

Experience Passive House - International Passive House Open Days



Passive House buildings are often theme in any discussion relating to energy efficiency. The best way to understand what this building standard specifically entails is to experience it first-hand. Therefore the International Passive House Association – a network of Passive House Institute – organizes the International Passive House Open Days where residents of Passive House buildings throughout the world open their doors to the public.

Is life in a Passive House different than in other buildings? Characteristic features of the Passive House Standard include an excellent level of thermal insulation, triple-glazed windows and a ventilation system with heat recovery, among other things. Due to these components, building owners can dispense of traditional heating systems and thus, save a lot of energy and costs. Thanks to the low energy demand, Passive House buildings can also be combined well with renewable energies.

Many people are curious about this innovative concept but they still have a variety of questions about the functioning and everyday life in a Passive House. What does the living comfort feel like? How low are the heating costs in a Passive House? The Passive House Open Days are a great opportunity for the public to gain valuable knowledge and to experience the high level of living comfort offered by these buildings for themselves.

vision

The open passive house days aim at spreading the knowledge and best practices related to Passive Houses. The event helps people to understand what a Passive House entails and provides first-hand-experiences.

addressed stakeholder groups

those who want to build or renovate their own homes or buildings or who are simply interested in energy efficiency

- ▶ general public
- ▶ home owners
- ▶ architects
- ▶ municipalities

outreach

5000 – 6000 persons visit the event every year.

It takes place every second weekend in November.

Résumé

Challenges

- ▶ Many people are curious about this innovative concept but they still have a variety of questions about the functioning and everyday life in a Passive House. What does the living comfort feel like? How low are the heating costs in a Passive House? The challenge is to reach this target group so that they can take the opportunity to discover Passive Houses, talk to the residents and benefit of their experiences.
- ▶ To bring together Passive House owners and interested people is challenging. Therefore, Passive House Institute has developed a database (www.passivehouse-database.org) where you can search for Passive House buildings in your region or city. Most privately owned houses are open to the public, including those in the categories Passive House Plus and Passive House Premium, which produce renewable energy on-site or near the building itself. Other buildings such as schools, offices and even a student hostel are also be open to the public.

Recommendations

- ▶ Make as much publicity as possible for this event!
- ▶ Motivate Passive House residents to open their homes by offering attractive incentives.
- ▶ Demonstrate that opening the windows is also possible in a Passive House building!
- ▶ Get more information [here](#) !

„Sinfonia partners opened some of their buildings which were retrofitted during the project, among them a social housing and a school building in Innsbruck.

One tour was organized in a living district. The 6 buildings were in different stages of renovation so that the visitors could see the different steps of retrofitting. Some facades only started, others were already finished. This is the best way to visualize the renovation steps.”

Laszlo Lepp, Passive House Institute



Site visit in the SINFONIA demo city of Innsbruck