

15TH INTERNATIONAL PASSIVE HOUSE CONFERENCE 2011

Press Release 12.05.2011

The Passive House: Cost efficient and proven 32,000 times More than 50 countries at the 15th International Passive House Conference

The Passive House saves 80-95% energy as well as CO₂ emissions, and its construction is hardly more expensive than that of conventional buildings. It is therefore not surprising that there are already 32,000 buildings in Europe that have been built to the Passive House Standard, which has already established itself as a trend-setter for energy-efficient construction and also forms the basis for the "Nearly Zero Energy Building". The world's largest convention for energy-efficient construction will be held in Innsbruck from 27th-28th May 2011 where more than 1,200 participants will discuss solutions for sustainable construction.

Darmstadt/Innsbruck/Vienna, 12.05.2011 – Just a few days remain until the largest convention on the subject of the Passive House and energy-efficient construction takes place from 27th-28th May 2011 in Innsbruck. It will be a conference of superlatives in the building industry. More than 1,200 conference participants from over 50 countries of the world will share their experiences with the implementation of the Passive House Standard. No other building standard manages to achieve such large savings - between 80 and 95% - with comparatively low additional costs of only 2-5% for new constructions and 8-15% for the refurbishment of existing buildings. The special thing about this is that conference participants will be able to gain an impression of two of the world's largest Passive House housing complexes that have ever been realised, both located in Innsbruck.

Today, the Passive House already conforms with the European Buildings Directive for "Nearly Zero Energy Building". It makes full use of technical, cost-effective and socially acceptable energy-efficiency potentials. In addition to the optimum energy efficiency standard, it is possible to meet the small remaining energy demand by the use of renewable energy sources without problem.

The Passive House – tried and tested

This Standard has been applied successfully in 32,000 Passive Houses in Europe alone, with a total floor area of around 13.9 million square metres. These save around 175 million euros in energy costs as well as 200,000 tons in CO₂ emissions annually. About 800 refurbishments of existing buildings to the Passive House Standard have also been carried out – this will be another focal point at the Conference, where a quality standard for high quality modernisations of old buildings will also be introduced, i.e. certification with EnerPhit. In Europe, a total of about 46,000 dwelling units in the Passive House Standard already exists. 17% of the total floor area in Passive House objects are used as offices and public buildings.

The Passive House Standard has long been technically perfected and evaluated thousand-fold all over Europe. The oldest Passive House (multi-family house in Kranichstein in Darmstadt, Germany) is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year.

"The Passive House creates a win-win situation for everyone involved: the economy,

workers, and politics all benefit from value creation in the region, users and investors profit

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from the low running costs and high level of comfort, and the community benefits from environmental protection and from less dependence on energy imports.” Dr. Wolfgang Feist, Director of the Passive House Institute and Professor at the Innsbruck University, explains the formula for the success of the Passive House.

The 15th International Passive House Conference will take place under the auspices of the Deputy Governors Anton Steixner and Hannes Gschwentner. “The most important kind of energy is saved energy, of which there is an endless supply and which does not incur any further costs whatsoever in its lifecycle. It makes us independent from fossil fuel and nuclear energy imports, and is a prerequisite for regions that are self-sufficient in terms of energy”, clarifies Steixner, the Regional Minister for Environment and Energy. “With target-oriented housing subsidies, the Passive house has experienced a substantial boost in Tyrol and provides occupants with a high standard of living comfort and social security“, adds Gschwentner who is also the Regional Minister for Housing.



Pictures: Passive Houses of every size are included in the framework of the excursions at the 15th International Passive House Conference in Innsbruck | Picture 1: O3 Olympic Village with 444 apartments by the Neuen Heimat Tirol, Reitter - Eck & Reiter Architects ZT GmbH and din a4 | Picture 2: Lodenareal housing complex with 354 apartments by the Neuen Heimat Tirol, Architects teamk2. | Picture 3: Energiepark Innsbruck with a selection of Passive House properties for every taste. Picture sources: NHT and LANG consulting

27 Leading Passive House Regions show the way

As also set out in the European Buildings Directive, public authorities should set a good example. “Leading Passive House Regions“ that have already committed themselves voluntarily to the application of the Passive House Standard in the construction of public buildings will show the world how this has been realised in their respective regions.

“Currently there are **27 leading Passive House Regions in Europe, with a total of 25 million residents,**“ says Professor Dr. Wolfgang Feist. This shows that the Passive House concept is ideally suited for all regions around the world. Some leading Passive House regions will specially introduce themselves at the Conference.

“We will wait and see which other cities and regional authorities follow the call for action until the International Passive House Conference at the end of May”, Wolfgang Feist encourages other regions to follow these examples. All leading Passive House regions will be in the spotlight at the Conference.

With the European Buildings Directive, the Passive House will become established in Europe not only for climate protection and energy-relevant reasons; the reduction of building damage, asset protection and greatly enhanced comfort are just as decisive. Participants will be able learn all this at first hand from experts at the convention. This year’s convention will not only be a gathering of Passive House pioneers but is also a must for all future-oriented construction professionals and decision makers.

With a total of seven excursions, including visits to the world’s largest Passive House housing complexes and several schools and kindergartens, conference participants will also have the opportunity to see for themselves the theoretical knowledge that has actually been put into practice locally.

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**15th International Passive House Conference
with Passive House Components Exhibition**
Date: Friday, 27 May and Saturday, 28 May 2011
Venue: Congress Innsbruck
www.passivhaustagung.de

The 15th International Passive House Conference is organised by the Passive House Institute, the Federal State of Tyrol and the University of Innsbruck

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