

Press Release

15 April 2013

Latest version of the PHPP planning tool to be launched at the 17th International Passive House Conference

"Fit for renewable energies and suitable for all climates"



Darmstadt, Germany. The German version of the new Passive House planning software will be available at the International Passive House Conference in Frankfurt, Germany. The PHPP 8 not only offers additional calculation methods and easier data input, but also provides a central list of Certified Passive House Components and incorporates electricity yields from photovoltaic systems. The first German copies of the new

Passive House Planning Package will be available for purchase at the Passive House Institute stand on 19 and 20 April 2013. The English version of the PHPP 8 will be available as of summer 2013.

Together with the detailed manual, the software developed by the Passive House Institute has long been a reliable basis for the design of energy-efficient buildings. Proving compliance with the Passive House criteria, the PHPP has also been accepted as a verification tool within Germany's state subsidies programme for energy efficient buildings. "In this new version we have addressed current developments, which constitutes another major step forward", says Jan Steiger, member of PHI's scientific staff. The PHPP 8 is now "fit for renewable energies and suitable for all climates".

Comparative studies with dynamic building simulations have shown that the PHPP algorithms not only work for Central European locations but also deliver reliable results for hot and tropical climates. The planning package can therefore be applied as a planning and verification tool for Passive House buildings worldwide. Additional input and calculation procedures also allow the conception of passive cooling strategies.

With reference to the European Buildings Directive (EPBD), the increasingly popular combination of Passive House and renewable energies has also been taken into account. In addition to solar-powered hot water generation, already covered by previous versions, the PHPP

8 allows for the calculation of energy outputs from photovoltaic systems, heat pumps and geothermal probes. A procedure for estimating the solar heating supply has also been integrated into the new version. The PHPP 8 includes a central components worksheet for the steadily growing number of certified building components, which can be updated on a regular basis.

designPH: Visualisation with 3D tool in summer 2013

In order to further facilitate data input, the user interface and a series of control elements have been restructured and expanded. This summer, the new 3D tool "designPH" will be integrated into the PHPP to enable graphical input and visualisation. The SketchUP plug-in will allow for graphical data entry and design modelling. Conference visitors will be able to test this feature at the Exhibition held in parallel to the Passive House Conference.

All calculations in the Excel based software tool remain visible, clearly laid-out and understandable in terms of their content. With the Passive House Planning Package, architects, designers and energy consultants all over the world are thus able to optimise their designs and components based on clear figures.

INTERNATIONAL PASSIVE HOUSE CONFERENCE 2013

Conference and Trade Exhibition: Friday, 19 April and Saturday, 20 April

Workshops and seminars starting on Wednesday, 17 April

Excursions: Sunday, 21 April

Venue: Congress Center, Ludwig-Erhard-Anlage 1, 60327 Frankfurt, Germany

Further information and registration: www.passivehouse-conference.org

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