

# High Efficiency Building Techniques for Cold Climates

**Training logistics** 

Agenda Review

**Group Learning Agreement** 

Ice Breaker & Personal Introductions

Learning agreement/ground rules

Everyone has wisdom

We need everyone's wisdom for the wisest results

There are no wrong answers

The whole is greater than the sum of the parts

Everyone will hear and be heard

Suffering is optional

### **Introductions & Ice Breaker**

Give your name Your interest in being here today (3 to 5 words)

Question?

Constructing & Retrofitting High Performance Buildings in Alaska is like a

#### Because.....





SUN CERTIFIED BUILDERS

COOPERATIVE LIMITED

Our Multi-stakeholder Worker Cooperative represents three generations of construction knowledge

We design and construct high performance buildings

We retrofit existing structures to high performance standards

### Who are we?





#### SUN CERTIFIED BUILDERS

COOPERATIVE LIMITED

The 7 Cooperative Principles:

- 1. Voluntary and Open Membership
- 2. Democratic Member Control
- 3. Member Economic Participation
- 4. Autonomy and Independence
- 5. Education, Training and Information
- 6. Co-Operation Among Co-Operatives
- 7. Concern for Community





We use *Passive House International* (PHI) to guide our design and construction.

It is an international performance based construction standard.

Our goal is that new construction and retrofits be built to the highest standards of Energy Efficiency, Thermal Comfort, Health Structures and Low Carbon embodiment because:

- It saves you money!
- It ensures buildings are comfortable and pose limited future health or financial risks
- It achieve buildings that store carbon

## What is Passive House?

A voluntary Building Standard and Design/modeling method that results in:

- Energy savings (75-90% reduction)
- Long Term Affordability
- Superior Comfort
- Verified Performance



Passive House International certification standards are the most stringent at this time.

(With the exception of some energy targets now being developed by cities)

We are always looking for ways to improve performance with Design, Modelling, Materials and Technology.

We are now looking for Net Positive Carbon



# Passive

# House Key

# Qualities

Source Passive House International









# The goal is to get

- 1/3 of the energy free from the sun,
- 1/3 from activity in the building and
- 1/3 from a small heating device.

A typical 2000 sq. ft. building will require 3000 watts of additional heat at design temperature of -33C (2 hair dryers)



3000 watts of additional heat at design temperature of -33C /-27F ( 2 hair dryers)





RBC Erickson, Mold remediation requiring major renovations

High performance buildings are comfortable and reduce future health or financial risks.

# Our interest is to prevent new constructions or renovations that look like this



Ice dam on the Onanole Post Office addition

Poor design and construction

Major Financial Risk



Daycare building showing Thermal Bridging on the rafters due to poor design.

Major Health and Financial Risk

This project achieved LEEDS Platinum

Our Design Process Begins by Setting Performance Targets

Without Performance Targets

# YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU ARE DESIGNING



## What will impact your design performance?

Site Orientation Site Shading Building Shape & Size **Materials** Equipment Local Bylaws



# Site orientation dictates the amount of sunlight you can use.

# Site Shading

Trees, Landforms, Existing buildings



What kind of building layout do clients desire? Vaulted ceilings/high ceilings Bungalow vs 2 Story Single unit vs multi-unit

# Materials

### **Buildings and Embodied Carbon**

We Cannot "Net Zero Energy" Our Way Out of the Carbon Crisis

There is 1 more factor to consider

**Embodied Carbon** 

Embodied carbon is the emissions associated with the harvesting, transportation and manufacturing of building materials.

These emissions occur before the building begins operation... And represent the majority of emissions that will occur between now and the climate change tipping point.





## As Builders Why Should We Care

19 major cities in the world have pledged to make new buildings carbon neutral by 2030

REDUCING EMBODIED CARBON REQUIRES US TO PAY ATTENTION TO MATERIAL CHOICES...

