

FINAL



November 28, 2012

## **Passive House California Annual Member Report, 2012**

The following document is a report to our members on the progress being made by Passive House California. The Board of Directors shares this in the hope that it will allow full transparency regarding how the organization is evolving and encourage active participation and feedback from the membership.

### **Public and Professional Outreach**

We hosted a full calendar of meetings both in Berkeley at Pyramid Breweries, and our Silicon Valley chapter hosted a few meetings in the Palo Alto, San Jose and Santa Cruz.

#### **Bay Area Group:**

- Jan: Blower Door Testing for PH
- Feb: Das Haus Tour and PH Pre-Fab Mini-Conference (120 attendees)
- Mar: PHA Contractor Training Report-Back, Benefits and Insights
- Apr: ASHRAE 62.2 - Ventilation & Code
- May: Hygrothermal Modeling & Analysis Using WUFI
- June: Advancements in Passive House – Report back from Hannover
- July: PH Modern – High Design Meets High Performance
- Aug: no meeting (but a Hike in Marin.)
- Sept: PHIUS and the DOE – what does this mean?
- Oct: Heat Flow Analysis Software: MOLD
- Nov: Open House Tours, Greenbuild Passive House Zone, PHCA Mixer
- Dec: AGM and Holiday Party

#### Silicon Valley Group:

- July: Santa Cruz meeting at Uncommon Brewers
- Oct: Palo Alto jobsite meeting



#### Other events:

- ACI Conference Participation by PHCA with booth and speaker presence
- One Sky Homes Celebration of CEC award as 1<sup>st</sup> Net Zero new build in CA with attendance by Federal, State and local political representatives, Department of Energy Rep, PHCA BOD and PHIUS co-founder.
- Presentations by Mary James and Bronwyn Barry at the International PH Conference in Hannover, Germany
- A Film Festival Event at the Roxy Theater in San Francisco with a VIP pre-event visit to the Zero Cottage Passive House
- Presentations by PHCA members at the PHIUS Conference in Denver.

## Board of Directors Projects & Initiatives

**501c3 Non-Profit Status:** Final documents were submitted to the Federal Tax Office to apply for official non-profit status. This was done with the review and guidance of a local lawyer who specializes in working with small non-profit organizations such as ours. Our application is under review and the end of 2012 expects a response. Bronwyn Barry and Barbara Oldershaw started this initiative in 2011.

**Website Rebuild:** an ongoing effort to update the website and add additional features to make it both more user-friendly and build features that our membership will find helpful. A new project database feature has been created to record and display the locations of all Passive House projects in the State of California. Membership registration and information collection is now automated so that the membership database will be self-managing. Craig Hollow and Katy Hollbacher have lead the website re-design effort with the help of a Drupal specialist consultant hired by PHCA to implement the bulk of the technical upgrades. Work on the website is ongoing and additional volunteer contributions will be gratefully received!

**Membership Restructuring:** New membership levels and benefits have been developed to allow PHCA to offer iPHA Professional membership. A lower tier

Supporter level was created to allow for non-professionals to join. This tier also allows non-professionals to participate in PHCA activities and is also an option to allow support a PHAUS chapter, should they prefer that affiliation. James Bill and Sylvia Wallis managed this complex process.

**iPHA Affiliation:** Negotiations to join the International Passive House Association were completed and PHCA is now an official member of the International PH Community. Benefits include access to the Passipedia Database and access to local PHPP climate files for our Professional level members. A voice in the development and direction of the global Passive House movement is an added benefit. James Bill and Sylvia Wallis negotiated this agreement on behalf of all PHCA members.

