

## City of Denver: Alternative Compliance Pathway

In 2022 Denver adopted Passive House certification for both residential and commercial buildings, allowing for use of Passive House energy models for code compliance. However, it is an alternative compliance pathway, not mandatory.

[Residential Code](#)

[Commercial Code](#)

4. Option 4: The *building project* or *residential building project* shall comply with Chapter 1 Sections 101, 102, 103; Chapter 3; Chapter 5; Chapter 6; Chapter 8; Chapter 9; Chapter 10; and Chapter 11. Within each of these chapters, *building projects* shall comply with all mandatory provisions and with a minimum number of elective provisions in accordance with Table 101.4.2. In addition, the *building project* shall achieve Passive House Certification in accordance with RE03 or CE36.

### RE03: RESIDENTIAL PASSIVE HOUSE APPROACH

**401.6 Passive House Approach.** New *residential building projects* shall achieve Passive House certification in accordance with Section 401.6.1 or 401.6.2.

**401.6.1 Passive House Institute US (PHIUS) Certification.** Achieve certification with the PHIUS+ 2021 Passive Building Standard and provide documentation in accordance with Section 401.6.1.1.

**401.6.1.1 Documentation.** Documentation shall be provided to the *building official* demonstrating the following.

1. Prior to the issuance of a building permit, documentation of a PHIUS+ 2021 Certification Contract from PHIUS and a list of compliance features.
2. Prior to the issuance of a certificate of occupancy, a copy of the final report submitted on a form that is approved by PHIUS to document compliance with the PHIUS+ 2021 Standard.

**401.6.2 Passive House Institute (PHI) Certification.** Achieve certification with the PHI Passive House Standard and provide documentation in accordance with Section 401.6.2.1.

**401.6.2.1 Documentation.** Documentation shall be provided to the *building official* demonstrating the following.

1. Prior to the issuance of a building permit, signed documentation from a PHI accredited Passive House Certifier of intent to certify the building and a list of compliance features.
2. Prior to the issuance of a certificate of occupancy, a copy of the final report submitted on a form that is approved by PHI to document compliance with the Passive House Standard.

### CE36: COMMERCIAL PASSIVE HOUSE APPROACH

**701.7 Passive House Approach.** *Buildings* shall achieve Passive House certification in accordance with Section 701.6.1 or 701.6.2

**701.7.1 Passive House Institute US (PHIUS) Certification.** Achieve certification with the PHIUS CORE COMM Passive Building Standard and provide documentation in accordance with Section 701.7.1.1.

**701.7.1.1 Documentation.** Provide documentation to the *building official* demonstrating the following.

1. Prior to the issuance of a building permit, documentation of a PHIUS CORE COMM Certification Contract from PHIUS and a list of compliance features.
2. Prior to the issuance of a certificate of occupancy, copy of the final report submitted on a form that is approved by PHIUS to document compliance with the PHIUS CORE COMM Standard

**701.7.2 Passive House Institute (PHI) Certification.** Achieve certification with the PHI Passive House Standard provide documentation in accordance with Section 701.7.2.1.

**701.7.2.1 Documentation.** Provide documentation to the *building official* demonstrating the following.

1. Prior to the issuance of a building permit, signed documentation from a PHI accredited Passive House Certifier of intent to certify building and a list of compliance features.
2. Prior to the issuance of a certificate of occupancy, a copy of the final report submitted on a form that is approved by PHI to document compliance with the Passive House Standard.