#### **RESULTS FROM SOME EMBODIED CARBON MODELS...**

#### ...with natural gas heating

Ontario high performance build

R-20/30/40/60

emissions

· heating energy carbon

#teshadied carbon

EC = 90.3 tons CO2e

Nat. gas heat = 0.9 tons/yr

118.8 tons @ 2050 total

#### ...with air source heat pump heating













2014 2010 2011 2014 2016 2018 2010 2012 2014 2016 2018 2040 2042 2044 2046 2048 2050



2018 2020 2022 2024 2026 2028 2020 2032 2054 2056 2038 2040 2042 2044 2046 2048 2050



Ontario typical code build R-10/20/24/38 EC = 20.8 tons CO2e Heat pump (COP2.5)= 0.3 tons/vr 33.7 tons @ 2050 total

#### emissions

# Heating energy carbon

Ontario high performance build R-20/30/40/60 EC = 90.3 tons CO2e Heat pump = 0.1 tons/yr 91.9 tons @ 2050 total emissions

Heating energy carbon Embodied carbon

Ontario high perf. natural build

- R-20/30/40/60
- EC = -10.5 tons CO2e
- Heat pump = 0.1 tons/yr.
- -8.9 tons @ 2050

#### ZERO CARBON BUILDING IS POSSIBLE NOW!

This model building is made with entirely off-the-shelf and cost-competitive materials. Any designer/contractor/builder can make this house today.





# Embodied Carbon and Technology

Wood, for example, has the lowest **embodied energy** of common building materials; plastic has approximately six times as much **embodied energy** by weight, glass 16 times as much, steel 24 times as much, and aluminum a whopping 126 times as much **embodied energy** as wood.

#### **Top five materials**

- 1 FSC-certified wood (Forest Stewardship Council)
- 2 Natural building materials (straw/hemp/wool/bamboo)
- 3 Cellulose insulation
- 4 Cross-laminated timbers
- 5 Wood fiberboard insulation

#### **Bottom five materials**

- 1 Aluminum
- 2 Concrete
- 3 Steel
- 4 Refrigerants
- 5 Spray foam







#### Do your research then make your material decisions

	i		İ	1	i		
						Net Impact	
						(kgCO2eq/sfyr)	
						Whole Assembly R	
Material Data		Mnfr CO2	BA CO2	Total CO2	R-value	Value	
		(kg/m3)	(kg/m3)	(kg/m3)	per inch	R-62	
Cellulose		3.1	0	3.1	3.7	0.20	
Rigid Mineral Wool		176.1	0	176.1	3.9	0.33	
Mineral Wool Batt		37.1	0	37.1	4.1	0.22	
Figerglass Batt		11.0	0	11.0	3.3	0.21	
Loose Fill Fiberglass		11.0	0	11.0	2.3	0.21	
Dense Pack Blown Figerglass		41.1	0	41.1	4.2	0.23	
Fiberboard		202.0	0	202.0	2.6	0.42	
EPS type I	(1lb/cf)	130.8	7	137.5	3.6	0.31	
EPS type V	II						
(1.25lb/cf)		163.4	7	170.5	3.8	0.33	
EPS type II	(1.5lb/cf)	196.1	7	203.6	4.0	0.34	
EPS type IX	K (2lbs/cf)	261.5	8	269.4	4.2	0.38	
Solid PU, n-pentane		282.1	3	285.3	6.0	0.33	
XPS, CO2		183.9	2	185.5	4.4	0.32	
XPS, HFC-	134a	183.9	2323	2507.1	5.0	1.63	
Spray PU, Water/CO2		446.9	1	447.5	5.0	0.45	
Spray PU, HFC-245fa		349.7	721	1070.3	6.0	0.70	



David White, Brooklyn, New York, Right Environments,

33

## **Design & Construction Process**

- 1. Set embodied carbon & energy consumption goals for the space,
- 2. Model and design the space,
- 3. Calculate the projected energy use using an energy modelling tool,
- 4. Construct the project,
- 5. Test the structure to ensure goals are met.

