

Memo

10/13/20

To: Mass EEAC

From: Hank Keating, AIA, President, Passive House Massachusetts

EEAC Three-Year Plan 2022-2024 Testimony

RE: Passive House Training Program

The current Three-Year Plan includes a Passive House Training Program (PHTP) that was created at the same time as the Passive House Incentive Program (PHIP) in order to insure that the Massachusetts design and construction industries would be able to quickly gain the expertise needed to produce energy efficient, cost effective and durable multifamily passive house projects across the State of Massachusetts. The PHTP offered 50% tuition rebates for certified professional trainings from PHIUS and PHI including Designers, Consultants, Builders and Verifiers. The goal was to certify 100+/- professionals and the PHTP is on track to meet this goal. In addition, the program funded Wentworth Institute of Technology to purchase a one year license from PHIUS to teach, and certify, as many students as they can in one academic year. This could easily produce another 20 + Certified Passive House Consultants to enter the Massachusetts design and construction workforce.

In addition to the Certification programs mentioned above, the PHTP provided, free-of-charge, over 20 "Lunch and Learns" and 8 Workshops to professionals across the State. Together, to date, these trainings have reached over 600 architects, engineers, contractors, cost estimators, developers, city and town officials, and interested citizens. These trainings are on track to continue through the end of 2021 when the current Three-Year Plan ends.

The goal of both the PHIP and the associated PHTP is market transformation to passive house as a new standard for energy efficient multifamily housing, both affordable and market rate. This transformation is underway but it must be reinforced. We are recommending that the PHIP be replicated in the next Three-Year Plan. We would also recommend that the PHTP be replicated and added to during the next Three-Year Plan. The interest in, and enthusiasm for, these trainings has not subsided. The need to train as many design and construction professionals as possible remains. We recommend the same budgeted resources be replicated for the next Three-Year Plan.

In addition, we support a proposal to expand the next PHTP to include partial tuition reimbursements to students taking qualified courses at technical institutes and community colleges. The goal would be to develop the local workforce's skills specifically for passive house and other green technologies such as air source heat pump installation and maintenance, air sealing and blower door testing, PV system installation and maintenance, super insulation techniques, geothermal systems, heat recovery systems, waste water heat recovery systems, etc. The industry needs more trained technicians and equity demands that they come from local neighborhoods. There will be more specific suggestions for these type of training programs at the Listening Sessions and Workshops devoted to workforce development.

We applaud the EEAC's decision to create the successful PHTP for the current Three-Year Plan and we strongly encourage it's continuation and expansion in the next Three-Year Plan.

