

Press Release

18 May 2020



**24TH INTERNATIONAL PASSIVE
HOUSE CONFERENCE 2020**

#24intPHC
www.passivehouseconference.org

New first for Passive House Conference

International Passive House Conference makes it digital - comprehensive programme

Darmstadt, Germany. The 24th International Passive House Conference, planned to take place in Berlin in September this year, will now be offered as a comprehensive online conference. Presentations, workshops, the specialists' exhibition and building tours that have always been a part of the annual Passive House Conference will remain in the programme. Virtual networking between participants will also be a highlight.

"Passive House: Building the future – sustainably!" The focus of the 24th International Passive House Conference demonstrates the building sector's contributions to a sustainable future. "Protection of the climate must continue in earnest in spite of the Corona crisis. Energy efficient construction is essential for this. Because we are offering many events online and the feedback is overwhelmingly positive, it was obvious that we should offer a virtual Passive House Conference", explains Jan Steiger, a member of the management board. The Passive House Institute as the organizer of the International Passive House Conferences is currently putting together the comprehensive programme for the conference in September. The scientific advisory board has already met. The exact duration of the online conference will be announced at a later date.

“We look forward to this new format!”

The specialists' exhibition is a mainstay of the annual conference and this year will be no different. The 24th International Passive House Conference will offer participants the opportunity to find out more about the range of components available for energy efficient construction and retrofiting. "Of course, the digital specialists' exhibition will be different from previous exhibitions, but the opportunity to obtain comprehensive information about products and exchange information with manufacturers will remain the same", explains Steiger. This also applies for the workshops and networking of participants, an integral part of every Passive House Conference. Both will be possible at this conference in a virtual manner. "We are flexible and can adapt ourselves to circumstances. We look forward to this new format that allows us to address to a wide range of participants as a result of no travel required to attend this year", says Jan Steiger.

As the 24th International Passive House Conference is switching to an online format, the Passive House Award will be postponed to 2021. Nevertheless, certified Passive House buildings can still be submitted for the award.

<https://cms.passivehouse.com/en/passivehouse-award/>

The latest information on the 24th International Passive House Conference can be found at <https://passivhaustagung.de/en/>

24TH INTERNATIONAL PASSIVE HOUSE CONFERENCE 2020

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General Information

Passive House buildings

In Passive House buildings, general heat loss by walls, windows and the roof is drastically reduced - by means of high-quality thermal insulation, windows with triple glazing and an airtight building envelope. In winter, preheated air is introduced into the building by a heat recovery ventilation system. In summer, the excellent level of insulation ensures that the heat stays outside.

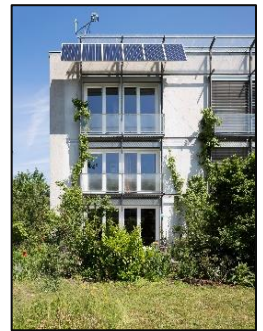
Altogether five basic Passive House principles allow these highly efficient buildings to dispense with *classic* building heating. Such buildings are called "passive houses" because a major part of their heating demand is met through "passive" sources such as solar radiation or the heat emitted by occupants 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 & NZEB

The Passive House Standard already meets the EU requirements for Nearly Zero Energy Buildings. According to the European Buildings Directive *EPBD*, all member states must specify requirements for so-called nZEBs in their national building regulations. These came into effect in January 2019 for public buildings and will apply for all other buildings in 2021.

Pioneer project

The first Passive House in the world was built 28 years ago in Darmstadt-Kranichstein (Germany) by four private homeowners. Dr Wolfgang Feist was one of them. 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. After extensive technical testing, building physicists attest to the still unimpaired functioning of the first Passive House and its unchanged low heating energy consumption. With its newly installed photovoltaic system, the first Passive House now utilises renewable energy and received the Passive House Plus certificate for this reason.



The world's first Passive House building in Darmstadt.
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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. The first buildings in these two categories have already been certified, including private houses as well as office buildings.

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 headquarter in Darmstadt (Germany) is an independent research institute for highly efficient use of energy in buildings. The Institute founded by Dr Wolfgang Feist holds a leading position internationally with regard to research and development in the field of energy efficient construction. Among other things, Dr Wolfgang Feist was awarded the DBU Environmental Prize in 2001 for developing the Passive House concept.



Dr Wolfgang Feist
© Peter Cook

Passive House Conference

The 24th International Passive House Conference will be held in September 2020 as an online conference <https://passivehouseconference.org/en/>

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