

# Building Electrification, Passive House PER & California

Ken Levenson, Executive Director, The Passive House Network

September 24th, 2024



## **Zoom Orientation**

- Please be sure your full name is displayed
- Please mute upon joining
- Use "Chat" box to share questions or comments
- Under "Participant" select "Raise Hand" to share a question or comment verbally
- The session may be recorded and posted to 3C-REN's on-demand page. Feel free to ask questions via the chat and keep video off if you want to remain anonymous in the recording.



# 3C-REN: Tri-County Regional Energy Network

- Three counties working together to improve energy efficiency in the region
- Services for
  - Building Professionals: industry events, training, and energy code compliance support
  - Households: free and discounted home upgrades
- Funded by ratepayer dollars that 3C-REN returns to the region









- Serves all building professionals
- Three services
  - Energy Code Coach
  - Training and Support
  - Regional Forums
- Makes the Energy Code easy to follow

Energy Code Coach: 3c-ren.org/codes 805.781.1201 Event Registration: **3c-ren.org/events** 





- Serves current and prospective building professionals
- Expert instruction:
  - Technical skills
  - Soft skills
- Helps workers to thrive in an evolving industry

Event Registration: **3c-ren.org/events** 





Multifamily (5+ units)

- No cost technical assistance
- Rebates up to \$750/apartment plus additional rebates for specialty measures like heat pumps

Single Family (up to 4 units)

- Sign up to participate!
- Get paid for the metered energy savings of your customers

Enrollment: 3C-REN.org/contractor-participation



# Electrification Passive House PER & California

Building Electrification, Passive House PER & California

And the State

www.passivehousenetwork.org

### The Network

#### Global Knowledge. Regional Context. Local Applications







An introduction to Passive House with a deeper look at how Passive House design considers the California electrical grid, renewables, and building electrification in making climate -specific optimized designs - with local case studies.

#### Learning Objectives:

- 1. Explain Passive House principles and benefits.
- 2. Describe the Passive House strategy of Primary Energy Renewable and how it supports electrification
- 3. Outline how Passive House optimization is influenced by current and future power supply.
- 4. Describe case studies of homes that achieve all electric Passive House outcomes and the strategies and outcomes.

#### Instructor:

Ken Levenson, Executive Director, The Passive House Network. Ken was a practicing architect for over three decades, completing early Passive House projects in New York City. Committed to accelerating Passive House growth and knowledge sharing, he co founded 475 High Performance Building Supply, was a founding member of the Phius Passive House Alliance, a co -founder of New York Passive House and of NAPHN, which would become The Passive House Network (PHN). Today, as Executive Director of PHN, Ken continues to focus on driving building industry culture change with Passive House education.





- The Electrification Imperative
- Passive House Overview
- PER & Certification Classes
- Electrified Systems
- Examples
- Resources

# The Electrification Imperative

Nexus Action + Connection The Book About Q electrify everything by David Roberts Verlated Oct 27, 2007, 8-48 AM EDT

#### Call to action:

Electrify every energy flow that is currently powered by fossil fuels, including buildings, transportation, and manufacturing.

The key to tackling climate change:

10



Electrify everything.



From Homes to Cars, It's Now Time to Electrify Everything The key to skipling away from final fach is for consumers to begin replacing their home appliances, heating systems, and ears wish electric versions powered by clean electricity. The challenges are durating for the publics will change when the economic beerfus are sciencify field.

June 2024

ENERGY

Office of ENERGY EFFICIENCY & RENEWABLE ENERGY

1. Energy efficient.

National Definition of a Zero

Part 1: Operational Emissions from Energy Use, Version 1

Emissions Building

- 2. Free of on-site emissions from energy use.
- 3. Powered solely from clean energy.







