

## APHA MEDIA RELEASE

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### MARTIN PLACE SET TO COOL OFF THIS SUMMER WITH THE ARRIVAL OF THE ICE BOX CHALLENGE

The Australian Passive House Association (APHA) announces today that the Ice Box Challenge will next land in Martin Place, Sydney CBD, from 21 February to 4 March, 2022. The event has been held in many major cities around the world including New York and Vancouver and now Sydney will now be added to the list. This has been made possible due to the support of the City of Sydney who has approved a grant to help the project under the Environmental Performance Grants - Innovation - 2021-22 - Round 2 program.

The global Ice Box Challenge is a fun and interactive public installation and contest that demonstrates the advantages of Passive House. Visitors can stop by sponsor booths and speak with the APHA team to learn how Passive House offers a high level of comfort, can help meet climate protection goals, and make significant energy savings.

APHA CEO Paul Wall welcomes this news saying “This is a further opportunity for people to start to fully understand the positive effects to their wellbeing of a healthy and comfortable indoor environment”. The broader environmental benefits, with lower emissions and reduced running costs, contribute to better outcomes for society and we applaud the City of Sydney their positive contribution within their own operations and the environmental grants program

#### The Challenge

Two boxes are filled with an equal amount of ice and, after an opening ceremony, will be displayed for public viewing in Martin Place for a two-week period. One box will be constructed to local building regulations, while the other will meet the international Passive House Standard, a highly energy efficient building performance standard. Each box is filled with an equal amount of ice at the beginning of the experiment and visitors can take a guess at the weight of ice remaining in each box at the end of the challenge. On the final day during the closing ceremony, the amount of ice left in each box will be measured, with the level of ice remaining used to demonstrate how well each ice box passively kept out the heat.

Climate change is one of the greatest global challenges of our time and currently almost 35 percent of global energy consumption comes from the building sector alone. Energy used to operate buildings, primarily for heating and cooling, is one of the largest contributors to carbon emissions within the built environment. Better building design helps to reduce their carbon footprint, and Passive House technology provides proven and sustainable solutions for this.

The future of Passive House in Australia is bright. Passive House Certification is a well-established design and construction method that delivers high quality, comfortable, healthy, low energy, and resilient dwellings that can be applied in all climate zones and building types.

To find out more about the Australian Passive House Association visit <https://passivehouseaustralia.org/>

The Australian Passive House Association is an independent, not-for-profit organisation which aims to promote Passive House principles as a way of providing superior indoor comfort and air quality while reducing energy use and carbon emissions from Australia's buildings.

Passive House (or PassivHaus) was originally developed in Germany and has since spread throughout Europe. The standard continues to evolve and is now finding popularity in diverse climatic regions including Canada, California, Japan, Ireland, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Dubai. To date, over 80,000 houses, schools, offices, and other building types have been built to the Passive House standard around the world.

Contact: Samantha Bruce, APHA Education, Events, and Administrative Executive

Email: [samantha@passivehouseaustralia.org](mailto:samantha@passivehouseaustralia.org)

Mobile: 0414 399 004