



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation recognizes PHIUS+2015 Passive Building Standard as one of the best paths to Zero Energy and Carbon

*Illinois projects pursuing PHIUS+2015 certification eligible to receive up to \$1 million in grant funding by demonstrating measured net zero performance*

**Chicago – June 6, 2016** – Passive House Institute US (PHIUS) is excited to announce that the **Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation** has recognized the PHIUS+2015 Passive Building Standard as an approved pathway for eligibility under the Foundation's Net Zero Energy Building Program. Projects pursuing PHIUS+2015 certification are eligible to receive up to \$1 million in funding from the Foundation, with payment contingent on the project demonstrating actual measured net zero performance after one year.

To qualify, applicants must be a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, local government agency serving Illinois residents, or a college or university. Full program details and application requirements are available on the Foundation's [Net Zero Energy Building Program website](#). The Foundation began accepting applications on June 1, 2016.

The **PHIUS+ 2015 Passive Building Standard** released by Passive House Institute US (PHIUS) in March of 2015 is the only passive building standard on the market based upon climate-specific comfort and performance criteria, and the only passive building standard that requires onsite QA/QC for certification. Developed in cooperation with Building Science Corporation under a US Department of Energy grant, the PHIUS+ 2015 Standard makes passive building affordable by targeting the sweet spot between investment and payback to present a cost-effective solution to achieving the most comfortable and efficient building possible for a given climate and location, while also offering the best path for achieving zero energy and carbon. The resulting building performs 60-85% better (depending on climate zone and building type) on an energy consumption basis when compared to a code compliant building (International Energy Conservation Code IECC 2009), due to heating and cooling load reductions of 86% and 46% respectively on average over all climates and an overall site EUI of 10-20 kBtu/ft<sup>2</sup> per year.

The Foundation's announcement comes at an important moment in the passive building movement in North America, as the Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) Innovation Center in Basalt, Colorado, similar in size and program to about 90% of all commercial buildings in the country, was recently the first project in the world to achieve PHIUS+2015 Passive Building Standard

and Source Zero Energy certification and demonstrates the feasibility of achieving net zero performance on a large scale.

Katrin Klingenberg, Executive Director of PHIUS, is very encouraged by the Net Zero Energy Building Program. “It is great to see foundations begin to incentivize passive building as a pathway to achieving our carbon reduction goals. Kudos to the ICEC Foundation for their leadership in supporting the development of transformative role-model projects to demonstrate that net zero buildings are achievable right now.”

For more information and to apply, please visit: [www.illinoiscleanenergy.org/energy-program/net-zero-energy-building-program](http://www.illinoiscleanenergy.org/energy-program/net-zero-energy-building-program).

### **About PHIUS**

PHIUS is a 501(c)(3) organization committed to making high-performance passive building the mainstream market standard. PHIUS is transforming the building sector by developing and promoting North American specific standards, practices, and certifications for buildings, professionals, and products to create structures that are durable, comfortable, healthy, and super energy efficient.

Founded in 2003, PHIUS has trained over 2,000 architects, engineers, energy consultants, energy raters, and builders in the passive building standard. The organization is the leading passive building research and information provider in North America. PHIUS released the PHIUS+ 2015 climate-specific building standard, developed under a DOE grant in partnership with Building Science Corporation, in March of 2015. In addition to the DOE, PHIUS has also established strategic relationships with key organizations including RESNET and the Home Innovation Research Labs, among others. The organization has received funding from the Richard King Mellon Foundation and, more recently, the John D. and Katherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

Through its [Passive House Alliance US \(PHAUS\)](#) program, a membership-based organization with over 800 members across 18 local chapters and dozens of corporate sponsors, PHIUS is building a robust national network of passive building communities across North America.

Learn more at [www.phius.org](http://www.phius.org).

### **About Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation**

The Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation was established in December 1999 as an independent foundation with a \$225 million endowment provided by Commonwealth Edison. Their mission is to improve energy efficiency, advance the development and use of renewable energy resources, and protect natural areas and wildlife habitat in communities all across Illinois. Over the past fifteen years, the Foundation has provided financial support for clean energy investments in Illinois through a variety of programs. To date, they have awarded over 4,700 grants providing \$226 million to Illinois nonprofit organizations, schools, municipalities and other local and state government agencies. The grants support activities in every one of Illinois' 102 counties. [www.illinoiscleanenergy.org](http://www.illinoiscleanenergy.org)