

Sabrina Santos

## PASSIVE HOUSE CANADA

Passive House Canada (PHC) is a national not-for-profit professional association advocating for the Passive House (PH) high-performance building standard. PH is recognized internationally as the best way to build residential, institutional, and commercial buildings for comfort, affordability, and energy efficiency, through all stages of design, construction, and livability. Passive House believes that new and existing buildings must:

1.

Maximize operating energy efficiently

2.

Meet operating energy requirements from renewable sources

3.

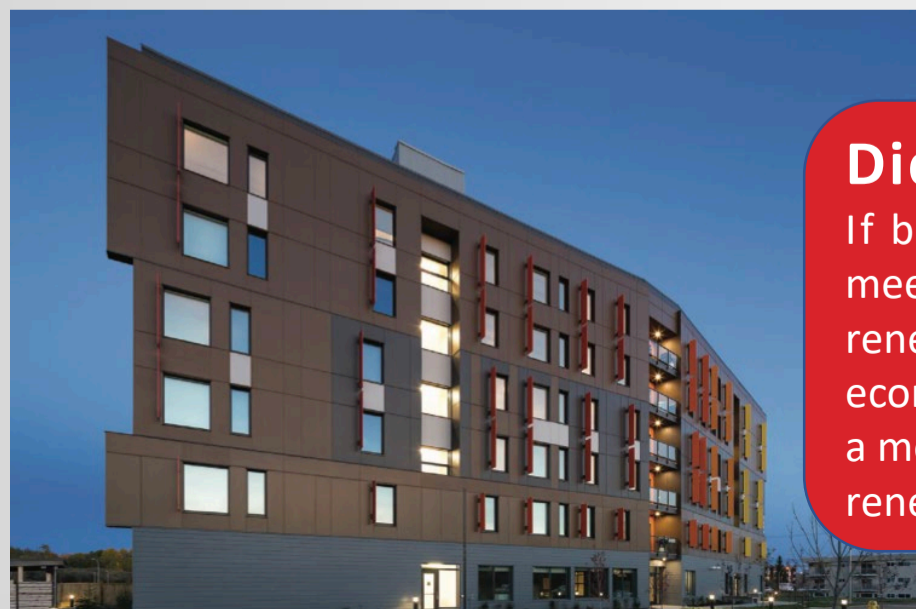
Minimize embodied carbon

4.

Achieve the first three things as rapidly as possible

## MEMORABLE MOMENT

Throughout my internship, I learned about several products that are integral to the construction of zero emission buildings, as well as the importance of advocacy work and economic support for the main industry players in energy efficiency. I was responsible for writing a federal submission to outline the benefits of tax reductions for manufacturers of zero emissions technology.



### Did you Know?

If buildings are efficient enough, meeting their energy needs with renewable energy becomes widely economically feasible and enables a more rapid transition to renewable energy systems

## HOW TO GREEN THE BUILDING INDUSTRY

- **Competition:** The clean building standard arena is competitive. Education, advocacy, building projects, and events must all be done strategically to accomplish what is intended for the environment, and the people who live in and around Passive House buildings.
- **Affordability:** From analyzing the literature, building to a Passive House standard is more economical. Education on affordability is critical.
- **Definable Metrics:** In addition to having the capital, scientifically defensible and evidence-based building methodology is crucial to inform more sustainable building standards and policy.
- **Industry Relations:** Although having productive relationships with government officials is important, collaboration with similar organizations was vital for completing my everyday tasks.

## FOCUS PROJECTS

### Canadian PH Website and Database

Looked through project submissions from PH members/builders to provide the communications team with an updated list of Passive House buildings in the Canadian market. I also suggested ideas during meetings, which were implemented for creating consistency between PHC's and the international PH website.

### FAQ Document

A self-directed literature search had fueled my supervisor's interest in creating an internal document for responding to inquiries that may come up over the phone, in conferences, or in emails. Apart from knowledge obtained from my training, this document also addressed multiple myths about PHC found in the media that may deter developers.