

Passive House at scale

'Design & Build for Performance' conference – November 2024

Built For Good



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Background to Cairn

2015

Established in 2015



Employees

17 Live on 17 sites across Ireland



Largest Self-Build Apartment Developer

+8,500

Delivered over 8500 high quality A-rated homes in Ireland **c.2,200**

sales completions in 2024

+22,000

People living in Cairn Built Homes +4,500

People working across Cairn sites



A word on my journey through Sustainability







1.

Sustainability drivers Why do Cairn need to think about this?





Carbon Footprint

Scope 1: Direct Operations

Scope 2: Purchased Electricity

Scope 3: Value Chain

3.1: Purchased materials + Subcontractors

- 'Embodied Carbon'
- 44% of total

3.11: Use of sold products

- 'Operational Carbon'
- 54% of Total





Science-based Target to 2030



DRIVING AMBITIOUS CORPORATE CLIMATE ACTION

Scopes 1 & 2 (Direct Operations & Energy Use)

• 46% absolute reduction

Scope 3

(Embodied & In-use Operational Carbon)

• 61% intensity reduction (per sqm)



Carbon footprint breakdown - 2023

Scope 1 Direct Emissions → Diesel, Petrol, Natural Gas

Scope 2 Purchased Power → Electricity

Scope 3 Indirect Emissions → broken down into:

Scope 3.1 Purchased Goods & Services

('Embodied Carbon') \rightarrow e.g. Building Materials and

components, Water etc.

Scope 3.11 Use of Sold Products

('Operational Carbon') → e.g. Energy in Use of our houses

Other Scope 3 Capital Goods → e.g. IT equipment Employee Commuting, Waste





Carbon footprint breakdown - 2030

Scope 1 Direct Emissions \rightarrow HVO's, EV's etc.

Scope 2 Purchased Power → Renewable Electricity

Scope 3.1 Purchased Goods & Services ('Embodied Carbon') → Reductions here will include

Lean Design, Low Carbon Concrete, increased use of Timber etc.

Scope 3.11 Use of Sold Products

('*Operational Carbon*') → Reductions here will include PV, Grid Decarbonisation, Passive House etc.

Other Scope 3 Capital Goods → e.g. IT equipment Employee Commuting, Waste







2.

What if we could solve several problems at once?



What if there was a build methodology that provided...



Greater comfort for **Reduced Energy**



Carbon savings



residents

Increased resilience to a warming world



bills for life

Superior build quality



No performance gap



Thermal Comfort / Increased Resilience

- PH provides thermal comfort in both winter and summer.
- Physics-based approach which takes both gains (solar gains & internal gains due to people and plant) and losses into account
- Solar gains can be controlled with shading, orientation & g-value
- Insulation of DHW circulation systems will limit uncontrolled internal gains
- Homes (inc. Apartments) can and should be designed to limit overheating (>25°C) to between 2% and 3% of the year.

Climate Crisis

Europe's current disturbing pattern of overheating is worse than in many parts of the world

Having experienced its hottest day in 135 years on Monday, Ireland's lack of preparedness for rising temperatures is a growing concern

X Expand





Design & Build for Performance

Reduced Energy Bills

LCCA Study: Comparative Life Cycle Costs for 2 Alternatives								Project Savings
	Avg Apt Area <i>sqm</i>	Energy Usage <i>kWh/yr</i>	Length of study	Initial Cost	Total LCC (NPV)	Net Savings per unit		Pipers Square
nZEB	70	4,934	60 years	-	€102,796	-		
Passivhaus	70	2,778	60 years	€6,000	€86,956	€15,839.85		€12.25m



Comfort – Indoor Air Quality



No Performance Gap

- When reporting on our Carbon Output and Reductions targets we cannot ignore the Performance Gap – it is well understood and we are expected to account for it.
- The perils of houses not performing to their assessed performance are well known to Cairn
- Ironically, the higher the designed efficiency level of a building, the greater the percentage performance gap is likely to be
- Dunboyne Road: 48% greater than predicted by DEAP
- **PHPP** proven to be accurate: < 10%



Fig. 11: The results of the Performance Tests carried out for 25 highly efficient new builds in England [Johnston 2014]. The three Passive House projects scored best by far and in every respect: there was almost no difference between the predicted and the measured specific heat loss, they exhibited a loss coefficient lower by a factor of two compared with the next best projects and they saved almost 75% of the heating losses compared with the average losses.





3. Why Passive House?



Operational Carbon reduction strategies

- Predictable
- Scalable
- Replicable
- Can be applied to every Building and Site
- Accurately forecast building performance
- Utilise existing supply chain





Strategy: Decarbonisation using Passive House



Reducing Scope 3.11 (Carbon In-use):

Passive Apartment Schemes

Robust and cost-effective route to help us achieve our scope 3 carbon reduction targets

Current schemes will save 27,000 tonnes of carbon (equivalent to **13%** of our entire 2019 baseline footprint)

Meeting and exceeding our current high standards (Citywest airtightness = 0.8ach)

Third-party Certification by Passivhaus Institute

Significant energy cost savings for the occupiers

Same ingredients, new recipe

Insulation – NO CHANGE

Triple-glazed windows

Efficient junctions - NO CHANGE

Airtightness – 0.6ach

Ventilation

1

2

3

4

5



72 sqm Apartment	Heat Energy Demand (kWh/yr)	(
nZEB compliant	2,400	S 1
Passivhaus standard	1,080	(
Reduction per apartment	55%	

r Passivhaus ndard apartments l reduce heat mand by **55%**





4. What are we doing?

Piper's Square, Charlestown – **590 Apartments**

Development Overview

590 Passivhaus Standard Apartments

4 blocks of apartments (3 with basements) delivering one of the most sustainable scaled apartment development in the Irish market with significant energy cost savings for the occupiers

Unlocking Delivery

Respond Housing Assoc.

Cairn Homes with the support and partnership of **Respond** Housing and **Fingal County Council** will see the delivery of our first passive apartment scheme

Accelerated Build Programme

33 Month Build Programme

Start on site, **November 2023** with completion **October 2026** (144 weeks). First Unit Handover – February 2026 Block 1



Seven Mills T2 – 607 Apartments

Development Overview

607 Passivhaus Standard Apartments

4 blocks of apartments (3 with basements) delivering one of the most sustainable scaled apartment development in the Irish market with significant energy cost savings for the occupiers

Unlocking Delivery

LDA

Cairn Homes with the support and partnership of **Respond** Housing and **Fingal County Council** will see the delivery of our first passive apartment scheme

Accelerated Build Programme

33 Month Build Programme

Start on site, **November 2023** with completion **October 2026** (144 weeks). First Unit Handover – February 2026 Block 1



Santry – 558 Apartments

Development Overview

558 Passivhaus Standard Apartments

On two sister sites delivering sustainable scaled apartments with significant energy cost savings for the occupiers

Unlocking Delivery

Tuath Housing Assoc.

Cairn Homes with the support and partnership of **Tuath** Housing and **Fingal County Council** will see the delivery of these passive apartment schemes

 \Box

Accelerated Build Programme

33 Month Build Programme

Start on site, **March 2024** with completion **January 2026**.







Q&A