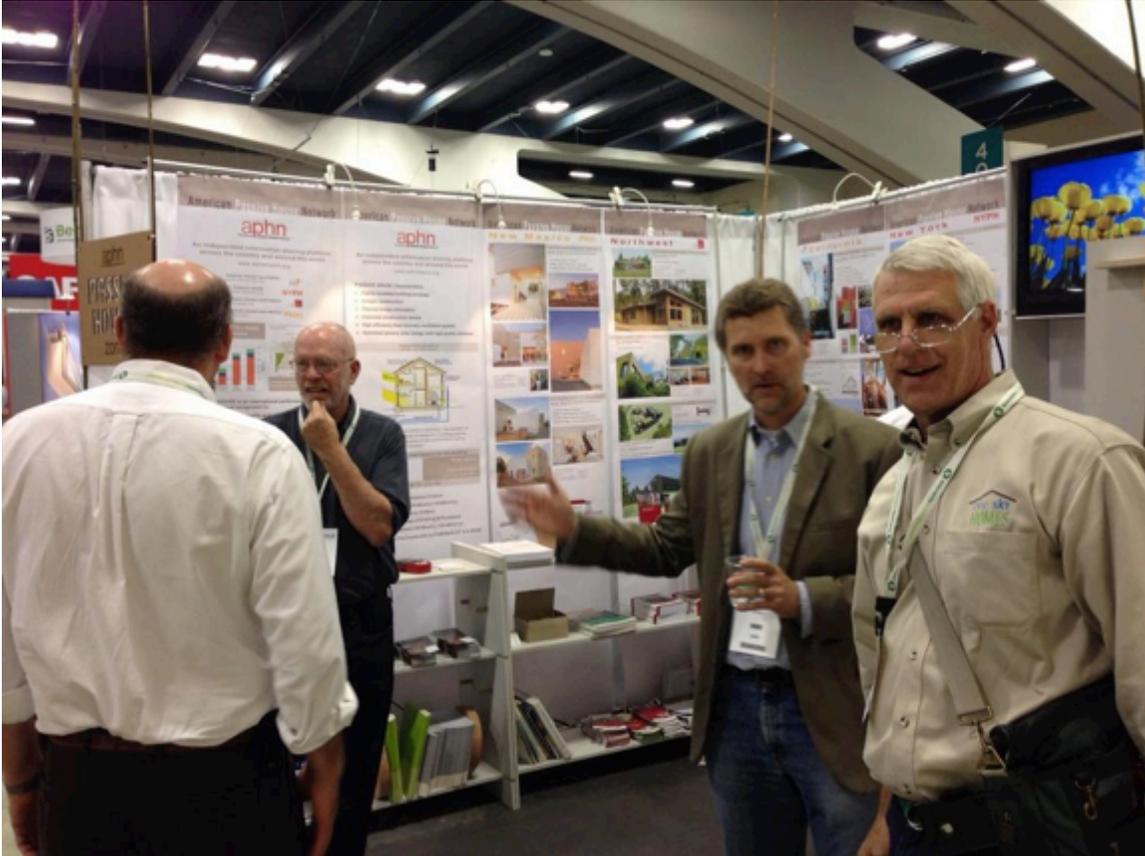
**American Passive House Network:** Ongoing participation in the North American network of regional, independent Passive House organizations has enabled PHCA Board members to share resources and experiences with other existing PH groups across North America. Benefits of this shared communication have included sharing legal structure documents and updates on successful events across the country. This helps ensure that we build active, self-supporting local communities with the greatest chance of successful outcomes for our efforts to promote Passive House adoption, while remaining connected to the growing International Passive House community.

By joining together to form a National Network, the APHN was able to secure a special meeting with Dr. Wolfgang Feist, Dr. Witta Ebel and iPHA representatives at the International PH Conference in Hannover Conference. This meeting focused on how to promote Passive House in North America. An agreement of mutual support was reached but no specific action items were finalized. A special dinner for all North American conference delegates was organized by the APHN to encourage international cooperation and build local alliances and support for PH in North America. Attendees from across the US and Canada were joined by a group of international delegates (with no party of their own) whom we invited to break bread with us.

The original APHN affiliates group expanded to four regional affiliates and is expected to continue to grow. The APHN now comprises: Passive House North West, New York Passive House, Passive House New Mexico and PHCA. Together, we boast over 350 members and are the largest independent Passive House advocacy group in North America.

Successful APHN efforts this year include a PHPP Dashboard Competition, a large Passive House Zone at Greenbuild and the coordination of a Window Certification Workshop. (The latter hosted by the APHN in collaboration with the Passive House Institute.) The APHN successfully co-sponsored a webinar with the Passive House Alliance US group (PHAUS.) The APHN is committed to remain 'agnostic' as regards certification and training bodies and therefore lists

any and all events and trainings related to Passive House across the North American Continent. We anticipate that the roundtable, democratic leadership structure of the APHN will ensure its continued success.



