

Ostrava: first passive office building in CR approved for use



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The first passive office building in the CR was approved for use in Ostrava's district of Hulváky in June this year. The building serves as a seat of a private company, but mainly as a training centre for those interested in energy-saving buildings. Although passive houses are gradually finding their place here, we are still significantly lagging behind Western Europe. An example is Austria, where about 20% of houses are built in passive standard today. The situation is even worse in larger buildings, for example office or public administration buildings. "Passive office buildings are a clear trend of near future. According to the European Directive EPBD, buildings with nearly zero energy consumption will need to be built from 2021; it will be two years earlier in public administration buildings," says Jan Bárta from Passive House Centre.

The passive office centre in Ostrava was designed by architect Radim Václavík, and its construction cost CZK 32 million. Four floors of the building reach 15 metres and provide a total usable area of 1,300 sqm. "The outer shell constitutes a 25-centimetre heat shield and quality triple-glazed windows. The main source of heat and hot water is air / water heat pump, whose reverse can be used for air conditioning. In heating the building, maximum gains from moving people and office equipment are expected," said Jan Neuwirt from the company which financed the construction. 48 solar collectors were also installed on the roof of the building; their estimated annual output is 9,440 kWh.

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