

## WHAT IS PASSIVE HOUSE?

Passive house (German: Passivhaus) is a rigorous, voluntary standard for energy efficiency in a building, reducing its ecological footprint. It results in ultra-low energy buildings that require little energy for space heating or cooling.

## IS THIS SOMETHING NEW?

The first true Passive House was built in Germany in 1991. More than 40,000 buildings have been constructed in the ensuing 22 years, as Passive House has become the most tested and most rigorously verified building standard.

## IS IT EXPENSIVE?

Passive House walls and windows cost more than code construction, while Passive House heating systems cost less. On balance, Passive House construction costs up to 10% more than code. Upon completion, Passive House buildings require an average of 90% less heating energy than code buildings.

Amortize the one-time construction premium over the life of a mortgage, subtract the annual savings on utility bills, and most Passive House owners save money every single year. Especially important with increased density and rising utility cost.

