

## EEAC Three-Year Plan 2022-2024 Testimony

### RE: Passive House Training Program

Passive House Massachusetts previously submitted recommendations for the 2022-2024 Statewide Energy Efficiency Plan that included a letter in support of the existing Passive House Training Program and urging its continuation and expansion for the next three-year period. We were pleased to see that this was included in the released draft plan and hope to see it detailed further in the final version.

The current program, which was put into place as part of the 2019-2021 plan, has been a large success and responsible for training nearly 1,000 Massachusetts architects, builders, developers, engineers, and tradespeople on the skills, methods, and knowledge needed to build to the Passive House standard. This includes 34 Lunch & Learn sessions and 14 Workshops put on directly by this program as well as numerous Passive House certification trainings that have been partially reimbursed through this program. Geographically, this includes trainings that were conducted in-person in Boston, Cambridge, Newton, Worcester, and Lenox.

These numbers exceed the original goals for Lunch & Learns and Workshops and are on track to meet the revised goals by the end of the year. While the Covid-19 pandemic brought unexpended challenges over this past year, the program was successfully able to adapt and expand into providing virtual content and creating an online learning center where past sessions can be watched on-demand. The recordings made available on this online learning center have amassed over 1,400 views (note that this number almost certainly includes people watching multiple videos and does represent total unique viewers). This demonstrates the large interest in and demand for these trainings as well as the quality of the content that it can continue to be relevant long after the initial session.

The sessions put on by the program have varied and seek to provide a comprehensive program for Passive House education. They introductory-level include Passive House 101 and 201 courses that have been put on for general audiences in-person and online as well as directly at offices of large architect firms. They also include sessions with experienced professionals sharing lessons learned and case-studies of projects, specialized courses on ventilation strategies, solar heat gain, and heat pump system design, and a multi-session workshop series on construction methods for contractors and tradespeople.

This program should continue for the next three-year period and be expanded to reach new audiences across the state. As the use of Passive House grows, in no small part due to the incentive program offered, the demand for trainings will only continue to grow as well. With a return to in-person sessions, we hope to create more hands-on content for carpenters and tradespeople, expand the audience to include real estate brokers, and bring more Passive House sessions to parts of the state outside of Greater Boston.

Additionally, we would like to see the program content and funding expanded to include existing buildings and renovations, especially if the incentive program expands to include these project types as well. While many of the skills needed to renovate existing buildings to the Passive House standard are shared with new construction, there are some specialized issues and lessons that would be applicable only to renovators.

Lastly, we would like to support the workforce training programs that mitigate equity issues and help bring workforce development to underserved populations and provide a platform to grow the building industry equitably. The Climate Bill is directing \$12 million per year to the MassCEC to develop

workforce development programs. This is a fantastic opportunity for the 3-year plan to jump start an equitable workforce development plan. Have the Program Administrators start to work with the MassCEC in these programs and have the three-year plan include specific goals for the programs and the staffing required to carry them out.

In conclusion, we applaud the EEAC's decision to create the successful PHTP under the current Three-Year Plan and we strongly encourage it's continuation and expansion in this next Three-Year Plan.

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