

23 March 2015

ACTIVE HOUSE GUIDELINES ON BUILDING DESIGN LAUNCHED

The Active House Alliance launched its new Guidelines on building design at its General Assembly on the 23rd of March 2015 in Brussels. Implementing the basic rules described in there will help architects and engineers in their conceptual design of sustainable buildings, adapted to future demands. At the event, Active House also presented its related tools, outlined its best practices and successful projects which have been performed by respecting the Active House concept.

On this exclusive occasion, the yearly gathering of Active House members was open for like-minded companies and organisations of the sector. Active House welcomed building associations such as Good Homes Alliance from UK, AktivPlus from Germany and Construction21 from France, and companies including Holcim and Skanska. Throughout the afternoon, the participants had the opportunity to interact with high level management representatives of Active House members and discuss the common issues of interest in the construction sector over a Cocktail Reception held next to the European Parliament's premises.

Commenting on the launch of the Guidelines, the Secretary General of the Active House Alliance Kurt Emil Eriksen said: "With the publication of our new Guidelines on building design accompanied by an updated Active House calculation tool and our already existing Specifications, we now have a complete package to offer for architects and engineers committed to contribute to the sustainability of the building sector. The purpose of the new Guidelines is to help designers in their early design process as well as in the conceptual development of Active Houses."

Completing the Active House Guidelines is an important step to describe in detail why Active House is different. It elaborates its mission and its key values: creating healthy and comfortable lives for the buildings' occupants without negatively influencing the climate and environment. With the Guidelines, parties will get a full understanding about the parameters being evaluated and the holistic approach. The approach which tries to find the right balance between indoor climate conditions, energy consumption and impact on the environment while remaining affordable.

The Guidelines document is intended to be used in the conceptual design stage of an Active House. The Guidelines allow construction experts to better focus on the three main indicators: Comfort, Energy and Environment. Furthermore, it also takes into account topics that should be considered in the very early design phase of an Active House. In addition, it discusses essential principles that influence the performance of an Active House. To complement the Guidelines, the Active House Specifications and the Active House Radar - which are all already available for building professionals through the Association's webpage -, operate as specific tools to measure the ambition and the performance of an Active House described in the Guidelines.

Notes for editors:

About the Active House Alliance

Active House Alliance is a non-profit association bringing together stakeholders from the construction sector throughout the world. The alliance includes members from the building industry, architects, consultants, manufacturers, researchers and universities. The ambition is - in the common interest of its members - to create a viable, independent and international influential alliance, which supports the vision of buildings that create healthier and more comfortable lives for their residents without impacting negatively on the climate and environment – thus moving us towards a cleaner, healthier and safer world.

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