### **Electrify Everything**

#### The Grid is decarbonizing & Elec Systems Improving



#### Systems Improvements:

- Cold Climate Heat Pumps
- Domestic Hot Water Heat
  Pumps
- Induction Cooktops
- Other systems

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# Gas is Going Away



• 54 California cities have enacted gas-reduction/ban policies

Map credit: Ciaralou Agpalo Palicpic Publication by: spglobal.com







#### Combustion

•Air pollutants

- Gaseous pollutants (CO, NO2, formaldehyde, etc.)
- Ultrafine particles and PM2.5
- Metals
- Moisture, odors
- Increased asthma symptoms
- Increased upper respiratory diseases in children

#### **Pre-Combustion Appliance Leakage**

•Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health report found that gas used in homes throughout the greater Boston area contains at least 21 different hazardous air pollutants that may impact air quality and health. **Before combustion.** 









## More than doubling electrical power infrastructure



Bources LLBS July, 2023. Data is based on DOE/EIA SE20 (2021). If this information or a reproduction of it is used, credit must be given to the Lawrence Externore National Laboratory and the

#### U.S. energy consumption by source and sector, 2023

quadrillion British thermal units (Btu)



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## Power grids under stress











# Home Electrification Landscape





BayREN Home Energy Score Electrification Checklist Pilot Report

### Shifting to Electric per Code = 4x Winter Peaks!



https://www.mass.gov/info-details/final-stretch-code-guideline-materials?auHash=cyHdJ0-aKeSKJLbQxVafygKhfAQT\_0NW7kiF-sgWGMk#stretch-energy-code-study-report

# If you build to model codes (IECC/ASHRAE) and swap from gas to electric heat pump space heating, the result is x4 new winter peak (woops!)

Credit: Massachusetts DOER

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### Is "Net Zero" Building the Answer?



#### Problems with Net Zero:

- 1. Focused on supply rather than demand reduction.
- 2. Favors low-rise buildings.
- 3. Encourages inefficient land use.
- 4. False sense of accomplishment.



ASHRAE's recently installed photovoltaic (PV) system.



Based on mismatch of supply & demand.

It doesn't include storage losses.

Doesn't reflect true cost.





### Performance Gap + Seasonal Mismatch =





#### Net Zero as Typically Designed







#### 40% increase in solar required to hit "Net zero"

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Credit: PassivhausTrust UK

Building Electrification, Passive House PER & California

#### www.passivehousenetwork.org

## **Passive House Enables Optimized Alignment**



Passive House reduces demand and tunes it to the power supply.

Credit: Passive House Institute

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# **Passive House Overview**

#### What is Passive House?





- Passive House is a building standard
- Applies to new & existing buildings
- The most rigorous energy efficiency certification available
- Performance -based approach
- Focuses on mastering the drivers of building performance.

### How we use fundamental elements matters



"I was working as a physicist. I read that the construction industry had experimented with adding insulation to new buildings and that energy consumption had failed to reduce. This offended me – it was counter to the basic laws of physics. I knew that they must be doing something wrong. So I made it my mission to find out what, and to establish what was needed to do it right."

- Wolfgang Feist



#### Passive House uniquely masters the elements of high -performance building.



Building industry is disconnected from the drivers of building performance. Passive House connects the dots and transforms industry expectations & capacity Passive House empowers the builders and designers to deliver high-performance core solutions.







The House at Cornell Tech

Star Garment Factory Betances V

### Power of a simple idea

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"A Passive House is a building, for which thermal comfort (ISO 7730) can be achieved solely by post -heating or post -cooling of the fresh air mass, which is required to achieve sufficient indoor air quality conditions – without the need for additional recirculation of air."

- Passive House Institute





### 5 Principles of Construction (the drivers)





#### These are the 5 things builders must focus on most intently.

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### **Right size Heating & Cooling Systems**





75% equip sizing reduction Efficient distribution (Pulled away from perimeter) Often all -electric, heat pump based.

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#### **Energy Modeling: Calculating Predictable Performance**



https://passivehouse.com/04\_phpp/04\_phpp.htm



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www.passivehousenetwork.org

## Decouple power & performance with fixed target



**Energy Balance** 



#### Not relative improvement to a baseline.

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#### Problem with codes...





