

faq

What climates does Passive House work in?

Passive House works in all climates, from arctic cold to the hot and humid tropics.

Can it be used for buildings that aren't houses?

Yes! A Passive House building can be a school, office, or apartment building. Even supermarkets, hospitals, and factories are certified Passive House buildings.

Can we renovate buildings to Passive House too?

Yes! EnerPHit is the Passive House retrofit standard and has flexible pathways to address conditions unique to existing buildings.

Does it cost more?

Passive House buildings can cost less than typical construction! However, it is a high-quality building, so Passive House will typically cost 3-5% more. Costs can be controlled best by engaging the certification process at the very start of the project planning, while rigorously optimizing the design and construction at every step.

Does my project team need special training?

Key personnel from ownership to architects, engineers, and contractors should have Passive House training to support design & cost optimization, and quality control.

Should I invest in Passive House or renewable energy first?

Invest in Passive House efficiency first - drive down the demand for energy and achieve all the benefits for the occupants, ownership, and environment. Then the investment in renewables is much more flexible and less expensive.



how do people describe Passive House buildings?

“very clean air & healthy”

“almost never need to turn on the heat”

“tenants love it”

“super comfortable”

“resilient”

“safe shelter in storm blackouts”

“truly sustainable”

“full of daylight and fresh air”

“amazingly quiet”

“high-quality you can see and feel”

“provides peace of mind”

“protected from energy shocks”

“keeps cool in summer”

“a perfect fit for affordable housing”

“performance everyone needs to have”

are you building a sustainable future?

seize the power of
Passive House
and
build a better world



Passive House
Minnesota

The Passive House Network

passivehouseminnesota.org



The
Passive House
Network

passivehousenetwork.org

1. education drives industry transformation

It starts with your education. Passive House training connects the dots and changes the way we think and work. It creates a new language of building that prioritizes health, safety, comfort, and efficiency.

We provide flexible introductory and expert training for owners, architects, designers, engineers, and policymakers. Register today!



Register
today



2. certification provides quality assurance

By certifying your building you'll know it will perform as intended. Certification drives optimization, controls costs, and protects your investment. It also gives you the globally recognized Passive House seal.

There are over 30 active certifiers working in the US who will help you achieve your project goals. Hire a certifier at the start of your next project!



Certify your
building



3. community accelerates knowledge sharing

You're going to learn more from peers than books, so we want to connect you to the global Passive House community. One way is to attend your local Passive House Minnesota Chapter Meetings and experience the generosity and openness of our can-do community.



The Passive House Network

Join Us



4. advocacy action to change the world

We advocate for change through education, certification, and community building. Speak to your neighbors, co-workers, elected officials, and our local social equity and sustainability allies.

We can realize comfortable, affordable, healthy buildings and create all-electric Passive House buildings that support our renewable-energy future, benefiting everyone. With your help, we can make it happen!



Help us



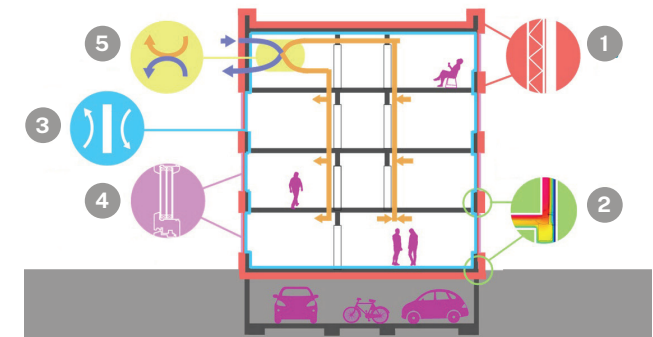
Image: Factory Retrofit,
by Jordan Parnass Digital
Architecture

what makes a building a “Passive House”?

Developed by the Passive House Institute and supported by over 30 years of ongoing scientific research, Passive House is the world's most rigorous building energy standard.

There are
Five Basic
Principles:

1. Climate Specific Insulation levels
2. Thermal Bridge Free Construction
3. Airtightness
4. High-Performance Windows & Doors with Solar Protection
5. High Efficiency Heat Recovery Ventilation



Passive House first makes a durable enclosure. Building components are optimized with the entire project process. This radically reduces cooling and heating loads by up to 90%, and it ensures our all-electric net-zero future provides critical benefits like healthy indoor air, comfort, safety, and affordability.

Find out more and get started!

passivehousenetwork.org | passivehouseminnesota.org