

May 2016

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activehouse newsletter

Highlights

Launch of the new Active House Label & related Contest

In May we officially launched the new Active House Label and, together with this, a very exciting contest to win a free Active House Label. The Active House Label is a quality mark for comfortable and sustainable buildings. It advises people on key aspects of daily life - in their home, workplace and school.

How to get a free label? It's very easy! Just visit the [dedicated award contest page](#) on the Active House website and fill in the application form with the details of your project. Once you have your submission ready send all the material to the secretariat@activehouse.info email address before **19 August 2016**. Every week the projects submitted will be published on the Active House website. **Who can participate?** Those who have a project that respects the Active House criteria. Architects, constructors, builders and students are all welcome to take part in the contest. If your project is already showcased on the Active House website, it does not prevent you from submitting it for the contest. **Why participate?** To give greater value to your project and let your stakeholders how sustainable it is.

The Active House label can be issued to buildings that have been evaluated in accordance with the Active House specifications and meet the minimum demands for indoor comfort, energy efficiency and environment. Buildings that have received the Active House Label have been designed and evaluated with a combined focus on your comfort, smart use of energy and minimal impact on the environment. A specialized jury will select 5 shortlisted projects in September. In November 2016 the winner will be announced and will be handed the Active House label.

For further information, please see below the interview with Richard Beuhorry-Sassus, Chair of the Active House Alliance, who gives a more detailed account of what the Active House Label is and provides further insights about the contest.

Join the contest now and win a free Active House label!



Alliance Working for You



New boards voted at Active House General Assembly

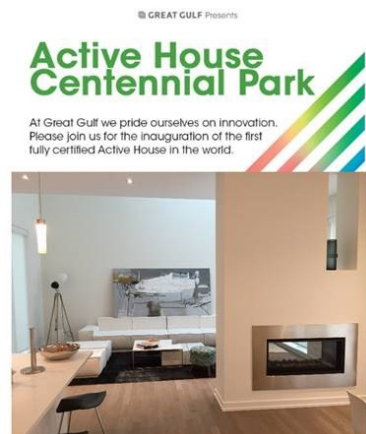
On 19 April the Active House Alliance held its annual General Assembly in Brussels. Among other important items – such as the launch of the new Active House Label - the association voted on its Board of Advisory Committee members, who are responsible for putting the strategy in place, and the Board of Directors, who are involved in the technical work on sustainable buildings. Besides the re-elected members, the Board of Directors welcomed Yves Labert from Renson, as a new addition. For the new board members, please see [here](#).

Active House website make-over and announcement of the first Active House labelled project

On 17 May the new Active House website was officially launched. The new webpage features a brand-new layout - cleaner, more intuitive and more tablet/mobile friendly.

The purpose of the new webpage is to make the Active House projects more visible and to encourage people to get involved and upload new projects. Projects designed with a focus on the Active House vision can be uploaded to the dedicated page; it only requires to be registered as a user, which can be done free of charge.

The new page also launches the Active House Label. The world first labelled Active House project will receive the Label on 10 June. This will be the Active House Centennial Park, designed and developed by Great Gulf. It will open on 10 June in Toronto, with the participation of Active House members as well as honourable guest. The project has been designed with focus on the Active House vision of meeting the most ambitious comfort requirements. Follow the project on our website [here](#).



Active House participated to CLIMA2016

The Active House Alliance participated to CLIMA2016. A three-days conference organized by REHVA where more than 850 people discussed indoor climate and energy efficiency. Active House were introduced during the Key Note opening and organized two side events with individual presentations about the learnings from the Active House Projects. Read more about Clima2016 [here](#).

Active House Label Competition - Interview with the Chair, Richard Beuhorry from Somfy

On 19 April the Active House Alliance launched its new label and related competition at its General Assembly in Brussels. We asked the Chair of the association, Richard Beuhorry from Somfy, to explain what makes the new Active House Label so unique, and why it can be interesting for different organisations to participate in the contest and submit their sustainable building projects.

Q: What is the Active House Label and why the need for it?



The Active House label is the flagship of the Active House principles. As a reminder, the Active House is a vision of buildings that create healthier and more comfortable lives for their occupants without negative impact on the climate – moving us towards a cleaner, healthier and safer world. We define specifications, guidelines, all the tools and metrics to help to create an Active House. The Label is the visible part of the iceberg, the concretization of the work, the dialogue with the future owner to have a house healthy, comfortable, sober in energy, and with low environmental impacts.

Q: What is the Active House contest and who can participate?

The Active House contest gathers projects which reflect the Active House vision and will award a free Label, following an in-depth analysis, to the project with the best Active House specifications.

Everyone who has a project embracing the Active House holistic approach can participate in the contest. These include home builders and architects with either a project in progress advanced enough or a recent realization that is in line with the Active House principles.

Q: Why should you participate?

This is a unique opportunity to challenge your company with the most advance homebuilders and architects from all countries, to explain your vision, to motivate your team, and to show to your customers that they made the right choice with you.

Q: More specifically, what is the added value for companies like yours to submit a project to the contest?

The contest will be visible on the Active House web site, this will be also a way to learn more about the Active House principles and to exchange with the other candidates.

