



The Climate Change Conference COP23 in Bonn, Germany is divided into two zones. Concrete solutions for the implementation of the Paris Agreement will be presented parallel to the negotiations of the 193 member states taking place in Bonn's Rheinaue Park.
© Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety

COP23 is also about Passive House

Energy efficient buildings a topic at UN Climate Change Conference in Bonn

Darmstadt/Bonn, Germany. The world climate conference in Bonn is an internationally recognised event; after all, it is about global climate protection. The UN has expressly mentioned Passive House buildings as a way to achieve significant energy savings in the building sector. The Passive House Institute from Darmstadt is also on the ground at the COP23 in Bonn. In addition, a delegation will be visiting a new Passive House student residence during the conference. As part of the Passive House Open Days, taking place at the same time as the climate conference, the opportunity to visit the student residence in Bonn will also be open to interested members of the public.

193 Contracting States convene

Up to 25,000 participants from all over the world are expected to attend the conference in Bonn, taking place until 17 November. These will include several hundred non-government organisations as well as journalists from the 193 Contracting States. Under the official presidency of the Fiji Islands, the Contracting States will convene for twelve days in order to develop directives for the implementation of the Paris Agreement. These directives will be adopted at the 2018 climate conference in Poland.

Buildings must become more energy efficient

Additionally, there will be a comprehensive supporting programme of the COP23 in which the importance of the activities of non-governmental stakeholders relating to climate change will be highlighted. In the Emissions Gap Report 2016, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has already identified Passive House buildings as a way of increasing the energy efficiency of buildings and thus reducing climate change on account of their low energy demand.



An international delegation from the COP23 will be visiting the Passive House student residence 42! in Bonn. Viewing is possible for everyone during the Passive House Open Days, which will be taking place simultaneously. © Kay Künzel/raum für architektur

Passive House Institute was also in Paris and Marrakesh

The Passive House Institute is on the ground at the COP23 in Bonn just as it was during the previous climate conferences in Paris and Marrakesh to advocate climate protection in the building sector. Passive House buildings already meet the requirements of the European Buildings Directive today, which specifies the Nearly Zero Energy standard for all new buildings from 2020.

New partnerships

"The COP is a good way to promote the Passive House Standard and its global application. There are many positive examples of Passive House buildings, both residential and non-residential, in climates ranging from very cold to very hot. One of these is the first Passive House building in Dubai. Furthermore, new partnerships resulting in pilot projects are always being developed at COP. We have started a joint project with the GIZ in Morocco," explains Camille Sifferlen, a scientific assistant who will be representing the Passive House Institute in Bonn.

Delegation visit a student hostel in Bonn

During the climate conference, an international delegation of the Global Alliance for Building and Construction (GABC) will take a look at what the Passive House Standard actually means in practice. The Federal Chamber of Architects in Germany (BAK) invited the group to view specific examples of sustainable architecture, including the new Passive House student residence 42! in Bonn. Together with the architects Kay Künzel, the clients have completed a student residence with 32 apartments combining ecology with cost-efficiency.



The Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Center (MBRSC) in Dubai, also a Passive House building, has been nominated for the Green Solutions Award 2017 together with the student residence 42! in Bonn © MBRSC/Dubai

Projects in Bonn and Dubai in the race

The student hostel in Bonn and the Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Center (MBRSC) in Dubai have been nominated as beacon projects for sustainable constructions in the Green Solutions Award 2017. The prize is awarded within the framework of the COP23 and recognises projects which contribute towards compliance with the 2°Celsius goal and improve the living conditions of users.

Student residence opens for everyone

The Passive House Open Days event will take place simultaneously with the COP23 in Bonn from 10 - 12 November 2017. Several hundred Passive House residents throughout the world will invite all interested persons to experience for themselves the extremely energy efficient Passive House Standard and the improved living comfort associated with it. All buildings which can be viewed are listed in the project database of the Passive House Institute (www.passivehouse-database.org). The student residence 42! in Bonn is also listed here under the ID number 5449. This impressive project will be open for viewing on Friday, 10 November 2017 between 11 am and 16 pm.