Model codes (IECC/ASHRAE) have no (or low) standards w/r/t the four pillars. States must add these as adopting amendments

Credit: Massachusetts DOER

#### Massachusetts adopts



#### The four pillars that crush space heating



These are the four pillars of a thermal code and enable grid-friendly gas to electric swap – these will look familiar to PH experts

Credit: Massachusetts DOER

### Net Zero Passive House = 50% reduction in solar



Credit: PassivhausTrust UK

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#### Back to our school...





Crushing heating with thermal codes is essential to accomplish electrification of space heating – there is no new winter peak

Credit: Massachusetts DOER

# **PER & Certification Classes**

**Traditional look at source energy and emissions** is not effective in analyzing efficiency of an all -renewable system.



So, how can we properly assess the power supply?

Hint: PER

Credit: Bronwyn Barry/PassiveHouseBB

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RANSMISSION

**EFFICIENCY** 

93%

#### Shift Focus: Analysis to fit our all renewable future

Passive House jettisons the anachronistic emissions analysis and looks at renewable production & utilization.





Credit: Bronwyn Barry/PassiveHouseBB



New approach to all -renewable electric system bring new categories of questions.

1. Climate Specific (production)

How effective is the supply? (solar, wind, hydro)

How effective are different methods of renewable supply in my location? (climate/region/grid) 2. Use Specific

How well does our demand match supply? (seasonal alignment)

How do different demand profiles differ in matching supply? (DHW, Heating, Cooling, Dehumidification) 3. Site Specific (Production)

Best way to contribute to supply? (on-site, remote)

How to assess effective on site use? (floor area or footprint) 4. Assessment Method

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What's the best assessment method of supply & demand? (combined like net zero or independently?)

No longer a question of carbon emissions, or achieving "net zero."

#### Passive House Criteria: Classes & PER





#### Table 1 Passive House criteria Criteria<sup>1</sup> Alternative Criteria<sup>2</sup> Heating Heating demand [kBTU/(ft²yr)] 4.75 ≤ Heating load<sup>3</sup> [BTU/(hr.ft<sup>2</sup>) 3 17 < Cooling Cooling + dehumidification demand [kBTU/(ft²vr 4.75 + variable allowance<sup>4</sup> Airtightness 0.6 Pressurization test result nan [1/hr] Renewable Primary Energy (PER) Classic Plus Premium ±4.75 kBTU/(ft²vr) PER demand<sup>6</sup> [kBTU/(ft<sup>2</sup>yr) 19.02 14.26 9.51 < leviation from criteria. with compensation of Renewable energy generation the above deviation by (with reference to [kBTU/(ft²yr)] > 19.02 38.04 different amount of projected building footprint) generation<sup>8</sup>

We put a cap on total energy consumption, but how do we best ensure its effectiveness?

PER is the method.



#### PER Approach: weighting factors to sustainably use renewable energy





Goals:

1. Maximizing simultaneity

2. Minimizing storage needs

#### Mismatch in time of use: Reduce Energy Demand & Gap



Credit: Passive House Institute

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Credit: Passive House Institute

#### Reducing the demand in California





Passive House 'Classic' is CRUSHING heating & cooling loads in California in 2023!

2020 CA Building Climate Zones Map Source: https://gis.data.ca.gov/documents/CAEnergy::building-climate-zones/explore

Credit: Bronwyn Barry/PassiveHouseBB

## Second: Load Shifting with Thermal Resilience

Because thermal temperatures are stable there is much greater flexibility in when the space conditioning happens.

Think thermos.



Credit: Passive House Institute

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#### Passive House Crushes Summer Peak & Shifts Loads



Figure 2. Passive House and ZNE Seasonal Load Comparisons

Credit: Bronwyn Barry/PassiveHouseBB

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## **Specific Use Demands & Different Climates:**

**Use Categories** 

- 1. Heating
- 2. Cooling
- 3. Dehumidification
- 4. Hot Water
- 5. Other Elec Uses



Top left: Load profile for one week of the household electricity and domestic hot water (cold water temperature for Mannheim, Germany, Winter). Top right and below: Exemplary useful energy profiles from different climates for heating, cooling and dehumidification.

