

FROM SCRIBBLED CHEAT SHEETS TO HELPFUL TOOLS

Too much information

à The Passive House Reference Sheet

For many, entry to the professional Passive House world starts with a CEPH course and exam. Quality training and preparation for the exam as well as for first projects are important. There are many very good providers and publications available to support this.

But open book exams are tricky – the Passive House exam is a battle against the clock with not much time to skim through available material.

Early during the preparation for my own test, I started writing down formulas, terminology, acronyms, symbols and all kind of notes. Thanks to bad handwriting and my desire to be well prepared for the exam, I transcribed my notes into a digital format. This allowed me to experiment with a few options to present the material. After the exam

I kept on improving the document and shared it with others.



Annual Space Heat Demand	Transmission Heat Losses	Ventilation Heat Losses	Utilization factor for free heat gains	Solar Gains	Internal Heat Gains
Q_{H_s}	$=$	Q_{H_v}	$=$	$\eta \times$	$(Q_{H_i} + Q_{H_e})$
2,212 kWh/a	$=$	5,832 kWh/a	$=$	0.94	2,927 kWh/a
	$+$		$+$	\times	(Q_{H_e})
14 kWh/m ² a	$+$	37.4 kWh/m ² a	$+$	0.94	18.8 kWh/m ² a
					$+ 11.0$ kWh/m ² a

Q_{H_s} [PPH 124] Amount of heat (fuel) required per year to keep building at 20°C. Specific Annual Heat Demand $Q_{H_s} = Q_{H_v} + Q_{H_{tr}} + Q_{H_{int}} + Q_{H_{ext}}$ 153kW/m² in a PH

$Q_{H_{tr}} = Q_{H_{ext}} + Q_{H_{int}}$ $Q_{H_{tr}}$ = Window energy demand $Q_{H_{ext}} = Q_{H_{int}}$ = Total heat losses $Q_{H_{int}} = Q_{H_{ext}}$ = Free heat heat gains $Q_{H_{ext}} = Q_{H_{int}}$ = useful heat gains

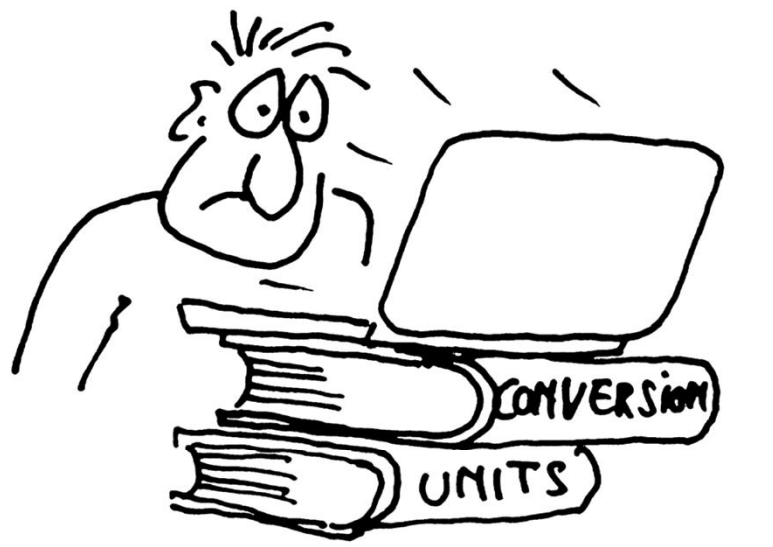
η = fraction of the heat that is utilized for free heat (Surplus heat) = excess solar gain (not only partially) $\eta = (1 - Q_{H_{tr}} / Q_{H_{ext}}) / (1 - Q_{H_{tr}} / Q_{H_{int}}) = (1 - 6.6596 / 5.955) / (1 - 6.6596 / 5.955) - 0.94$ $Q_{H_{tr}} \rightarrow 1$ $\eta \rightarrow 0$ $Q_{H_{tr}} \rightarrow 0$ $\eta \rightarrow 0.5$ [PPH 122,124]