The Passive House Institute from Darmstadt provides consultations for Passive House projects in China, where energy efficient construction is highly popular. © Windoor City

Trailblazing People's Republic

Passive House projects in China will also be open to the public during the Passive House Open Days. Energy efficient construction is highly popular in the People's Republic, which has been a member of the United Nations since 1945. Dr. Berthold Kaufmann of the Passive House Institute explains: "The government and stakeholders in construction, and project developers in particular have recognised that quality-awareness and energy efficient construction are extremely important for effective reduction of CO₂ emissions. In China this is particularly worthwhile due to the numerous residential areas which will soon be built there."

Living area: 330,000 square metres!

In China, two large projects are currently receiving a lot of attention. A large Passive House residential area is under construction in Qingdao, Eastern China. Construction to the Passive House Standard is also taking place in Gaobedian, Hebei Province south of Beijing. A total of 37 Passive House Standard buildings are being built here, including 10 high-rises, several single-family houses and a kindergarten. The planned living area amounts to a total of 330,000 square metres.

Museum relies on the Passive House Standard - inside and outside

The founder of the Passive House Institute Dr. Wolfgang Feist was also present at the inauguration of the Longfor Orient Sunda Passive House Museum this autumn. The museum, a Passive House building itself, is also dealing with this energy efficient building standard in its exhibition. Through the use of multimedia, visitors can gather experiences on the topic of energy conservation and a healthy and comfortable indoor air climate, which also includes the [video](#) "Passive House in 90 seconds" in Chinese.

General information

Passive House

A Passive House is a building that does not require any conventional building heating on account of its excellent thermal insulation. Such buildings are called "passive houses" because a major part of their heating demand is met through "passive" sources such as solar radiation or the waste heat from occupants and technical appliances. A Passive House thus consumes about 90 percent less heating energy than existing buildings and 75 percent less energy than an average new construction.

Passive House & COP23 in Bonn

The United Nations (UN) explicitly mention Passive Houses as a possibility to increase the energy efficiency of buildings and thus reduce global warming in "The Emissions Gap Report 2016".

Pioneer Project

The first Passive House in the world was built in Darmstadt-Kranichstein (Germany) 25 years ago by four private homeowners on their own personal initiative. Ever since the homeowners moved in with their families in 1991, these terraced houses have been regarded as a pioneer project for the Passive House Standard. 25 years later, building physicists have attested to the unimpaired functioning of the first Passive House and its unchanged low heating energy consumption. With its newly installed photovoltaic system, the world's first Passive House now utilises renewable energy and received the Passive House Plus certificate for this reason.

Passive House and renewable energy

The Passive House Standard can be combined well with on-site renewable energy generation. Since April 2015, the new building classes "Passive House Plus" and "Passive House Premium" have been available for this supply concept.

Passive Houses worldwide

Passive Houses buildings for all types of uses now exist everywhere. In addition to residential and office buildings there are also kindergartens and schools, sports halls, swimming pools and factories built as Passive House buildings. The first Passive House hospital in the world is currently being built in Frankfurt am Main. Interest in Passive House is growing. In view of the consumption of resources in industrialised countries and the need to contain global warming, municipalities, businesses and private people are increasingly implementing new constructions or retrofits to the Passive House Standard.

Passive House Institute

The Passive House Institute with its headquarters in Darmstadt (Germany) is an independent research institute for highly efficient use of energy in buildings. Under the leadership of Dr. Wolfgang Feist, the Institute holds a leading position internationally with regard to research and development in the field of energy efficient construction. The Passive House Institute is the organizer of the International Passive House Conference and the related exhibition. The next Passive House Conference takes place 9 - 10 March 2018 in Munich, Germany.

Passive House Standard and German Federal Foundation for the Environment (DBU)

The former Foreign Minister of the Marshall Islands Tony de Brum who passed away in August 2017 was posthumously awarded the Honorary Prize of the DBU in October 2017 for his accomplishments relating to the Paris Agreement. Dr. Wolfgang Feist received the DBU Environmental Award in 2001 for the development of the Passive House concept.

Pictures for editorial purposes: www.flickr.com/photos/passive-house-institute

To get the latest news relating to Passive House, visit: www.twitter.com/the_iPHA

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