

Press Release

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Passive House Conference presents solutions for energy efficiency and climate protection

International experts on sustainable construction and refurbishment gather in Leipzig

Leipzig, Germany. Efficiency and renewable energy – that's the ideal combination for a sustainable energy future. The International Passive House Conference 2015 in Leipzig will demonstrate how this is possible in the building sector. On 17 and 18 April, speakers from all over the world will present the latest concepts and developments. The main focus will be on exemplary new build and retrofit projects in various climate zones, in addition to individual components for thermal protection of the building envelope or correct balancing of the gains from a photovoltaic system. The patron of this event is the German Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy Sigmar Gabriel.

With recent national plans, the German government has launched an extensive set of measures for energy efficiency and climate protection, among other things. "Low energy buildings constitute a major element here, our goal is to have a climate neutral building stock until the year 2050," Dr. Frank Heidrich of the German Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy commented during the inauguration of the Conference on Friday.

The Passive House Standard is not only an excellent solution for a sustainable energy future but also could form a basis for Nearly Zero Energy Buildings (NZEB) as foreseen in the EU's Energy Performance of Buildings Directive. "Many challenges remain for the buildings sector if we are to achieve the EU's targets for climate and energy by 2020," explained Philippe Moseley of the European Commission's agency EASME. "The new Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme has already featured a number of calls for proposals aiming to tackle these issues. These efforts are likely to continue in the future and Passive House principles are sure to remain in the picture as we move to the more stringent 2030 targets."

The City of Leipzig sets a good example in this area. "Starting in 2009, we have refurbished a school building to the Passive House Standard, and have since built three other new schools based on the same Standard. Two further school buildings are currently being planned," said Dorothee Dubrau, Councillor for Urban Development and Construction at the City of Leipzig, in her welcome address at the Congress Center. Architects count as one of the driving forces

behind the progress towards higher efficiency levels. "Contemporary building actually means planning and implementing in an energy efficient and, even more importantly, sustainable way," explained Ruairi O'Brien of the Chamber of Architects in the German State of Saxony.

Over a third of the total energy consumed in industrialised countries is used for building operation, especially for heating. With Passive House technology, it is possible to reduce this consumption by up to 90 percent. The extra investment is paid off within a few years by the saved energy costs. "Improving the efficiency of buildings is therefore not only an important contribution to the energy revolution, it also represents an attractive investment opportunity for building owners," said Dr. Wolfgang Feist, Director of the Passive House Institute.

Altogether, more than one hundred speakers will report on the potentials of intelligent architecture for climate protection and cost savings. An accompanying specialists' exhibition will provide illustrative models of the products available on the market. The programme is supplemented with a series of workshops and excursions to Passive House buildings in the Leipzig region. Highlights of the event include the presentation of the Component Award for particularly energy efficient windows and a preview of a new version of the planning tool PHPP. This new version not only makes it possible to reliably calculate the energy demand of buildings, but also supports certification according to the newly introduced Passive House classes Passive House Classic, Passive House Plus and Passive House Premium.

Since 1997, the International Passive House Conference has been held annually by the Passive House Institute in different locations. The City of Leipzig, the Saxony Chamber of Architects and the University of Innsbruck are co-organisers of the 2015 Conference. Some of the lectures also form part of the EU sponsored projects EuroPHit (step-by-step energy-efficient refurbishment) and PassREg (Passive House Regions with Renewable Energies).

19TH INTERNATIONAL PASSIVE HOUSE CONFERENCE 2015

Conference and accompanying exhibition in the Congress Center in Leipzig on 17 and 18 April
Further information and the complete programme available on: www.passivehouseconference.org

Press contact: Benjamin Wunsch | Passive House Institute | +49 (0)6151-82699-25 | presse@passiv.de



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