

6-27-18

Good afternoon!

We are excited to learn that the Mass Save 2019-2021 “Three-Year Plan” is potentially incorporating Passive House components into the program.

I am certified in all 4 disciplines of (PHIUS) Passive House: Certified Passive House Consultant, Certified Passive House Builder, PHIUS+ Rater, and Verifier. This knowledge has greatly influenced my work as an energy consultant. These disciplines are continually evolving to produce energy efficiency, durability, and value engineering to meet climate specific needs wherever you build. Any time that I can add to my bag of tricks, I **will**, and pass it on to the customers I serve.

As a practicing consultant involved in the Mass Save program, I have seen that rebates and incentives have been instrumental in encouraging builders, developers, landlords and homeowners to make energy efficient choices during the construction process.

The three-year plan illustrates the past successes achieved by attacking the low hanging fruit. **Education**, whether it be through webinars, trade shows, code training, working with HERS Raters, or partnering with contractor teams to reduce energy use, has been the reason for this success.

While I have some differences with the proposed three-year plan with regard to its administration, it is clear that there is a need to address existing building stock. The new program proposes a “paradigm shift” by the program administrators and threatens the private sector involvement. I encourage the plan administrators and PA’s to *build* and continue working with the rater community, *increasing* their roles as third-party verifiers for the Multifamily High-Rise Program and the New Gut Renovation/Addition sectors, especially as it relates to PH, as these programs require certification. This third-party relationship employs many people and is ready to expand to fill the needs of our state. **We look forward to assisting program administrators to continue their excellent work in maintaining Massachusetts highly-coveted standing.**

In the past, PH projects (the majority of which were all-electric) did not receive the favor gas projects received. Measuring the savings in MMBTU's levels the playing field for both electric and gas to calculate savings.

The Commonwealth has an ambitious plan (Senate Bill #1849) to steadily transition MA to 100 percent clean, renewable energy by 2050.

100 Percent Renewable Energy Act

Section 1. The purpose of this chapter is to steadily transition the commonwealth to 100 percent clean, renewable energy by 2050 in order to (1) avoid pollution of our air, water and land, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and ultimately eliminate our use of fossil fuels and other polluting and dangerous forms of energy; (2) increase energy security by reducing our reliance on imported sources of energy and maximizing renewable energy production in Massachusetts and in our region; (3) increase economic development by stimulating public and private investments in clean energy and energy efficiency projects; (4) create local jobs by harnessing Massachusetts' skilled workforce, business leadership, and academic institutions to advance new technologies, improve the energy performance of homes and workplaces, and deploy renewable energy across the commonwealth; and (5) improve the quality of life and economic well-being of all Massachusetts residents, with an emphasis on communities and populations that have been disproportionately affected by pollution and high costs under our energy system.

Incorporating Passive House practices to build our housing and commercial projects will set us up to meet the above 2050 mandates and achieve state-wide goals. Educating professionals to design and construct Passive House buildings will help with this transformation of the Commonwealth to a cleaner brighter future, transforming the private sector through retooling the way we build and renovate. Massachusetts is a

mecca for education and modern technologies; it is only fitting that Passive House construction which achieves the **highest level of energy reduction be incentivized**. It is the least-used alternative in the current building code to meet energy standards, which it does.... and then some! There is no other approved code path that accomplishes what PH does in the reduction of energy.

The PAs in New York have recognized this and are supporting training of PH professionals through NYSERTA. Passive House MA is affiliated with both Passive House training networks. We are hosting a series of certification trainings and testing to educate the trades and professional services sectors. Currently there is a small group in MA who are qualified to design and build using these practices, which makes training **vital** important. Increasing the number of professionals able to implement PH techniques will pave the way to making it standard practice for the construction industry in MA.

MassSave can play an important role in ensuring that the state achieves our long-term goal of 2050, embracing this transition to an energy efficient future through the support of PH.

We currently have the blueprint in PH to maximize energy savings. We ask your help with the resources needed to train our highly motivated practitioners and craftspeople to meet the needs of our state and our long-term goals. We realize that PAs need to show savings for each 3-year program, but it might be necessary to look farther into the future to realize the savings of transforming the construction industry. **We also** feel strongly about the need to calculate the benefits of a cleaner, healthier, less polluting environment going forward.

Thank you for your support of Passive House,

Questions?

John S. Rodenhizer

[CPHC /PHIUS Certified Builder/PHIUS+ Rater/Certified PHIUS+ Verifier](#)

[JSR Adaptive Energy Solutions](#)

jsr@jsradaptivenergy.com

978-468-0297 office 508-734-0177 cell