## Fundraisers & Events

**Laney College PassivHaus:** A series of four design charettes were held in January, February and March, to collectively generate a cost-effective design for a retrofit project that Laney College Carpentry Department students will eventually build. The charettes encouraged great membership registration as they were reserved for PHCA members, Laney Faculty and Oakland Rotary members.

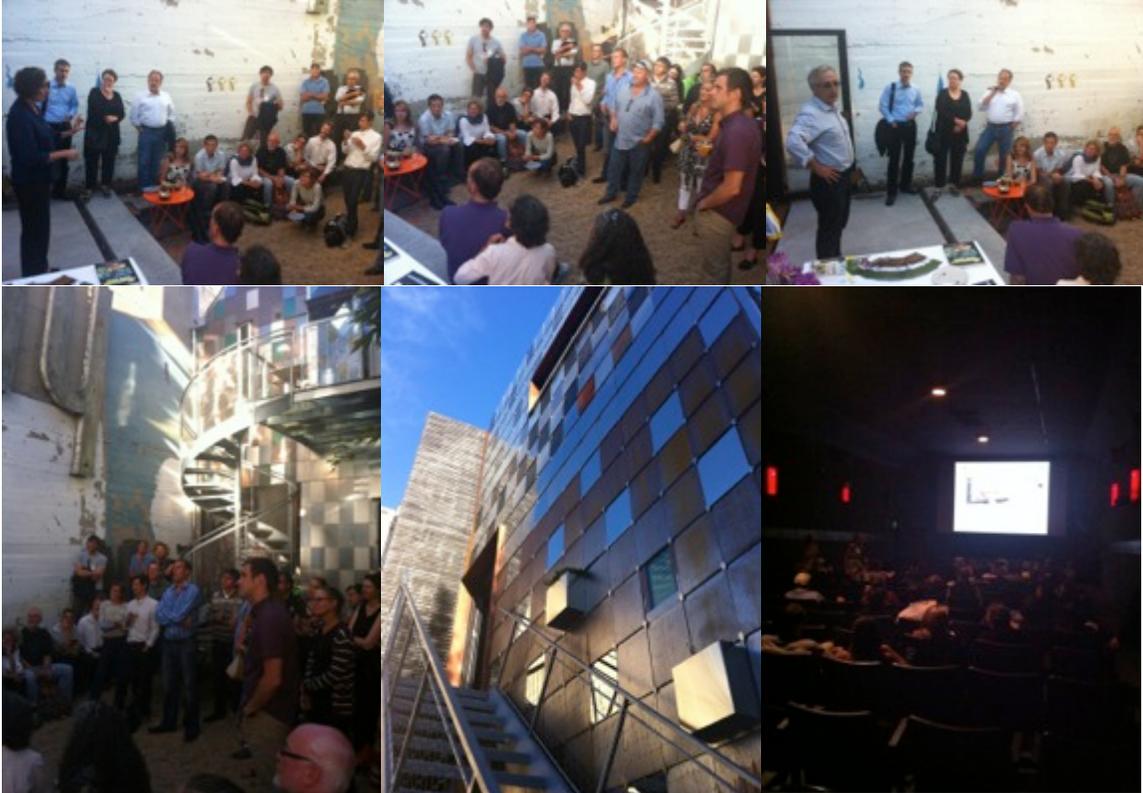


A small team of volunteers has been meeting periodically since March to finalize the permit drawing set, based on the designs generated during the Charettes. This team includes PHCA members: Chuck Campanella, George Nesbitt, Craig Hollow, Chris Polk, Andrew Arnold and Bronwyn Barry. Ongoing meetings to finalize insurance policies, liability distribution, contracts and a Memorandum of Understanding between the various parties involved are almost complete. We anticipate that this project will finally start construction in early 2013.

**DasHaus Visit to SF:** PHCA was able to co-host a mini-conference on Pre-Fab Passive House during the February visit of the traveling DasHaus showcase to San Francisco. The event featured three excellent speakers: Raymond Neutra, the son of Richard Neutra, shared his father's pioneering work with prefabrication here in 1920's and '30's California; Nabih Tahan spoke about the work of an Austrian company that is building all-wood pre-fab high-rise buildings; and Albert Rooks presented on his own efforts at building prefab wall assemblies up in Olympia, Washington. We had a packed audience of excited learners. Our thanks to the DasHaus team and the German American Chamber of Commerce for hosting us and treating us to some excellent food and beverages.