<p>Transmission Heat Losses</p> <p>Q_T</p> <p>$2,075 \text{ kWh/a}$</p> <p>$Q_T = \text{Calculated for e}$</p> <p>$Q_T = \text{thermal bridge} = 1 \times \Psi$</p> <p>$\Psi (\text{psi}) = \text{Linear ther}$</p> <p>$\chi (\text{chi}) = \text{Point therm}$</p> <p>$f_1 = 1.0$ if exposed to reduced tempera</p> <p>$G_T = \text{Time integral of}$</p> <p>$G_T = \text{Time integral of } (20.5) \text{ K}$</p>	<p>Area of envelope /</p> <p>Ventilation & Infiltration Losses</p> <p>Q_v</p> <p>759 kWh/a</p> <p>$V_v = \text{TFA} \times \text{average room height}$</p> <p>height of 2.5m is used for calcula</p> <p>$n_{v,a} = \text{Energetically effective air}$</p> <p>$n_{v,a} = \text{Typical system} \times (1 - \Phi_{irr}) + n_{v,Rest}$</p> <p>$n_{v,system} = \text{Average air exchange r}$</p> <p>$n_{v,Rest,Q} = \text{Infiltration air change t}$</p>	<p>Gains</p> <p>Q_s</p> <p>$2,489 \text{ kWh/a}$</p> <p>$g = \text{SHGC} = \text{Total g}$</p> <p>$g = \text{Solar} = \text{Roof area}$</p> <p>$w = \text{Window with t}$</p> <p>$r = \text{Reduction / absorption of solar}$</p> <p>$r_{irr} = 0.95$ Constant, $r_{incidence-angle} = 0.85$ Constant for reflection (non-perpendicular incident radiation),</p> <p>$r_{glazing} = A_{glass} / A_{window} = \text{glazing fraction (0.6...0.7 are typical values; higher value = less frame)}$</p>	<p>$Q_i =$</p> <p>$1,722 \text{ kWh/a}$</p> <p>$t_{HEAT} = H_T \times 0.024 \text{ kh/a}$</p> <p>$H_T = \text{Heating days per year [PHPP1]:}$</p> <p>$H_T = \text{Default, PHPP-Default} = 219d, H_{T, \text{Vancouver}} = 208d, H_{T, \text{Yellowknife}} =$</p> <p>$H_T = \text{Germany average internal heat gains } q_i = 2.1 \text{ W/m}^2 \text{ for reside}$</p> <p>$q_i = 4.1 \text{ W/m}^2 \text{ for assisted living, } q_i = 3.5 \text{ W/m}^2 \text{ for offices, } q_i =$</p> <p>$r_{shading} = 0.75$ Default $r_{shading} = 0.75$ Default $r_{wall} = \text{Continuous horizontal wall, } r_{floor} = \text{Horizontal}$</p>
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Now the **Reference Sheet** is much more than just a comforting cheat sheet for the exam. The concise guide presents the relevant terminology and information in such a way that the document can serve as the initial go-to tool to look up information when working on a project or learning about Passive House. References for further reading are included.

Too many units à The Passive House Converter Tool

Unique to the North American construction industry is the need to work with imperial and metric units – even in Canada where metrication started back in the 1970s. The **Reference Sheet** offers conversion tables.

[illegible]

nominal	actual	actual
1"	¾"	19 mm
2"	1-½"	38 mm
3"	2-½"	64 mm
4"	3-½"	89 mm
5"	4-½"	114 mm
6"	5-½"	140 mm
7"	6-½"	159 mm
8"	7-½"	184 mm
10"	9-½"	235 mm
12"	11-¾"	286 mm

Source: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/lumber>

1" = 25.4 mm 1' = 12" = 0.3048 m

Source: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/lumber>

1" = 25.4 mm	1' = 12" = 0.3048 m
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A **Unit Converter** for mobile devices was added for accurate metric-imperial conversions on the go:

U-values, R-values + Heating Demand (kWh/m2.a, kBtu/ft2.a, kWh/ft2.a) + Heat Load (W/m2, Btu/h.ft2) + Vapour Diffusion (Sd-value, metric & US-Perm) + Temperature (°C, °F, K)



100% TELUS 5G 16:33

Building Physics | SI-Imperial

Edit

>> HEAT TRANSFER <<

U (metric)

Heat Transfer Coefficient $W/(m^2K)$

R (metric) (RSI)

Thermal Resistance m^2KW/W

U (imperial)

Heat Transfer Coefficient $Btu/(h \cdot ft^2 \cdot F)$

R (imperial)

Thermal Resistance $(h \cdot ft^2 \cdot Btu)/(Btu \cdot h)$

>> ENERGY CONSUMPTION <<

U (metric)

Heat Transfer Coefficient $W/(m^2K)$

R (metric) (RSI)

Thermal Resistance m^2KW/W

U (imperial)

Heat Transfer Coefficient $Btu/(h \cdot ft^2 \cdot F)$

R (imperial)

Thermal Resistance $(h \cdot ft^2 \cdot Btu)/(Btu \cdot h)$

100% TELUS 5G 16:35

Building Physics | SI-Imperial

Edit

>> HEAT TRANSFER <<

U (metric)

Heat Transfer Coefficient $W/(m^2K)$

R (metric) (RSI)

Thermal Resistance m^2KW/W

U (imperial)

Heat Transfer Coefficient $Btu/(h \cdot ft^2 \cdot F)$

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Less searching à More Passive House

The **Reference Sheet** and **Unit Converter** are currently available in English only (metric and imperial versions as downloadable PDF), with a strong focus on North American user groups.

I hope my brief introduction to the tools will initiate a productive discussion which eventually leads to further developments. The result might be cooperation with others and the development of more customized versions of both tools for specific markets, in different languages and for additional software platforms. I have already received requests to add more conversions, such as for lighting power density, cooling metrics and equipment efficiencies.

References

Harrmann, André: Tools for Passive House Exam and Daily Use. Harrmann Consulting, Canada & Germany. www.15kwh10w.com/passive-house-tools/, January 2017

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