



June 11, 2018

North American Passive House Network (NAPHN) Technical Committee

As the Passive House standard gains acceptance in North America, new and unexpected issues are continually being uncovered and older solutions being revised and updated for new materials, technology and market conditions. In order to assist North American practitioners in overcoming common technical hurdles and to encourage the broader adoption of the Passive House standard in North America, NAPHN proposes to form a Technical Committee to address these issues in an ongoing fashion.

The proposed committee will be formed of experts from throughout North America who are experienced and knowledgeable about Passive House engineering and design. This all volunteer committee will meet on a recurring basis for specific purposes to be outlined by committee organizers. There will be no 'standing' meetings but rather project-specific timetables and clear deliverables will be identified for projects and executed on an appropriate schedule as determined by committee members.

Committee Tasks

The NAPHN Technical Committee will be made of subject matter experts whose primary task will be to collaborate on producing useful technical guidance documents for distribution through NAPHN website and North American trainings.

In addition to this primary task, the committee may from time to time also work on issues of:

- Reviewing proposals and requests from North American practitioners for additional needed technical guidance documents on specific subjects
- Responding to specific requests (for data, for review of rulings or new protocols, etc.) made by PHI to local affiliates through the iPHA Technical Panel forum. This may include working with practitioners around North America to gather information and solicit responses to proposed rules or protocols, as well as original research work.
- Identifying areas of needed research and development and find methods to engage potential researchers (academic, professional) and direct their efforts towards tasks which can meaningfully impact North American Passive House practitioners

Membership

For the time being, the NAPHN Technical Committee will be a closed group made of invited volunteer members only. At some point in the future once the committee operations and structure are clarified and working well, the group will consider opening up / broadening to include additional members and subcommittees.

Meetings

The committee will not have a standing regular meeting time, but instead will outline an appropriate meeting schedule tailored to the topic area / project under consideration. The intent of the committee is to gather volunteers to execute specific tasks and produce specific deliverables for discrete project areas rather than to be a 'standing' regular committee.

The committee will, as a first order of business, identify the key project areas that are felt to need immediate technical guidance, clarification, or additional research. Once these topics have been identified, the committee will decide on an order to address these topics based on the perceived need and scope of impact of each. The committee will begin working through the issues one at a time.

For each project area under investigation, a project chairperson and a group of volunteers will be organized which have subject matter expertise and who can contribute meaningfully to a 'Guidance' document. These documents will be created by the Technical Committee and distributed via NAPHN channels. In addition, these technical guidance documents will be communicated to the iPHA Technical Panel in order to coordinate work with PHI and ensure that PHI is knowledgeable about the current state of the Passive House community in North America.

Note that the technical committee will be responsible for producing the 'content' of the guidance documents. NAPHN will be responsible for producing the final documents in a manner which is consistent with the NAPHN branding and visual identity guidelines.

References

<http://www.passivhaustrust.org.uk/guidance.php>

Passive House Trust 'Guidance' documents are the working template for the types of documents which the NAPHN Technical Committee will be charged with creating. These documents are valuable resources for UK Designers and serve to help resolve issues common to the UK climate and construction types. These documents serve as a reservoir of best practice guidance and are critical in the dissemination of successful techniques to a broad group of professionals engaged in Passive House work.

Leadership & More Information

The Technical Panel leader is Ed May of bldgtyp (www.bldgtyp.com). For more information contact Ed May at ed@naphnetwork.org.