**Passive House Film Festival & VIP Event:** The Roxie Theater in San Francisco was leased to screen two movies about Passive House. Charlie Hoxie's 'Passive Passion' and Faith Morgan's in-process 'Passive House Comes Home' drew a large audience of new faces to a PHCA event. A special VIP Pre-movie event was held nearby at David Baker's Zero Cottage Passive House project. Sponsors enjoyed a short presentation by the Film Makers and a special tour of the cottage, followed by cocktails and hors d'oeuvres.



**International Open House Days:** PHCA collaborated with local PHAUS-SF members to promote a free tour of seven Passive House projects around the Bay Area. Participants reported a good turn-out and steady stream of visitors to these ground-breaking projects. We thank all our volunteers, but especially the home-owners of these projects for allowing us to use your homes to promote this building approach.

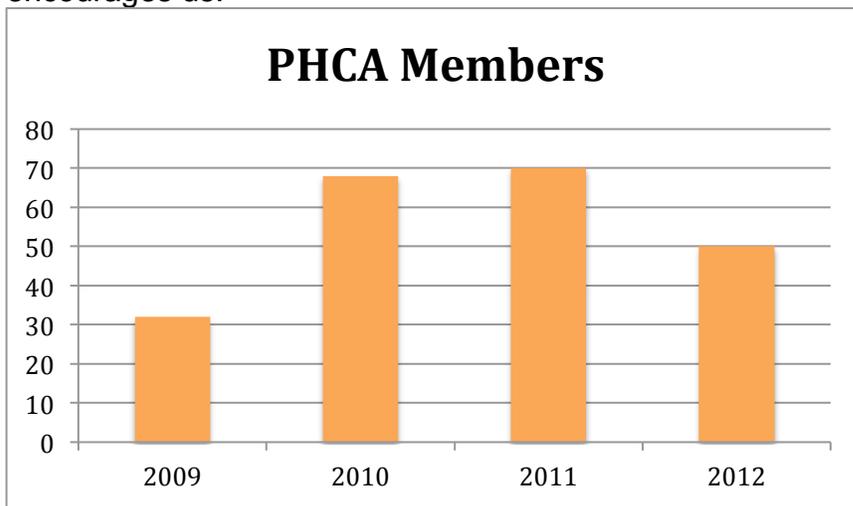
**Greenbuild Mixer with VIP Guests:** PHCA hosted a special mixer event as the local APHN affiliate and host of the Passive House Zone. 450 Architects kindly offered their offices as the venue where we celebrated a highly successful two days in the Greenbuild Expo. We were also able to formally welcome our two guests visiting from the Passive House Institute to conduct the PHI Window Certification Workshop the following day. Sarah Mekjian is the co-chair of iPHA and the communications specialist at PHI and Dr. Benjamin Krick heads up the window certification program there. We had a great time meeting them.

## Membership

This year PHCA made a few major leaps and experienced a few small setbacks. Our organization formally became affiliated with the International Passive House Association (iPHA.) This allows our members to access a wealth of information stored on Passipedia and the opportunity to participate in a very active international online forum. This affiliation required an increase in membership

dues for 'Professional' membership. We negotiated a second-tier 'Supporter' level to allow participation by those only interested in local information. We anticipate some adjustments to this fee structure may be required, but look forward to seeing the response to this move from our core membership base.

Our minor setback this year was that PHIUS chose to open a local chapter here in San Francisco. We had hoped that by continuing to include and distribute all information regarding PHIUS events and trainings in our newsletter, that a separate, competing organization would not be needed. We have reached out to this group to encourage them to remain connected with the original Passive House community here in California. The cooperative spirit enjoyed with this group during the International Passive House Days in early November encourages us.



## Financial Overview

Current bank balance as of Oct. 8, 2012: \$7,921.58  
(Down from \$12,542.00 in March 2012.)

Where was the money invested?

- Legal fees for final 501©3 non-profit filing documents and periodic legal advice on various events and topics
- Website consultant to transfer website to new Drupal version and generate new features
- ACI Conference Booth and sponsorship
- All PHCA-sponsored events operated at a net profit

We anticipate that the current drop in funds will be offset by our upcoming sponsorship campaign. This process was delayed due to the extra effort required by PHCA in hosting the Greenbuild APHN Passive House Zone.