Credit: Passive House Institute

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#### Match of Supply to Use Determines Storage Need



Example of hourly load profiles of RE electricity (cumulative) and electricity demand for a Passive House in Stuttgart. The left represents a week during winter with little RE availability, compared to a week during summer on the right, with much higher RE supply. The two graphs below show the simultaneous storage level of the short-term storage.

Credit: Passive House Institute

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#### **Different Grids Have Different Potential Utilization**





Map of eGRID Subregions

No building stands alone: regions, grids, nations - it all blends.

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#### What your doing and where you're doing it matters.

PER weighting factors different for:

- Electricity use → consumer specific
- Location  $\rightarrow$  climate specific



Electric Factors are regionally, climate, and consumer use specific The

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energy carrier	PER-factor
electricity	climate and consumer specific
gas	<b>1.75</b> methane from renewables (power-to-gas efficiency)
biomass	1.1 with limited budget
CHP district heating	assessment of system efficiency compared to alternative power plant
heating oil	2.3 methanol from renewables (power-to-liquid)

### Traditional Weighting vs. PER



Energy Type	U.S. Ratio	Canadian Ratio	PER factor
Electricity (Grid Purchase)	2.80	1.96	1 - 2 depending on use
Electricity (Onsite Solar or Wind - regardless of REC ownership)	1.00	1.00	
Natural Gas	1.05	1.01	1.75
Fuel Oil (No. 1,2,4,5,6, Diesel, Kerosene)	1.01	1.01	2.3
Propane & Liquid Propane	1.01	1.04	
Steam	1.20	1.33	
Hot Water	1.20	1.33	
Chilled Water	0.91	0.57	
Wood	1.00	1.00	
Coal/Coke	1.00	1.00	
Other	1.00	1.00	

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#### **Traditional Conversions vs. PER**





Credit: Passive House Institute

#### Results in PER numbers adjusted to place & use



Credit: Bronwyn Barry/PassiveHouseBB

PER Assesment for California's Largest Cities										
Utility		PG&E		SMUD	LADWP	SDG&E				
City	San Francisco	San Jose	Fresno	Sacramento	Los Angeles	San Diego				
Energy demand		Prima	Primary Energy Renewables (PER) factor							
Reference: Treated floor area			kBTU,	/kBTU						
Heating										
Electricity	1.70	1.70	1.75	1.80	1.50	1.30				
District heating: 20-Gas CGS	0.85 1.32	0.85 1.32	0.85 1.36	0.85 1.39	0.85 1.16	0.85 1.01				
70% PHC	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.93	0.93				
Wood and other biomass	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10				
Natural gas / RE gas	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75				
Oil, Coal, Methanol / RE methar	2.30	2.30	2.30	2.30	2.30	2.30				
Cooling and dehumidification										
Electricity cooling	1.00	1.00	1.05	1.00	1.15	1.25				
Electricity dehumidification	1.05	1.10	1.15	1.00	1.40	1.55				
DHW generation										
Electricity (heat pump)	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.20	1.20				
District heating: 20-Gas CGS	0.85 1.32	0.85 1.32	0.85 1.36	0.85 1.39	0.85   1.16	0.85 1.01				
70% PHC	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.93	0.93				
Wood and other biomass	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10				
Natural gas / RE gas	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75				
Heating oil / Methanol	2.30	2.30	2.30	2.30	2.30	2.30				
Solar thermal system	0.27	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.30	0.30				
Other building energy uses										
Electricity lighting, etc.)	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.20	1.20				
Auxiliary electricity (other)	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.20	1.20				
Gas / RE gas dry/cook	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75				
Energy generation			PER							
Reference: Projected Footprint Area			PER factor							
		kBTU/kBTU								
PV electricity	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00				
Solar thermal system	0.27	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.30	0.30				
User determined energy carrier	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00				

Source: PHPPv.9

Credit: Bronwyn Barry/PassiveHouseBB

The

#### PER makes fossil use difficult in Berkeley CA



Based on certified Passive House project in Berkeley, California ID 6064 on www.passivehouse-database.org



Credit: Passive House Institute

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### Supply : Shifts to Independent Assessment

The question is how to most effectively contribute to the power supply?



