PASSIVE HOUSE DURABILITY: CONDENSATION
by Steve Mann

When we think of Passive Houses, the first things that usually come to mind are airtightness (0.6 ACH50), above-average insulation levels, and whole-house ventilation. However, there are some additional subtleties to Passive House certification that are often overlooked.
One of those subtleties that can be problematic is the Minimum Temperature Factor. This is a unitless value that indicates the likelihood that a location in the building has the potential to form condensation. Short-term condensation is generally not a problem. Long-term condensation, which might last for a few weeks, can eventually lead to mold, mildew, and potentially the rotting of building components.

Click below to read the full article...

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$1,000 Training Scholarship

Passive House California (PHCA) is offering discounted training to Southern California Edison (SCE) customers!

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$1000 CPHD SCHOLARSHIPS

PHCA is offering discounted training to So. Cal Edison (SCE) customers. If you are an active So. Cal. Edison (SCE) customer, send an email to info@passivehousecal.org to apply for a $1,000 dollar discount on the Certified Passive House Designer/ Consultant training. Applicants must be in the SCE regional territory and demonstrate being a qualified professional focused on designing multifamily market-rate and affordable housing projects. Only 5 spots are available so act quickly. This is your best way to expand your knowledge of how you can use Passive House Design to achieve the Carbon reduction goals of today! Apply Now!
The PHN PHribbon allows Passive House designers to calculate total cradle-to-grave building carbon emissions, for buildings located in the US, within the Passive House Planning Package (PHPP) tool. By utilizing the PHPP and PHN PHribbon, building designers have an unparalleled ability to connect design and construction choices to carbon emissions outcomes. With the PHN PHribbon designers can optimize their building designs to address our climate emergency. As with the PHPP itself, all calculations in the PHN PHribbon are transparent and viewable.
PHCA Joins the Central Coast Climate Collaborative

Passive House California is pleased to announce that we have joined the Central Coast Climate Collaborative (4C) in support of our aligned efforts to “Advance Equitable Climate Solutions”.
4C’s focus is on California’s central coast, where PHCA is engaged with several jurisdictions, and other entities related to environmentally responsible design and building. We are looking forward to positive synergy from our combined efforts. If you would like to know more about 4C, click below for their website and/or click here to sign up for their newsletter.
A High-Performance Enclosure: the #1 Priority for Resiliency

Resiliency is the “ability to withstand and recover from difficult life events.” In the case of buildings, difficult life events include extreme heat or cold, wildfires, airborne pollutants (including smoke), and power outages.

- The #1 priority for achieving resiliency is a high-performance enclosure (envelope)
- The #1 priority for attaining a high-performance enclosure is air sealing
- Employing Passive House protocols is the #1 way of delivering an airtight enclosure

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<th>Vulnerabilities</th>
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<td>Robust thermal enclosure</td>
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The high-performing envelope of a Passive House building (ADU, single family, multifamily, school, commercial, and others) further enhances resilience by incorporating climate specific insulation and avoiding thermal bridges, both of which increase resilience to extreme heat or cold.

Incorporating a “Passive House” envelope for any building provides significant health and
safety benefits for occupants and is environmentally responsible — a smart choice and a right choice.

By Jay Gentry

·UPCOMING EVENTS FROM OUTSIDE PHCA·

ARCHITECTURE AT ZERO
A design competition for Decarbonization, Equity and Resilience in California

Architecture at Zero: Merit Award

Congratulations to the Passive House Project Merit Award Winner
(Cover Image)

PUENTES VISALIA, PASSIVE HOUSE BB, SAN FRANCISCO, CA

Team:
Bronwyn Barry, CPHD, Architect, Project Architect, Passive House BB
Stephen Sanford, Intern, Project team member, Massing studies, preliminary renderings. Passive House BB
Anna Asnis, Landscape Designer/ Landscape Architecture Student, Landscape Designer. Anna Asnis Consulting/ UCLA Extension Landscape Architecture Program
The Passive House Standard has driven a global shift in the performance expectations of what a fenestration system can and should provide, and as demand grows is transforming fenestration manufacturing from Ireland to China. Domestic demand and production are growing too, but how do we accelerate this trend? How can we support and transform our local fenestration industry to produce and deliver the fenestration products with performance metrics that we want and need?

