

## Press Release: 4 December 2012

*International Passive House Association*

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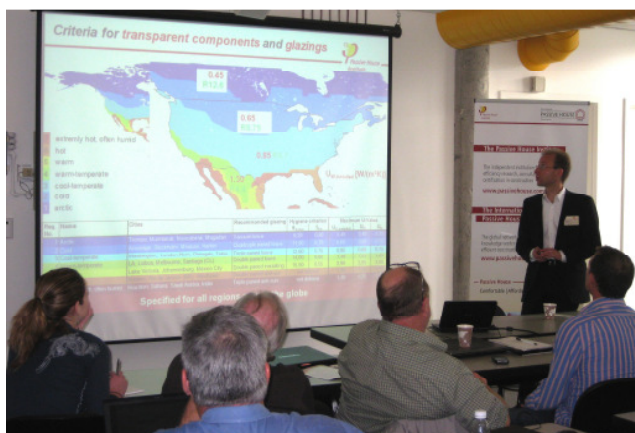
### Opportunities for Passive House windows abound in North America

Passive House Institute Window Certification seminar met with excitement amongst key industry players

*Darmstadt, 4 December 2012.* Over the last several years, Passive House has taken off in North America. Unfortunately, the growing demand for high performance, Certified Passive House Windows is not currently being met by North American window manufacturers.

#### **This is about to change.**

The winds of change could be felt by the veritable storm of interest in Passive House generally that was witnessed during Greenbuild, the world's largest conference and expo dedicated to green building held annually by the US Green Building Council (USGBC). At the American Passive House Network (APHN) Passive House Zone in the Greenbuild exhibition area on 14 and 15 November, PHI representatives joined APHN in answering questions and interfacing with a captivated crowd.



*Dr. Krick describes the PHI window certification criteria for various US climate regions, Photo: © Passive House Institute*

Following on the heels of Greenbuild, the Passive House Institute (PHI) and the International Passive House Association (iPHA), in conjunction with APHN, held the first ever Passive House Window Certification Workshop, taking place in San Francisco on 16 November 2012. The workshop, led by Dr. Benjamin Krick, senior scientist and Passive House Institute window expert, not only introduced Passive House Window Certification to 28 eager participants, but also unveiled PHI's plan for a new Passive House Institute

simulator accreditation scheme that aims to stimulate North American manufacturing and the subsequent Certification of Passive House quality windows. In attendance at the quickly sold-out workshop were:

- Representatives of the National Fenestration Rating Council (NFRC), the main window rating agency in the US, supported by the US Department of Energy (DOE)
- Researchers from Lawrence Berkeley National Labs (LBNL), a top US research establishment in the field, developer of the widely used Therm software and accredited NFRC simulation entity
- Accredited NFRC simulators
- Window and glass manufacturers, small and large

Feedback on this pilot Window Certification workshop was overwhelmingly positive. PHI is looking forward to working with the first set of simulators seeking accreditation and is optimistic that North American-made, Certified Passive House Windows will soon hit the market.

Positive strides were also made during a day visit to the LBNL prior to Greenbuild on 13 November, where Dr. Krick held a lunchtime seminar on Passive House Windows and PHI's handling of their thermal characteristics. High-level talks, where PHI and APHN representatives met with LBNL researchers and NFRC CEO Jim Benney, revealed much mutual interest in taking advantage of synergies between PHI Certification and NFRC protocols to jointly facilitate Passive House Institute Certification of Passive House Windows in the US. With supportive signs also coming from the DOE, it seems Passive House Institute Certified Passive House Components made in North America are well on their way to securing their place in the market.

The beginnings of this development are already being confirmed: the first North American-made Passive House window was Certified shortly after the Window Certification workshop (see the [Passive House Institute Component Database](#)).

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