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Net Zero goes away. Instead: How are we utilizing the building footprint?



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#### Supply: Shift to Independent Assessment



Consequently, we don't penalize tall buildings.



# **Electrified Systems**



#### Occupancy:

- 1. Single Family
- 2. Multifamily



#### **PER Use Categories**

- 1. Heating Heat Pumps
- 2. Cooling Heat Pumps
- 3. Dehumidification Heat Pumps
- 4. Domestic Hot Water Heat Pumps
- 5. Other Elec Uses
  - a. Ventilation
  - b. Cooking (induction)
  - c. Clothes Drying (resistance or heat pump)
  - d. LED lighting & misc plug loads.
  - e. Car

## Single Family: Heating, Cooling & Dehumidification

Much smaller load and great flexibility in locating distribution outlets: surface mounted, recessed, ducted.



The

# Single Family: Domestic Hot Water



Much smaller load and great flexibility in locating distribution outlets: surface mounted, recessed, ducted.

Considerations:

- Heat pump inside is loud.
- If heat exchange is not ducted, will likely cause thermal discomfort.



Packaged unit with heat pump on top of tank & ducted to exterior.



Split unit with heat pump outside similar to AC.

#### **Other Electrical Uses**



**Ventilation Units**: Efficiency is critical - both heat recovery & fan power.







Induction Cooktops & Elec Ovens:





Unvented Condensing or Heat Pump Clothes Dryer



Car



Cars are not calculated in the home energy demand of a Passive House.

HOWEVER, the reduction in energy demand Passive House provides, can effectively deliver free car charging.



#### **Multifamily Ventilation**



Systems can be centralized or decentralized.

**Decentralized** - unit by unit, can use the residential systems.

**Centralized** are higher capacity, often roof mounted, with duct risers delivering to whole building.



#### **Centralized Certified Units**

## Multifamily Heating & Cooling & Dehumidification

Also heat pump dominated.

Systems can be centralized or decentralized.

To **limit refrigerant lines**, distribution may be through hydronic piping to local distribution coils, OR, by using Package Terminal Heat Pumps.



Centralized Air -Source Heat Pumps With Distribution Zones





Decentralized Through -Wall Package Terminal Heat Pumps (PTHP)

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#### **Multifamily Domestic Hot Water**



Also heat pump dominated.

Systems can be centralized or decentralized.





Credit: Steven Winter Associates

#### **Multifamily Domestic Hot Water**



Also heat pump dominated.

Systems can be centralized or decentralized.







Credit: Steven Winter Associates

## **Multifamily Domestic Hot Water: Decentralized**

Efficient piping runs.

Individual Hot Water Heat Pumps.

Duct to, and access from the corridor, for best performance.



Credit: Steven Winter Associates



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# Case Studies in California & Beyond
## Sunnyvale CA Retrofit



- 1500 SF
- Heating load 4795 BTU/1405 watts
- Cooling load 2650 BTU/775 watts
- Net zero 9 kW solar PV system







Credit: Bronwyn Barry/PassiveHouseBB

## Equipment









Credit: Bronwyn Barry/PassiveHouseBB

#### Crushing Heat Demand (& Total Energy)



Credit: Bronwyn Barry/PassiveHouseBB

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#### Tuned Performance for "True Net Zero" w/ car



Credit: Bronwyn Barry/PassiveHouseBB

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## Single Family: Los Angeles



- 1791 SF
- Heating load 1850 BTU/540 watts
- Cooling load 5400 BTU/1580 watts
- Net Zero with 9kW Solar PV









Credit: Paravant Architects

#### Heat pump water heater Mini-split heating/cooling

- Heat recovery ventilation
- Exterior shades

# Equipment

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• Induction cooktop



















### Hotel Marcel: Certified Retrofit, New Haven CT



• 90,000 SF

Certified Retrofit Passive Hause Institute

- 165 Guest Rooms, Conf Center, Restaurant
- 1.5 MWh microgrid with over 1,000 solar panels







Mitsubishi Heat20 air source heat pumps



Credit: Becker + Becker Architects

#### **Commercial Electric Dryers & Kitchen!**





**Electrolux Heat Pump Dryers** 

### 60% Reduction in Energy Use



.