The 5 finalists will enter in dialogue with the Danish Technological Institute in order to calculate the Active House radar; this will help in selecting the final winner.

Taking part in the contest will show that you are at the forefront of innovation, regulation and standards and that you are future proof.

Q: How does the selection process to select the winner work?

You have up until 19 August to submit your project through the Active House website. An independent jury will select the top 5 projects; these projects will be evaluated through the Active House metrics and radar in order to elect the winner. The final winner will be announced in November and his/her project will be awarded with a free label.

Developments towards more sustainability in buildings



Is Europe on track with the implementation of the energy efficiency and buildings legislations

Supported by the European Commission, the '2016 – Implementing the EPBD: Individual Country Reports' was recently published. This is the 4th book in a series that started in 2008, and highlights the important advances achieved across the EU in implementing the European Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) in the period of 2012-2015. The first part of the book describes the main accomplishments and the remaining challenges on a selection of major topics covered by the EPBD, as well as

conclusions and recommendations for the upcoming review of the Directive, expected for 2016-2017. The second part contains reports from the 28 EU Members States plus Norway.

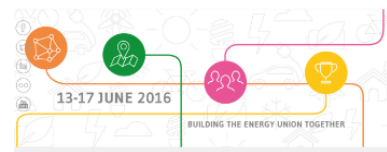
In parallel to the work on the analysis of the related challenges to the EPDB, decision makers are also looking into the implementation of the Energy Efficiency Directive (EED) given its upcoming revision together with the EPBD. The European Parliament's final report with recommendations on how to improve the EED along the revision process is expected in July. For the EPBD implementation report, see [here](#).

Events to discuss sustainable buildings

EU Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW) in Brussels

The EUSEW annual policy conference is the most important European event of its kind dedicated to sustainable energy issues. This year the conference will take place from 13 to 17 June at two venues in Brussels. The EUSEW is an opportunity to meet stakeholders promoting energy efficiency and renewable energies, learn about successful policies and inspire innovation to meet the EU's energy and climate goals. Sessions will be organised by the European Commission and energy stakeholders supporting an economy built on clean, secure, efficient energy focusing on consumers.

For more information see [here](#).



Central and Eastern Energy Efficiency Forum in Bulgaria

The aim of the conference to be organized on 22-25 June 2016 in Balchik, Bulgaria is to create Central and Eastern Europe's first community building event on energy efficiency in buildings. The half-week interactive programme combines practical sessions, creative workshops and evening plenaries with high-level speakers and plenty of informal networking opportunities. The discussion will feed into the review of the European energy efficiency legislations and will give useful input to the new National Energy Efficiency Action Plan and energy efficiency programmes. Together with our partners - BPIE, EuroACE, Renovate Europe, Eurima - the Active House Alliance will be present at the event with papers as well as our member VELUX will sponsor the conference.

For more information see [here](#).

Central Europe towards Sustainable Building in Czech Republic

The Central Europe towards Sustainable Building Prague 2016 (CESB16) conference - to be organized on 22-24 June - is a part of the 2016 international Sustainable Built Environment conference series convened under auspices of the four international organizations: iISBE, CIB, UNEP-SBCI and FIDIC. CESB16 will be the fourth conference in a row where the Active House Alliance will be present with a presentation and our member ROCKWOOL will be attending as one of the sponsors.



For more information see [here](#).



PLEA Conference on Passive and Low Energy Architecture goes to Los Angeles

The next PLEA conference will take place in Los Angeles on 11-13 July. PLEA (Passive and Low Energy Architecture) is an organization engaged in a worldwide discourse on sustainable architecture and urban design through annual international conferences, workshops and publications. It has a membership of several thousand professionals, academics and students from over 40 countries. Participation in PLEA activities is open to all whose work deals with architecture and the built environment, who share its objectives and who attend PLEA events.

For more information see [here](#).

For more upcoming events in 2016 consult the Active House Events Calendar [here](#).



Interesting Case

Do you have an Active House case you would like to share with other website viewers? Please feel free to upload your case to our website. It's free and easy. Follow these simple [instructions](#).

RenovActive – affordable renovation

Affordable, easy to reproduce and scalable - these were the main criteria set up for the RenovActive project in Anderlecht, Belgium. The aim of the renovation project was to test the Active House principles in social housing and single-family homes where cost, comfort and energy efficiency have to go hand in hand.

The main goal of RenovActive is to prove the financial viability of Active House renovation in social housing schemes across Europe. The estimated renovation costs associated with RenovActive met the tight budget framework of social housing in Brussels and the requirements set up in the Energy Performance of Buildings (EPB) standard. Another goal of RenovActive was to develop a sustainable concept suitable for large-scale renovation and modernisation, i.e. a concept that could be replicated in financial and technical terms. The renovation was designed as a modular concept to obtain more daylight, better ventilation, sun shading, insulation, heating and more living space. The modular concept allows easy reproduction of the concepts in other buildings. Likewise, the concept can be scaled from very high-end to more simple and cost-effective solutions.

The project include solutions from the Active House members, VELUX, RENSON, SOMFY, Saint Gobain and Grundfos. For further information, please see [here](#).



Members

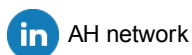


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Press and communication



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