Passivhaus Certification Scheme (PCS)
Passivhaus was originally developed in Germany over a decade ago and refers to an ultra low energy construction standard. Its core focus is to dramatically reduce the requirement for space heating and cooling without the need to rely on renewable technologies, therefore helping to facilitate compliance with the zero carbon standard.

- Passivhaus buildings can help eradicate the risk of fuel poverty, reduce excess winter death rates and increases fuel security.
- Passivhaus dwellings typically achieve ‘Code for Sustainable Homes’: level 3-4 for energy without the need for renewable technology.
- The adoption of the Passivhaus standard reduces the quantity of renewable energies required for level 5-6 for the Code for Sustainable Homes.

What is the Passivhaus Certification Scheme?

The aim of the BRE Global Passivhaus Certification Scheme is to implement design standards across the whole design and construction industry, and enable Certified Passivhaus Designers in the field to be identified according to the Passivhaus Standard. It also gives organisations confidence in the level of competence and credibility of Certified Passivhaus Designers.

- Passivhaus is the fastest growing low energy design standard in the world with over 30,000 buildings realised to date.
- The Passivhaus Certification Scheme is currently the only UK based certification scheme for Certified Passivhaus Designers.
- BRE Global are authorised to issue certificates to Certified Passivhaus Designers as per our contract with the Passivhaus Institut (PHI).
Benefits of the Passivhaus Certification Scheme

The BRE Global Passivhaus Certification Scheme is the benchmark of professional quality and standing and is recognised by the Passivhaus Institut (PHI)

For Certified Passivhaus Designers

- **Industry recognition** – the Passivhaus Certification Scheme is a benchmark of professional quality and standing, and is recognised in the design and construction industry.
- **Increased business activity** – Certified Passivhaus Designers are able to widen the portfolio of services that they offer.
- **Improved levels of client satisfaction** – Certified Passivhaus Designers are able to help reduce the risk of costly redesigns leading to more successful projects resulting in increased levels of client satisfaction.
- **Access to wider client base** – listing on www.greenbooklive.com allows potential clients to be directed to Certified Passivhaus Designers. Access to the scheme network also enables users to benefit from referrals and recommendations.
- **CPD Hours** – continuously developing and updating knowledge and experience, equips Certified Passivhaus Designers with the tools to meet with new industry challenges whilst adding to their CPD.
- **Improved brand value** – Certified Passivhaus Designers are able to benefit from using the BRE Global certification mark – a highly recognised symbol of quality and professionalism.

Online facilities

In addition to the benefits above, members will have access to the online facilities which will enable them to:
- Upload designs for certification.
- Keep up to date with the latest Passivhaus standards news and information.
- View account information and history.
- Upload CPD records.
- Access information on suggested CPD material and events.
- Access to the Passivhaus Certification scheme network enabling you to communicate with fellow BRE Global Certified members.
For Industry and employers

- Increased employer confidence – in the abilities and ongoing competency of existing and potential Certified Passivhaus Designers.

- Certified Passivhaus Designers are required to meet strict criteria to attain certified status.

- Certified Passivhaus Designers are required to continuously update their qualification in order to maintain their certified status.


- Quality Assurance – every project submitted is subject to a rigorous audit process by Passivhaus Institut accredited Certifiers.

- Recognition of quality – Certified Passivhaus Designers will be easily identified by displaying certificates and logos.

- Clear information – clients have access to clear information regarding the certification criteria, audit process and complaints procedure to ensure a smooth and efficient process.
How does ‘Passivhaus’ Certification Work?

Application Criteria

This scheme is open to Certified Passivhaus Designers.

Likely suitable professionals who may be interested in Passivhaus are:
- Architects and technologists.
- Low carbon energy consultants.
- SAP and Code Assessors.
- Building Services Engineers.
- Environmental Consultants.
- Energy Consultants.

Becoming a Certified Passivhaus Designer can be achieved by passing the Certified Passivhaus Designer Examination. BRE Training offer exceptional Passivhaus training packages, however the examination can be taken by designers who have undergone training through other organisations. In the case that the examination stage is not successful, designers have the option to be reassessed.

The BRE Global Passivhaus team are available to provide support in the application process. For further information on applications to the scheme, please contact BRE Global Passivhaus: email passivcert@bre.co.uk or phone +44 (0) 845 863 0014.
Maintenance of ‘Certified’ Status for Designers

Certification is maintained through:
– Submission of all projects within the five year cycle.
– Undertaking Continuing Professional Development (CPD).
– Payment of the annual scheme membership fee.
– Review of any complaints and resolutions if applicable.
– If a project has not been submitted for longer than a five year period, candidates will be required to retake the Certified Passivhaus Designers examination.

Certification Process for Projects

Once registered, Certified Passivhaus Designers will be able to submit their projects via an online portal for quality review and certification.

BRE will review and if satisfactory, issue a Passivhaus ‘Quality Approval’ certificate upon successful completion of the certificate.
Why BRE?

A reputation for trustworthy and reliable professionalism has been the cornerstone of our business for nearly 90 years. These values extend to all areas of the Group business.

**Quality** – This remains at the heart of what we do, from access to industry experts to complete compliance with scheme standards and regulations.

**Integrity** – BRE operates as an ethical business, taking extra care to ensure our business activities are complementary to our scheme members’ business.

**Opportunity** – Giving our members access to the latest knowledge, qualification as well as brand association that will enable them to provide a wider range of competitive services to a wider range of clients.

We help our clients create better, safer and more sustainable products, buildings, communities and businesses and we support the innovation required to achieve this. As such we are well placed to help scheme members develop additional skills and access different products in order to give them a distinct advantage.
BRE Trust
The BRE Trust uses profits made by BRE Group to fund new research and education programmes, that will help it meet its goal of ‘building a better world’.

The BRE Trust is a registered charity in England & Wales: No. 1092193, and Scotland: No. SC039320.

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