#### FIGURE 5

#### Total Site Energy Use and Intensity by Building Sector, 2019

Data: LL84 2019 filtered for data quality, emissions, energy and property type; N = 18,039





#### Resources



Building Database - <u>https://passivehouse-database.org/index.php?lang=en</u>
Certification Criteria - https://passivehouse.com/03_certification/02_certification_buildings/08_energy_standards/08_energy_standards.html
Certification Guide - https://passivehouse.com/03_certification/02_certification_buildings/09_guide/09_guide.html
Certified Components - https://database.passivehouse.com/en/components/
Certifiers Globally - https://passivehouse.com/03_certification/02_certification_buildings/03_certifiers/01_accredited/01_accredited.html
Certified Passive House Designer Training - https://passivehousenetwork.org/designer-training/
Certified Passive House Tradesperson Training - https://passivehousenetwork.org/tradesperson-training/
ISO 9972 - https://www.iso.org/standard/55718.html
Manager Declaration Sample - https://passipedia.org/ media/picopen/construction_manager_declaration.pdf
North American Certifiers Circle - https://passivehousenetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/NACC-Brochure-Jan-2023.pdf
Passipedia - <u>https://passipedia.org/start</u>
Passive House Certification - https://passivehousenetwork.org/certification/
Passive House Definition - https://passipedia.org/basics/the_passive_housedefinition
Passive House - Historical Review - https://passipedia.org/basics/the_passive_househistorical_review
Passive House Planning Package (PHPP) - <u>https://passivehouse.com/04_phpp/04_phpp.htm</u>
PER-Factors for electricity use: Location & application specific decarbonization - <a href="https://passipedia.org/certification/passive_house_categories/per">https://passipedia.org/certification/passive_house_categories/per</a>
Primary Energy Renewable PER - https://passipedia.org/basics/energy_and_ecology/primary_energy_renewable_per
Safe at Home PHN Report - https://passivehousenetwork.org/safe-at-home/
Sample Submission Documents - https://passipedia.org/certification/certified_passive_houses/example_documents
Summer Comfort - <u>https://passipedia.org/planning/summer_comfort</u>
Thermal Comfort - https://passipedia.org/basics/building_physicsbasics/thermal_comfort
Vancouver Passive House Checklist - https://passivehousenetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/Vancouver-Passive-House-Verification-Plan-Checklist-2023.pdf
Ventilation Duct Leakage Testing - https://passivehousenetwork.org/product/multifamily-ventilation-duct-leakage-targets-strategies-and-lessons-learned/



www.passivehousenetwork.org

## **Questions about Title 24?**



## **3C-REN offers a** *free* **Code Coach Service**



Energy Code Coaches are local experts who can help answer your Title 24 questions. Coaches have decades of experience in green building and energy efficiency improvements. They can provide citations and offer advice for your project to help your plans and forms earn approval the first time.

# Closing

- Continuing Education Units Available
  - Contact info@3c-ren.org for AIA LUs
- Coming to Your Inbox Soon!
  - Slides, Recording, & Survey Please Take It and Help Us Out!
- Upcoming Courses:
  - September 30 October 4 Passive Design/Build Boot Camp with Emu Passive Hands On Training and Exam
  - October 9- <u>All-Electric Retrofits with Electrical Panel Constraints</u>
  - October 10 <u>Certified Passive House Designer/Consultant (CPHD) Pacific Fall Hybrid Cohort</u>
  - October 15 <u>A Builder's Perspective on Zero Net Energy</u>
  - October 18- Building the Future: Electrification Strategies for Electricians
- Visit <u>www.3c-ren.org/events</u> for our full catalog of trainings.





#### Thank you!

For more info: 3c-ren.org

For questions: info@3c-ren.org



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