Press Release

April 2025

See you next year in the German city of Essen! That's where the Passive House Institute is organising the 28th International Passive House Conference in April 2026. The Call for Papers will run until the end of June 2025. © Passive House Institute

Efficiency is simply indispensable

28th International Passive House Conference in Essen in 2026 - Call for Papers now open

***Darmstadt*, *Germany*. The 28th International Passive House Conference will take place in the German city of Essen in April 2026. The main theme of the conference is 'Driving Transformation with Energy Efficiency!': High energy efficiency is essential to making our buildings ready for the future. The conference with its varied programme will take place in Essen's House of Technology. The call for Papers has begun and will run until the end of June 2025.**

The Passive House Institute and its partners are inviting you to Essen for the 28th International Passive House Conference. The multifaceted conference with scientific contributions, the trade exhibition with highly energy-efficient components and an extensive side programme including building tours, will take place on 24 and 25 April 2026 in the Haus der Technik (House of Technology). The conference's focus, 'Driving Transformation with Energy Efficiency!'', addresses the needed change towards a climate-friendly and future-proof building stock, for which a high level of energy efficiency is indispensable.

Call for papers until end of June

The 28th International Passive House Conference venue is the Haus der Technik in Essen. © House of Technology

Workshops will again be held in the run-up to the conference. Directly after the event, there will be the opportunity to take part in excursions to impressive Passive House projects in Essen and the surrounding area. 'The Ruhr region and the city of Essen have undergone an impressive transformation. Our conference shows that together we can manage to transform our building stock to make it climate-friendly and ready for the future. To achieve this, we must do one thing without fail: focus on high energy efficiency, including energy-efficient refurbishments. Only then, our buildings will get by with little energy for heating and cooling,' explains Jan Steiger, a member of the management board of the Passive House Institute. The call for papers for the 28th International Passive House Conference has just begun. The short abstracts for presentations can be submitted until the end of June 2025. The scientific advisory board will then decide on the conference speakers.

Successful examples of change

In Essen, successful examples of the transition to greater energy efficiency in new builds and refurbishments will be presented, including projects from North Rhine-Westphalia and Germany, as well as international highlights and projects from challenging climatic zones. The focus will also be on highly energy-efficient non-residential buildings such as museums, swimming pools, laboratories and (commercial) kitchens. The life cycle assessment of highly energy-efficient buildings and the reusability of building materials are also becoming increasingly important topics that will be discussed in Essen. In addition, the focus will be on neighbourhoods and municipal heat supply, as well as heat pumps and split appliances for new and existing buildings.

Refurbishment - simple and cost-effective

'Rapid, simple and, above all, cost-effective modernisation is an ongoing social and climate policy issue. This is also the focus in Essen, and we will be showing how existing buildings can be transformed in an uncomplicated and user-friendly way,' says Jan Steiger. This also includes the areas of prefabrication and all-in-one solutions for highly energy-efficient components. The complete list of topics can be found on the **website of the 28th International Passive House Conference**.

Trade exhibition

An integral part of the International Passive House Conference is the trade exhibition for Passive House components, for which the registration is also open. Manufacturing companies will be presenting their components for highly energy-efficient construction and refurbishments, which offers great economic opportunities. In addition to the workshops and excursions, there are numerous networking events on several days. All information can be found at **www.passivehouseconference.org**

This press release is available in different formats here together with images.

28TH INTERNATIONAL PASSIVE HOUSE CONFERENCE 2026

Organiser

Passive House Institute

Co-organiser

universität innsbruck

with the kind support of

NRW.ENERGY 4CLIMATE
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FLIB
Fachverband Luftdichtheit im Bauwesen e.V.

FASBA

verbraucherzentrale Nordrhein-Westfalen

Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction

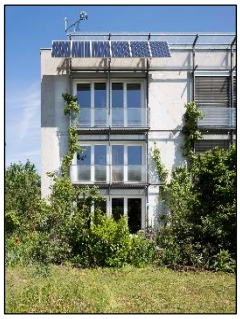
General information:

Speakers' corner: Serial refurbishment

Speakers' corner: EnerPHit retrofit of a Gründerzeit building in Vienna

Socially compatible and high energy efficient apartment blocks built to the Passive House standard. © Neue Heimat Tirol

Passive House buildings: **With the Passive House concept, the heat loss that typically takes place in a building through the walls, windows and roof is drastically reduced. By applying the five basic principles 1. Excellent thermal insulation, 2. Windows with triple glazing, 3. A ventilation system with heat recovery, 4. Avoidance of thermal bridges, 5. An airtight building envelope, a Passive House building needs very little energy for heating and cooling. Passive House buildings can therefore dispense with a *traditional* heating system. A major part of its remaining low heating demand is largely met through "passive" sources such as solar radiation or the heat emitted by occupants and technical appliances. The Passive House concept works well also in deep retrofits of existing buildings. The Passive House Institute has developed the EnerPHit standard for this purpose.**



In 2021, the world's first Passive House building in Darmstadt celebrated its 30th anniversary! © P.Cook

Advantages of the Passive House & EnerPHit standards: **1. Increased thermal comfort. 2. In winter the heating demand is very low: the heat escapes very slowly. 3. In Summer the cooling demand is low: the good insulation keeps the heat out. 4. Socially fair: low energy demand means low utility costs – which is the basis for affordable homes and social housing.**

Passive House and renewable energy: **The Passive House standard and generation of renewable energy is an excellent combination. The Passive House Institute has also introduced the building classes *Passive House Plus* and *Passive House Premium*. The world's first Passive House in Darmstadt has also been generating renewable energy after it was retrofitted with a photovoltaic system in 2015 and therefore received the Passive House Plus certificate.**

Building uses: **There are now Passive House buildings for all types of building uses. In addition to residential-use and office buildings, there are also kindergartens, schools, sports halls, swimming pools and production facilities built to the Passive House standard. In Frankfurt am Main, Germany, the Passive House certificate was awarded for the first Passive House hospital in the world.**

PHPP: **The planning tool PHPP (Passive House Planning Package) was developed by the Passive House Institute for energy balance calculation of highly energy efficient buildings. The energy demand is reliably calculated with this Excel-based tool during the planning phase.**

Prof Dr Wolfgang Feist © Peter Cook

Passive House Institute: **Founded by Professor Wolfgang Feist in 1996, the Passive House Institute is an independent organisation that holds a leading position in research and development relating to highly energy efficient construction and building retrofits.**

iPHA: **The purpose of the membership based international Passive House Association (iPHA) is the dissemination of knowledge as well as networking.**

Social Media:

Bluesky: **@ipha.bsky.social**
Facebook: **International Passive House Association**
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