

# PASSIVHAUS & LOW CARBON POLICY STATEMENT

## Part 1 - NEW BUILD

The Passivhaus Trust supports the Nearly Zero Energy Buildings (NZEB) target for new build housing developed as part of the Energy Performance in Buildings Directive<sup>1</sup> and believes that this target should be retained by Government in the planned amendments to the Building Regulations Part L.

It has been suggested that the existing energy efficiency standard from the current Building Regulations might be sufficient to meet the requirements of the NZEB target<sup>2</sup>. We think that this is incorrect and would miss a significant opportunity both to improve the energy efficiency and occupant comfort of new homes, and to reduce their running costs and fuel poverty.

Furthermore, the NZEB target has been developed through extensive consultation with the industry and many other interested parties. This target will be adopted across the EU, meaning that for those companies wanting to export products and services to EU markets will need to meet this standard anyway. Similarly, clients and other organisations wanting to meet the NZEB target will save costs due to the ready availability of such products and services.

**1**

**Post- Brexit, the UK Government should retain the NZEB target, from the EU Energy Performance in Buildings Directive.**

**2**

**The UK Government should start work now on its commitment to review how it will meet the NZEB target.**

**3**

**The UK Government should consider Passivhaus as one of the methods approved for meeting the NZEB target.**

1 - Directive 2010/31/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 May 2010 on the energy performance of buildings

2 - Zero Carbon Homes: House of Commons Library Briefing Paper No. 6678, published 27 April 2016. Ares, E.

# PASSIVHAUS RETROFIT POLICY STATEMENT

## Part 2 - EXISTING BUILDINGS

The UK Government should support deep retrofit projects, including the Passivhaus retrofit standard EnerPHit as an exemplary refurbishment target, and help to inform better practices and methodologies for standard refurbishment by:

1. allocating a percentage of ECO funding to large-scale trials of deep retrofit projects
2. requiring that a step-by-step deep retrofit plan is prepared for each property undergoing low-energy refurbishment, such that each intervention is a positive step towards an ultimate very low-energy target, and does not impede or prevent achievement of that target.
3. identifying, as part of a national refurbishment strategy, those properties where we can achieve the best cost benefit outcomes, in terms of energy and comfort performance versus time and cost, and prioritising those for action. This would need to sit alongside, and inform a National Refurbishment Strategy that achieves deep retrofit for a majority of UK buildings i.e. a reduction in the quantity of energy used for heating and cooling of at least 75% and a reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of more than 90% compared to the UK average.

**1**

**Research and investigation to underpin the technical & economic feasibility of the national refurbishment strategy that identifies the what, how and when of refurbishment for different building types, across different areas of the UK and opportunities to reduce space heating demand by at least 50%.**

**2**

**A large scale demonstration/ pathfinder programme to identify the actual impacts of deep retrofit including costs, moisture, energy use, ventilation, & comfort on different common building types across the UK, and update the national refurbishment strategy accordingly.**

**3**

**Adjustment of other UK policy levers, regulations & incentives, to ensure adoption & uptake of a deep retrofit standard, including a strategy for providing appropriate grants, low or zero interest loans or other financial incentives.**