# **Construction Process must address:**

- -Thermal Bridging
- -Airtightness
- -Fenestration (Windows and Doors)
- -Heat Recovery Ventilators (HRV)
- -Heating and Cooling

#### Our Wall System

#### Retrofit



36
## **Our Wall System**

## New Build



### Passive House Basics: Thermal Bridges

Part of the building envelope where the otherwise uniform thermal resistance is significantly reduced by:



a)full or partial penetration of the insulating layers by materials with a different thermal conductivity

and/or b) a change in thickness of the insulating layers

### and/or

c)a difference between internal and external areas, such as occurs at wall/floor/ceiling junctions.

### Two kinds of Thermal Bridges

### Linear thermal bridges

- Found at connections between different planes of the envelope (example, wall to roof)
- Magnitude of a linear thermal bridge is determined by its 'Psi Value', denoted by  $\psi_e$ , measured in W/mK

### **Point thermal bridges**

- Found at point penetrations of the envelope (example, wall ties through insulation layer)
- Magnitude of a point thermal bridge is determined by its 'Chi Value', denoted by  $\chi$ , typically reported in W/m<sup>2</sup>K\*

### THERM graphic of 16" Modified Larson Truss wall corner











**Passive House Basics:** Insulation 1. How much insulation is enough? 2. What to use?

3. How to use it?







### Dense Packing Cellulose





# Airtightness: So what does 0.6 ACH@50 mean?





### EPDM rubber (ethylene propylene diene monomer rubber ) gaskets

## anges per hour - 0.31 umber is better.



\*Manitoba Hydro is a licensee of the Trac

# Doors



# Passive House Certified door section



# Passive House Certified door section





## Passive House Basics: Windows



- Heat is LOST through
  - Frame
  - Glass
  - Glass-Spacer
  - Where the window touches the building
- Heat is GAINED through
  - Glass

#### Source PHI

## **Basic Geometry**





#### TYPICAL OPERATOR WINDOW HEAD





SHIM SPACE 2-1/2" XPS FOAM BLOCKS EXP FOAM SEALANT

#### TYPICAL OPERATOR WINDOW SILL

Bland

#### TYPICAL WINDOW JAMB









### Passive House Basics: Windows















### Showing Roxul, 26 GA metal trim.



## Passive House Basics: Ventilation

### VanEE 2400 Gold HECM (HVI Max Rated Sensible Recovery Efficiency (@ 0c),




## Lifebreath RNC 155 (155 MAX rating 75%)



## Zehnder CA 350 (88%),



## 81VanEE 90HV ECM (75%) with Subsoil Hex Case

# Zehnder CA200 (86%) with Subsoil Hex



## Solar HRV Intake,

### Zehnder ComfoFond Integrated Ground Source H/ERV preheat unit. Off the Shelf + Plug n Play...





#### http://www.zehnderamerica.com/

77

# still going strong

# Site Visit

# 4905 Newcastle Way

Break into diverse teams

Pick a leader and a recorder

- Leaders make sure everyone on your team has transportation to the site
- **Recorders** make sure you pick up your site visit worksheet

# Site Visit Debrief



What are the challenges facing high performance retrofits?

- -Thermal Bridging
- -Airtightness
- -Fenestration (Windows and Doors)
- -Heat Recovery Ventilators (HRV)
- -Heating and Cooling



What you find in a Retrofit





# A Retrofit Tour







































# How do we know how much we will save?

# **SEEFAR Building Analytics Inc.** Monetizing Building Sustainability

206 - 848 Allegheny Drive Winnipeg, MB

### What the SEEFAR-Valuation<sup>©</sup> does:

- Provides a comparative assessment
- Provides a data repository for investment assessment information (historical)
- Compels designers and builders to answer questions not commonly asked
- Creates a transparent format for accurate comparative analysis
- Clarifies the TCBO design features by focusing on the 'energy configuration construction design' and ignoring the aesthetic elements
- Incorporates the importance of TIME into the investment value equation
- Incorporates the costs from a Whole-Building life-cycle perspective
- Evaluates the TCBO and the investment value over time