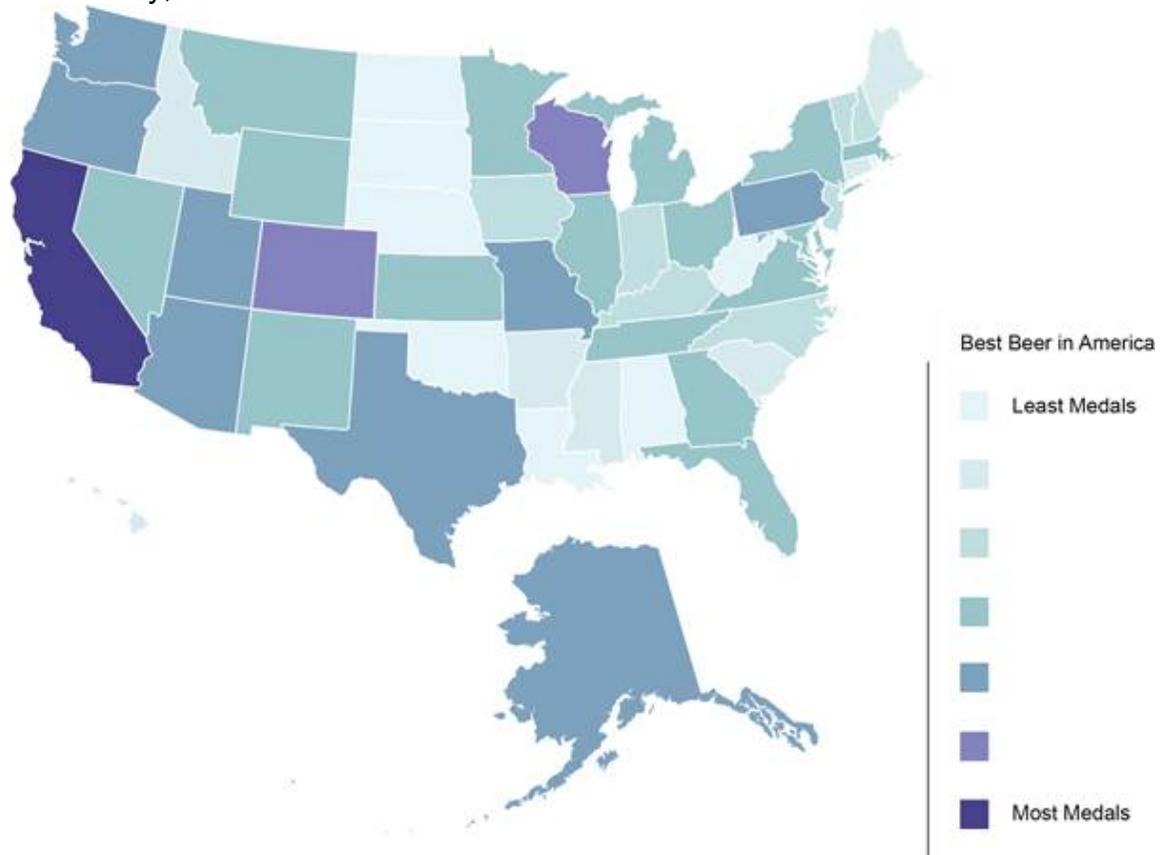
## Where to in 2013?

The current board is researching funding sources to hire an Executive Director to lead PHCA in the coming years. We are discussing ways to share this expense (and resource) with our partner organizations at the APHN. PHCA will also endeavor to sponsor studies of the Passive House projects already built here in California. (There are currently around 30 projects completed or under construction.) We would like to look at how these projects compare to typical Title 24-compliant projects and benchmark their performance compared to similar conventional buildings.

The PHCA Board encourages suggestions and feedback from our members on how to promote Passive House here in California and fulfill the goals we collectively set forth in our mission:

*The mission of Passive House California is to educate the public about the Passive House building performance standard and help to create healthy, comfortable, durable, energy- and resource-efficient buildings and communities.*

Since our meetings are aligned closely with beer and breweries, we anticipate that Passive House success in California will mirror that of the micro-brewing community, illustrated here:



We thank you for your active help, encouragement and membership this past year and hope you will continue your support into 2013.

PHCA 2012

Board of Directors:

Bronwyn Barry

Craig Hollow

Mary James

Barbara Oldershaw

James Bill

George Nesbitt

Sylvia Wallis

Kurt Hurley

Dave Calkins