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PHIUS issues first-ever PHIUS+ 2015 Passive Building *and* Source Net Zero certification to Rocky Mountain Institute's new Innovation Center

Chicago – January 28, 2016 –Passive House Institute US (PHIUS) today announced that it has, for the first time ever, issued the PHIUS+2015 Passive Building *and* Source Net Zero certification to Rocky Mountain Institute's (RMI) new office building and convening center, the Innovation Center in Basalt, Colo.

PHIUS+ 2015— a passive building standard designed to make passive building cost-effective in all U.S. climate zones while achieving 60-80 percent energy savings —was released in March of 2015. It gives designers and builders a performance target that marks the sweet spot where aggressive conservation and systems optimization are cost-effective and when applying renewable energy systems becomes a cheaper option. It also includes a rigorous third-party quality assurance protocol—especially critical in high performance buildings.

The new PHIUS+ climate-specific standard has been an overwhelming success, with project teams across the country seeking certification and quality assurance for multifamily, single-family and commercial projects.

RMI's Innovation Center, though, is the first to be certified as Source Net Zero in addition to meeting the stringent envelope certification targets. PHIUS+ Passive Building certification already limits buildings' carbon footprint to targets aligning with global carbon reduction goals. Source Net Zero, though, represents the next level: zero impact. With its onsite solar electricity photovoltaic system, the Innovation Center produces more energy on-site than it uses on an annual basis.

The Innovation Center is both a major milestone and a living laboratory for future passive building science and positive energy generation research:

- It's the largest PHIUS+ Certified office building in the United States.
- It provides 15,610 sf of office space accommodating 50 staff, and up to 80 people in the convening space. It's roughly the size of 90% of all U.S. commercial offices, serving as a powerful model for others to replicate.
- Located in Basalt, Colo., it achieves PHIUS+ Source Net Zero in the coldest climate zone in North America.
- RMI will monitor and share performance data to provide a living laboratory. The data will help PHIUS continue to advance passive building science, and will benefit the entire high performance building community.

Katrin Klingenberg, PHIUS Executive Director, presented RMI with the PHIUS+ 2015 Passive Building certification and the add-on Source Net Zero certification plaque at a ribbon cutting ceremony at the new building. “Rocky Mountain Institute has always led the way in making vision reality,” said Klingenberg, “and we are thrilled that for its new Innovation Center, it went the extra mile to earn PHIUS+ Source Net Zero. Besides providing RMI a comfortable, healthy, resilient and energy efficient state-of-the art work space, it’s providing a model for future buildings, and a rich research resource.”

The building’s fully integrated design and construction team used holistic, integrative design—a hallmark of passive building design—to achieve PHIUS certification.

“We are thrilled to receive our PHIUS+ certification as this sends a powerful message to the industry that these levels of performance are possible even in a cold climate,” said Cara Carmichael, RMI manager and design team lead. “The Innovation Center is not about technology, but about design, and we are very proud of what we achieved thanks to a skilled team all committed to a beyond net-zero energy goal.”

For more information on tours and to view a soon-to-be-released virtual tour of the building (expected in late February), visit www.rmi.org/innovationcenter.

About PHIUS

PHIUS is a 501(c)3 organization committed to making high-performance passive building the mainstream market standard. Founded in 2003, PHIUS has trained more than 2000 architects, engineers, energy consultants, energy raters, and builders. It also is the leading passive building research and information provider in North America. PHIUS recently released the new PHIUS+ 2015 climate-specific, cost-optimized passive building standard. The new standard was developed under a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy. PHIUS has also established strategic partnerships with key organizations including RESNET, Carnegie Mellon University, Habitat for Humanity, Rocky Mountain Institute and others. Through its Passive House Alliance US (PHAUS) program – a membership/chapter organization, PHIUS is building a robust support network of local regional passive building communities.

<http://www.phius.org>

About Rocky Mountain Institute

Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI)—an independent nonprofit founded in 1982—transforms global energy use to create a clean, prosperous, and secure low-carbon future. It engages businesses, communities, institutions, and entrepreneurs to accelerate the adoption of market-based solutions that cost-effectively shift from fossil fuels to efficiency and renewables. In 2014, RMI merged with Carbon War Room (CWR), whose business-led market interventions advance a low-carbon economy. The combined organization has offices in Snowmass and Boulder, Colorado; New York City; Washington, D.C.; and Beijing. www.rmi.org