

Show Your Support for Affordable Passive House Buildings

The Massachusetts Energy Efficiency Advisory Council (EEAC) is currently drafting their next Three-Year Plan for how to allocate energy efficiency program funding in the state and they're considering including programs to fund the development of affordable Passive House buildings.

PHMA has been working to make this possible, led by the efforts of our members Hank Keating and Mike Duclos and in partnership with LISC. On April 4, LISC sent a letter to the EEAC outlining several Passive House related recommendations for the Three-Year Plan.

We need to make sure they hear from those in the community in support of these recommendations in order to ensure their adoption. Please show your support by writing an email to the EEAC. You can do this by following a simple template below or craft your own using the suggested talking points.

All comments must be submitted by **April 18, 2018**, so please send today!

EMAIL TEMPLATE

Send to: matt.rusteika@state.ma.us AND CC passivehousema@gmail.com

Subject: Support for Passive House in the Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan

To: The Massachusetts Energy Efficiency Advisory Council

Constructing new multifamily buildings to the Passive House standard has proven to be a low cost way to achieve long term energy use and greenhouse gas reductions as well healthier and more resilient buildings.

I strongly support the actions outlined in the LISC letter of 4/4/2018 "Recommendations for EEAC's 2019-2021 Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan," including:

- Passive House Training for contractors and consultants
- Passive House Pilot Projects and Data Benchmarking
- Green Design Charrettes

Thank you for your work to develop and expand energy efficiency programs in Massachusetts and I hope to see these efforts to ensure the development of affordable energy efficient buildings move forward.

Thank you for considering these comments.

{YOUR NAME}

{YOUR ADDRESS}

Talking Points

- On May 17, 2016, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruled the state hasn't met the requirements of the 2008 Global Solutions Warming Act. We need to do better than this.
- Passive House technology was developed by physicist Dr. Wolfgang Feist specifically as a way to address the global issue of Green House Gas emissions taking the high leverage approach of reducing energy use in new buildings.
- Passive House technology focuses on reducing to a minimum Primary Energy use, the energy consumed to deliver energy to the point at which is consumed, and so is by definition a Green House Gas energy use production metric, providing the kind of excellent feedback to the design team to drive optimal design decisions.
- Passive House buildings are more resilient with respect to maintaining a habitable interior temperature in winter when the heating system fails.

Passive House Training

- State of Massachusetts would benefit from the development of a "strong bench" of Passive House trained individuals and firms to take on the first multi-family Passive House projects in the State.
- The proper application of Passive House technology at very low or no additional cost requires new thinking, and new ways of organizing design teams, and for this education of the entire design teams in new ways of working together is required. The EEAC should 'kick start' this learning experience with suitable investment.

Passive House Pilot Projects

- To 'kick start' the Passive House educational experience (already well under way in PA and NY) pilot projects should be initiated where expert guidance and training resources can be appropriately focused to deliver a favorable outcome.
- Affordable Passive House projects in other states such as Pennsylvania have demonstrated such projects can be built for between 2% less to 2.5 % more than conventional projects. By providing some gap funding to the first several affordable, multi-family, Passive House projects in the state, EEAC could jump start the industry with demonstration projects. This would assist practitioners in MA with catching up with Passive House technology, as is currently being practiced in Pennsylvania, New York, New Hampshire and other states as they forge forward in designing, constructing and certifying low income multi-family certified multi-family Passive House.
- Other states have made considerable progress in reducing Passive House technology to practice, we should apply EEAC resources to help MA catch up.

Green Design Charrettes

- To be able to cost effectively produce affordable multi-family Passive House projects that meet certification requirements when completed, the EEAC funding of Green Design Charrettes focused on Passive House will help to ensure that the project team is properly coordinated from the outset and shares the same goals of achieving passive house certification.
- Integrative Design Process is key to delivering Passive House projects, and so Green Design Charrettes should be provided for some projects to 'kick start' the learning process.