



Affordable Zero
Energy Buildings



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Press Release

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Affordable ventilation for everyone

European Union supports Component Award 2018 for ventilation systems

Darmstadt / Munich, Germany. The International Passive House Conference is the established meeting place for experts in energy efficient construction and retrofiting. This year, the International Passive House Conference took place in Munich. There, the Passive House Institute awarded the Component Award 2018 for new ventilation concepts which are particularly cost-effective and can therefore also be used in social housing. The European Union sponsored the Component Award 2018 as part of its Affordable Zero Energy Buildings (AZEB) project.



The Passive House Institute awarded the Component Award 2018 to the manufacturers of ventilation units at the International Passive House Conference in Munich. Photo: Passivhaus Institut

Incentive for companies

"The Component Award should serve as an incentive for manufacturers of Passive House components to develop new products for energy efficient construction and retrofiting or to improve existing products," explains Oliver Kah from the Passive House Institute. Kah was also a member of the jury for the award.

Low-cost home ventilation

The Component Award 2018 was funded by the European Union within the framework of the AZEB (Affordable Zero Energy Buildings) project. This time, the award was given for

low-cost home ventilation solutions that also contribute to affordable housing. The first place for the Component Award 2018 was shared by the two companies Pluggit and Vaventis for their easy-to-integrate and low-cost solutions for small residential units in particular. The second place was shared by the companies Pichler and bluMartin for their centralised and decentralised façade-integrated ventilation concepts respectively.

Fresh air and comfort

Dr. Eva Vahalova supervises the AZEB project at the Passive House Institute in Darmstadt. She explains: "The Component Award 2018 has proved that affordable ventilation units for residential buildings already exist on the market and therefore fresh air and comfort in small dwellings is available to everyone who strives to improve their standard of living".

General information

Passive House

A Passive House is a building that does not require any classic building heating on account of its excellent thermal insulation. 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 waste heat from 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 & COP23 in Bonn 2017

In its "The Emissions Gap Report 2016" the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) explicitly mentioned Passive Houses as one of the main possibilities for increasing the energy efficiency of buildings and thus reduce global warming.

Pioneer project

The first Passive House in the world was built in Darmstadt-Kranichstein (Germany) 27 years ago by four private homeowners. One of these was Dr Wolfgang Feist. 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. 25 years later, after extensive technical testing, building physicists attested to the unimpaired functioning of the first Passive House and its unchanged low heating energy consumption. With its newly installed photovoltaic system, the world's first Passive House now utilises renewable energy and received the Passive House Plus certificate for this reason



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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 headquarters 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. In 2001, Dr. Wolfgang Feist was awarded the DBU Environmental Prize for developing the Passive House concept.



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Passive House Conference

The Passive House Institute is the organiser of the International Passive House Conference and the accompanying specialists' exhibition. The 23rd International Passive House Conference will take place on 21 and 22 September 2019 in Gaobeidian, China. www.passivhaustagung.org

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