a Renewable Energy?

Recently, the International Passive House Association (iPHA) and the North American Passive House Network (NAPHN) have introduced the concept that “efficiency is the first renewable energy”. For several years, we have been told that “the least expensive energy is the energy we don’t use.” From a technical perspective, neither phrase is accurate, but if you compare the relative outcomes of employing renewable energy versus applying energy efficiency measures, they are essentially the same. The impacts are both ongoing and carbon neutral — and both of the phrases make perfect sense. Consider the following:

Imagine you have a 2,000 SF home that is operating on about 12,000 kWh of electricity annually. You install a small solar PV system that generates approximately 500 kWh of electricity annually and offsets about half of your energy bill. The energy provided by the solar system is a carbon-neutral resource that is naturally replenished, year after year — clearly renewable energy. The result is an ongoing 50% reduction in the carbon impact of your home.	
Now imagine that same 2,000 SF home, but instead of solar PV, you take actions to increase efficiency (air sealing, insulation, LEDs, heat pumps for heating/cooling and hot water, power strips, sensors/timers, and behavior). The 50% reduction represents energy that you are not using due to the increased efficiency, is carbon neutral, naturally repeats year after year — technically not renewable energy but achieving the same result. That result is an ongoing 50% reduction to the carbon impact of your home.	

Also, the 50% of the energy that you are no longer using, is costing you nothing year after year. So, once again, the phrase, “the least expensive energy is the energy you are not using” makes sense. Of course, when you are dealing with an existing building, some investment will be required for the efficiency improvements. However, if you make smart choices for energy efficiency during the design and construction of a new building, it may or may not require additional investment, but the ongoing savings are real — and, if/when you choose to add renewable energy, far less will be required to achieve Net Zero energy.

By Jay Gentry

PASSIVE HOUSE CALIFORNIA

VISIT PASSIVE HOUSE CALIFORNIA WEBSITE

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Passive House California is a member of the International Passive House Association **and proud to cooperate and collaborate with the global Passive House community including** Passive House Institute **and** North American Passive House Network.

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