

The Green Energy Newsletter,

Written by Architects and Engineers - for Architects, Builders, Developers & Real Estate Professionals.

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CARBON FOOTPRINTS & PASSIVHAUS: Ever wondered just what size your carbon footprint was?..... Or, maybe you have green minded clients who want to know?..... Now, at *Green Compliance Plus* we can figure it out for you. That's right we can tell you your carbon footprint size.....In an earlier issue we reported that *Passive houses* are all the rage in Germany, and recently several new homes that use this great application have been built in different locations around the US, (including one in Berkeley, see article at www.homeenergy.org.) A European company, *PASSIVHAUS INSTITUTE*, is promoting this concept as one answer to the world's energy crisis, which also helps prevent global warming

NOT A NEW IDEA: The *Passivhaus Institute* also points out that the original idea for these super-insulated homes grew out of American ideas which were popular in the 1970's (see the article in our December 8 newsletter). A few weeks ago, one of the Americans who originally pioneered this concept, now living in New Mexico, and an ASHRAE member has published some of the history of this idea with ASHRAE. His letter states that such buildings are a well proven concept and have been built in many locations in the U.S. over the last 30 years, and that, "The know-how exists in North America... we just need to figure how to make it the norm". (For the full letter see <http://www.ashrae.org/publications/detail/17022>).

But, what *Passivhaus Institute* has done to help this concept become the norm, is to create an energy modeling program which allows calculation of the energy savings to anticipate the monetary payback that such super-insulated passive houses will create. This same program also models the houses *Carbon Foot print*.....As Paris Hilton likes to say, "**This is Hot**".

Here at *Green Compliance Plus* we purchased *Passivhaus Institute's* program (PHPP-2007) written by Dr. Wolfgang Feist. And, can now provide this energy demand Pay-Back modeling for those architects and developers who desire it.

MORE COMPREHENSIVE MODELING: The *Passivhaus* calculations require more input data than Title 24. This is because Title 24 modeling only compares a project to a "standard model building" and determines whether your proposed building is more or less efficient than the standard model. For instance is the insulation more efficient than the standard model's insulation. But, Title 24 does not require or provide reports of the actual energy usage in kW or therms, and does not consider carbon (CO2) reductions, where *Passivhaus* does.

WHAT SIZE IS YOUR CARBON FOOT PRINT? Applying the *Passivhaus* program not only allows you to determine the economic value of the building envelope improvements, and the pay-back, but also provides an accurate estimate of the resulting **carbon foot print** reductions. So, when your *Ultra-Green* client, wants to know that his house has a smaller carbon foot print than the average house..... We can now give you the documentation for that..... Just give us a call if you want to know more and we'll discuss it.

LAST CHANCE FOR 10% SAVINGS ON TITLE 24

As announced last week in our January STIMULUS PACKAGE, **Energy Compliance Title 24 modeling is still on sale at 10% discount** from the regular fees, **if received by midnight January 31.**

DIRECTOR ACHEIVES GREEN GRAY BEARD LEVEL:

Alan Hugenot, our in-house Certified Energy Plans Examiner (CEPE) and Energy Compliance Director, has now been designated by the State (CABEC) as a **Certified Energy Analyst**. Attainment of this level is reserved for veterans (gray beards) in the Energy Efficiency field with demonstrated years of experience and who participate in continuing education remaining informed on this rapidly changing industry. So, when your client wants to know that you have state recognized experts on your team..... You can count on us.

Give Alan or Mark a call at **(415 391-0186)** to discuss your Title 24 documentation needs or any Green Energy Subject. **We provide the best Title 24 service in California**, through the synergism of an Architect and an Energy Engineer working together to enhance your project.