### A Sustainable 'Investment Optimization' Approach:

- Evaluate the entire building
- Evaluate over the useful life of the building
- Evaluate the Total Cost of Building Ownership:
  - Mortgage Interest
  - Utilities
  - Insurance
  - Maintenance
  - Carbon Tax
  - Property Tax

SRPCANADA

### **60-year Comparative Time/Value Rationale**



- Net Home Equity is the current market value less any outstanding mortgage principle
- Cumulative TCBO is the total amount spent for the costs of home ownership and home occupancy
- The difference (equity less TCBO) is the Net Home Ownership Value
- The Tipping Point is reached when the Net Home Ownership Value <u>falls below zero</u> (A minus B = 0)
- The only way to move the Tipping Point is to either increase the home equity, or reduce the TCBO, or both
- The Tipping Point is unique to each home
- Longer tipping points offer more value

### **Projected 60-year Comparative Building Investment Performance**



\$327,500

\$437.492

16 years

\$356,000

\$41,040

54 years

#### 482 Kylemore Ave, Winnipeg MB

		Building A		Building B			
Row	Total Cost of Building Ownership (TCBO)	Code Bu	ilt Home	High Performance Passive Home		Total Savir	ngs A to B
1	GHG emission (kg) (60 Years)		247,000		-		247,00 <mark>0</mark>
2	EUI (kWh/m2/year)		275		18		258
3	TCBO at 12 Years	\$	155,000	\$	141,000	\$	14,000
4	TCBO at 25 Years	\$	342,000	\$	255,000	\$	87,000
5	TCBO at 60 years	\$	960,000	\$	624,000	\$	336,000
6	Home Equity at 60 years	\$	814,000	\$	980,000	\$	-166,000
7	Net Cost of Home Ownership	\$	-146,000	\$	356,000	\$	-502,0 <mark>00</mark>
8	Savings/year					\$	8, <mark>000</mark>
9	Incremental Difference in Capital Cost			\$	49,000	\$	49,000
10	ROI / Year over 60 Years						16%
						_	
## **SEEFAR Building Analytics Inc.** Monetizing Building Sustainability

- Mortgages
- Insurance
- Appraisal Values

"In researching other areas with more mature green home markets (all studies completed in the United States), the evidence revealed that green homes sell for a premium of 2% to 6%"

The Community Preservation Corporation's Handbook, Underwriting Energy Efficiency: A Lender Handbook, details studies which show that energy efficient homes have lower default rates and reduced risk.

*"Instead of developing green mortgages, the industry should consider moving to mortgage qualification based on principal, interest, taxes, and energy (PITE) costs."* 

PRESTON HARTWIG, M.A., RFPP, AIC CANDIDATE MEMBER, RED RIVER GROUP

Canadian Property Evaluation Vol62|Book3/Tome32018 Immobilière au Canada Educating the world around you! Our experience with managing/educating the system

**Building Codes** 

Engineers

Architects

#### **Evolution: SCBC version**



# 1990 8" Larsen Truss Retrofit to 100 year old farmhouse moved onto new basement.



1998 12" Modified Larsen Truss Wall R42, 3<sup>rd</sup> of 5 ending 2009 Typar Exterior membrane - no external sheathing. All internal framing protected from cold.



Fibreboard exterior sheathing to contain cellulose and thermally break 2x2 framing



3/8<sup>th</sup> plywood air/vapour barrier, structural sheathing membrane, prior to taping joints



#### Installation of 2x3 Service Cavity





#### 5kW Renewable Solar Power = Net Zero























### When we build.

When we build, let us think that we build forever.

Let it not be for present delight nor for present use alone.

Let it be such work as our descendants will thank us for;

And let us think, as we lay stone on stone, that a time is to come when those stones will be held sacred because our hands have touched them,

and that people will say, as they look upon the labour and wrought substance of them, "See! This our ancestors did for us."

Adapted from John Ruskin, Chapter IV: The Lamp of Beauty, section 19



## www.suncertifiedbuilders.com

info@suncertifiedcoop.com