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Orchards at Orenco Touted as a Building Fighting Climate Change

New E-book Demonstrates the Benefits of Building to Net Zero

PORTLAND, OR – August 26, 2015 – Today, REACH CDC's Orchards at Orenco, the largest multi-family Passive House building in North America, was featured in the North American's Passive House Network (NAPHN) new e-book, *Net Zero Energy Buildings: Passive House + Renewables* (p 62).

Another really hot summer is winding down, with dramatic forest fires capping off a fourth year of drought in the West. Across North America the growing numbers of Net Zero Energy and Passive House buildings reflect a rising concern with climate change. As the new, free e-book, *Net Zero Energy Buildings: Passive House + Renewables* written by Mary James demonstrates, Passive House is an ideal way to reach Net Zero. Passive House is a methodical approach to creating extremely comfortable, durable, and healthy buildings that deal squarely with the challenge of our century: carbon emissions reduction. As Lloyd Alter on Treehugger says, "*Net Zero Energy building is hot in North America these days...It is also much easier to achieve if you reduce energy demand. That's the key point being made in Net Zero Energy Buildings: Passive House + Renewables.*"

Opened in June 2015, Orchards at Orenco is a 57 unit development located in the highly walkable Orenco neighborhood in Hillsboro, Oregon. The L shaped building features nearly 90% energy reduction for heat usage and 60-70% for overall energy use as compared to a LEED Certified building. The savings is expected to be approximately \$30-45 per month per unit. The building also features improved indoor air quality provided by continuous ventilation, better comfort in the units, improved construction quality reducing the risk of moisture intrusion and reduction of noise from the adjacent MAX light rail line. In June, Orchards at Orenco won the Portland Business Journal's Sustainable Project of the Year Award.

To provide inspiration and plenty of eye candy, *Net Zero Energy Buildings: Passive House + Renewables* features a wide range of North American Passive House buildings, from homes to apartments, schools and even a dental clinic. *Net Zero Energy Buildings: Passive House + Renewables* is being distributed by NAPHN in the hopes that its examples will inspire architects, builders, cities and regions to take action to halt climate change. NAPHN was created in 2013 to share Passive House resources and information across North America.



A healthy community begins at home

About REACH CDC

For 33 years, REACH has built innovative and affordable housing for low-income families and individuals in the Portland metropolitan region. In 2013, REACH acquired Affordable Community Environments as a subsidiary corporation, expanding into Washington state. REACH develops and manages affordable housing and provides supportive services to residents, as well as free home repairs to senior homeowners. Today, REACH's portfolio includes 2,073 units including single family homes, apartment buildings, and mixed-use developments located across Multnomah, Washington and Clark counties. REACH has won numerous state and national awards for its creative approach to building healthy communities and its innovative housing projects. More information at <http://reachcdc.org>.