

# The North American Certifiers Circle

A group of independent organizations that certify buildings in North America which meet Passive House Institute performance standards.

## Benefits of Certification

The North American Certifiers Circle (NACC) certification provides many benefits to the developer, designer, consultant, builder, owner, and others.

### Independent Review

Review services provided by a certifier are separate and distinct from those of a Passive House consultant or designer. This ensures an independent and objective assessment as well as additional quality assurance that benefits all parties involved.

### Avoid False Starts

By working with a certifier from the start of the project the project can benefit from the experience and institutional knowledge of the certifier, avoiding rookie mistakes that need to be later undone.

### Professional Development for Project Teams

The review of energy calculations and design and construction documentation through the lens of experts in high-performance building allows other members of the project team to gain a new perspective.

### Assurance for the Project Team

Consultants, designers, and builders alike can breathe easier knowing their energy calculations and related details have been double-checked before construction begins.

### Cost Control

We have established that the biggest driver of additional costs for Passive House is the experience or inexperience of the project team. No one has more experience than the building certifiers. Consequently the four reasons above work together to help you contain costs and meet your budget.



An initiative of Passive House Canada, The Passive House Network and the NACC members.

**PASSIVEHOUSE**  
**CANADA** Build better.  
Feel better.

The  
**Passive House**  
Network

## NACC MEMBERS

Find a NACC member for your next building project:

### US Based Members

CertiPHiers Cooperative  
[www.certiphiers.com](http://www.certiphiers.com)

Emu  
[www.emu.systems](http://www.emu.systems)

Home Energy Services  
[green-mann.com](http://green-mann.com)

Steven Winter Associates  
[www.swinter.com](http://www.swinter.com)

### Canada Based Members

Mizu Passive House Consulting  
[www.mizupassivehouse.com](http://www.mizupassivehouse.com)

Peel Passive House Consulting  
[www.peelpassivehouse.ca](http://www.peelpassivehouse.ca)

RDH Building Science Inc.  
[www.rdh.com](http://www.rdh.com)

Stich Consulting & Design  
[stichpassivedesign.com](http://stichpassivedesign.com)

### Europe Based Members

Herz & Lang  
[www.herz-lang.de](http://www.herz-lang.de)

Mead LTD  
[www.meadconsulting.co.uk](http://www.meadconsulting.co.uk)

Passive House Academy  
[www.passivehouseacademy.com](http://www.passivehouseacademy.com)

Passive House Institute  
[passivehouse.com/](http://passivehouse.com/)

Zephir Passivhaus Italia  
[passivhausitalia.com/](http://passivhausitalia.com/)

# Certification Steps

This is a basic outline of the certification process. It will vary depending on project specifics.

## Initial Check

### Planning/Pre-Design Phase

1. Obtain proposals for Passive House consulting and design services for your project.
2. Select your Certified Passive House Consultant/Designer.
3. With your Consultant/Designer's help, determine the building Certification goal and identify any programmatic elements that are critical to achieving certification.
4. The basic programming complete, engage a Certifier, and have the Certifier conduct an initial check of programmatic assumptions and certification criteria - to clarify how aspects will be assessed in the certification.

## Preliminary Review

### Schematic Design/Design Development Phase(s)

1. Assessment of the concepts for the design, insulation and building services, and of the preliminary version of the PHPP calculation for consistency with the certification criteria. This kind of preliminary review makes sense particularly in the case of large projects, or if the project team has little experience with the Passive House Standard.
2. The PH consultant assembles key information about your project, such as its location, site conditions, architectural and structural concepts, program constraints, as well as building assemblies and other components under consideration.
3. The Certifier will provide feedback and suggestions so you can optimize your design and specifications and update the PHPP energy model.

## Design Stage Review

### Construction Document Phase

1. The PH consultant will prepare the detailed certification submittal package (PHPP, plans, specifications, and required supporting documentation) according to your Certifier's guidance.
2. Make corrections to your Certifier requests and re-submit until your Certifier can conditionally assure certification when construction is completed.
3. Your Certifier will issue a design stage assurance letter that, as designed, the building can be certified.

## Final Review

### Construction Completion

1. Upon completion, submit complete construction documentation: testing and commissioning reports, updated PHPP, photo documentation, construction and occupant certifications, etc. for Certifier's final review.
2. If your building meets all certification criteria, you will receive the building certificate.
3. Post the certificate on your website and attach the plaque to your new Passive House building.
4. List your newly certified building in PHI's online international project directory.

### Start Early

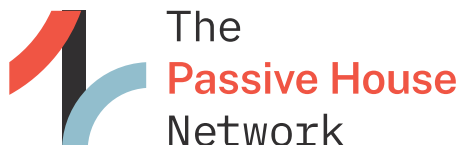
We strongly recommend that you contact the certifier at an early stage of the planning as the Certifier can identify any problems in the construction project and can easily remedy these at this stage. However, in general, certification can also be applied for after the building has been completed.

### Make Schedule Allowances

The Certifier needs some time for careful checking of the planning. This should be taken into account in the project schedule in order to avoid delays or implementation of the construction work before clearance by the Certifier. This applies particularly to the main review and approval after changes to the planning. The time of the airtightness test should also be carefully planned so that even though the airtight envelope of the building may be complete, it is still accessible.

### CERTIFICATION RESOURCES:

[Building Certification Guide](#)



Visit [naphnetwork.org/building-certification](http://naphnetwork.org/building-certification) for more information.