This symposium seeks to demystify Passive House fenestration performance standards, their relation to traditional American approaches, and what it takes to grow demand and supply.
Discussions around urban morphology are not as robust in the Passive House community as they could be. Building form plays a significant role in the ease or difficulty of achieving Passive House performance, and so urban form - and how building codes work within them - plays an outsized role in optimization. One way to optimize buildings is to increase the amount of floor area in the same thermal envelope. Point Access Blocks (single stair buildings) - the basic urban building block in most other countries - are one such method to achieve this. Larch Lab’s Michael Eliason will discuss his report for the City of Vancouver on Point Access Blocks, which touches on how these issues are also interwoven with embodied carbon, climate adaptation, family-sized units, re-compaction, and improved quality of life.
5 FACTORS OF A GOOD BUILDING
Wednesday, March 16TH 12-1 PM PT

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AIA Santa Barbara is partnering with Passive House California to present: The 5 Factors of Good Building. Don’t miss this opportunity to become informed on choosing product specifications to maximize health, comfort, and durability while minimizing carbon impact and embodied injustice. Free for AIA and Passive House California members. Learn more and register at the link below.

Presenter: Lucas Johnson MESM, BPI BA, CPHT

Click Here to Learn More

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The Switch is On Campaign

The Switch Is On will support people in swapping out their gas-powered appliances for cleaner, safer, and more resilient electric appliances. As someone who has already begun electrifying my home, I know that this is one of the most effective and impactful ways we can build a better energy future.

Most homes in California burn natural gas or propane for space heating, water heating, and cooking. These gases—like crude oil or coal—are fossil fuels, which significantly contribute to climate change and local air pollution.

Instead, using efficient electric appliances takes advantage of the increasing solar and wind power in the electrical system. This reduces our dependency on dirty energy sources, all while potentially lowering bills and increasing performance. The time is now!
PASSIVE HOUSE CALIFORNIA MEMBERSHIP
Consider becoming a member or recommending a friend for some new benefits:

PHCA Job Board:
- Only Members & Sponsors can post employment opportunities/jobs
- Everyone can see the professional postings

Check it out! [https://passivehousecal.org/jobs/](https://passivehousecal.org/jobs/)

Post a Passive House job or project that you need help with:
- Everyone can post
- Only Members can see and respond as a membership benefit

Need help with a Passive House project in California? Are looking for a Passive House Consultant (CPHD/C), Contractor, Architect, Certifier, sourcing PH-related building products and systems — or finding PH trained/experienced staff for your project or business? We are here to make it easier for you to connect and collaborate. Post information about your Passive House-related project or job here. All members of our professional PHCA community will be able to see your request and reply to explore whether and how they can be of assistance to you. Once you submit your project, PHCA will review and post your “PH Project or Job” so that Passive House California Professional members can learn about your needs and respond accordingly. Happy collaborating and accelerating the transition to Passive House standards.

Check it out! [https://passivehousecal.org/post-a-job/](https://passivehousecal.org/post-a-job/)
It’s the same robust core Passive House Designer Training but newer and better! The training content has been updated with market-ready information, plus now there is added flexibility with self-paced learning. This training is appropriate for a wide range of building professionals and stakeholders that want to know the guts of what makes Passive House tick and build a foundation of knowledge to integrate Passive House to meet personal goals. Participants include architects, MEP and structural engineers, facade, energy and sustainability consultants, contractors, developers, policymakers, regulators, and more. For a full course description, pricing & registration see below.

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER

VISIT PASSIVE HOUSE CALIFORNIA WEBSITE

SPONSORS:
Passive House California is indebted to our Sponsors for helping us achieve our mission of creating healthy, comfortable, durable, energy- and resource-efficient buildings and communities.
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 The Passive House Network.