

Nearly Zero-Energy Buildings: Best Practices from Intelligent Energy Europe

On the Forefront of nZEBs in Europe

Highlighting the ability of conscientious architects and design teams to meet the challenges set by building owners, the AIDA compilation of [Success Stories](#) illustrates, through a dozen examples, real solutions to take building practice to nZEB standards, and provides recommendations on key success factors through People, Planning, Targets and Tests. AIDA project, co-funded by the

European Commission, supports building professionals and local authorities all over Europe in designing nearly zero-energy buildings (nZEB). AIDA offers action tailored to these target groups, such as study tours to innovative buildings, best practice-learning from operational success stories, presentation of innovative design software and active support for municipalities.



Above: Informing Building Professionals and municipalities is AIDA's core objective, ©AIDA

Right side: David Venus, Building Expert from the Austrian AIDA Partner AEE INTEC shows a plus-energy renovation in Styria, ©AIDA



Melodie de l'Epine, AIDA manager at HESPUL, a non-profit research body in Lyon, says: *“The AIDA study tours have given hundreds of building professionals and local authorities the opportunity to not only visit high performance nZEB buildings, but to also exchange with the stakeholders on the building techniques and materials chosen through the design process and into building occupation.”* Combined with the informative workshops, participants have been equipped with new insight into the feasibility and processes of nZEB building design.



Donald Macritchie,
managing director of
GreenspaceLive Ltd.

One of these tools presented in the workshops is gEnergy, developed by [GreenspaceLive](#), an e-startup based in Stornoway, Isle of Lewis. gEnergy is a powerful building information modelling (BIM) tool using the EnergyPlus platform. *“Using on-line web collaboration, gEnergy users are able to train and support your colleagues and customers in EnergyPlus usage. Over 600 building objects, constructions and HVAC systems are supported, which can be commented on project or object level”* says Donald Macritchie, managing director of GreenspaceLive. Objects can be edited in bulk to save time. Integration with SketchUp comes through the use of the gModeller plugin. By using gbXML and existing IDF models in gEnergy, you get near and instant results. With its rich reports and graphics, gEnergy provides building simulation as a service as a simple, affordable solution. AIDA participants can get a gEnergy trial for free!



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Author:
Raphael Bointner, TU Wien, AIDA coordinator
Bointner@eeg.tuwien.ac.at