

Passive House Consulting with Andrew Peel | Transcript

Speaker 1 ([00:02](#)):

[Inaudible],

Speaker 2 ([00:02](#)):

Welcome to green building matters, the podcast that matters for green building professionals, learn inside in green buildings as we interview today's experts and lead and well we'll learn from their career paths, war stories and all things green because green building matters and now our host and yes he has every lead ed well credential. Here's Charlie Cichetti,

Charlie ([00:33](#)):

Be sure to checkout, the green building matters community where you can have unlimited exam prep for any of the professional credential exams you're tackling next as well as putting your continued education on autopilot, saving time with GBS, reporting your hours on your behalf. Check it out. Gbes.Com/Join now. Enjoy this episode of the green building matters podcast.

Charlie ([01:01](#)):

Hi wrote, welcome to the next episode or the green building matters podcast. I'm your host, Charlie Cichetti and today I've got Andrew Peel with us coming to us from the Toronto area in Canada and I look forward to really talking about a topic that I keep getting asked a lot about is passive house, but really part of today's discussion is we might get into renewables to talk about carbon. Yeah, there's different programs out there. I'm just really excited to have Andrew on who is an expert at several of these topics. So Andrew, welcome to the podcast. Thank you, Charlie. Thank you for having me. Yeah, you're, you're very welcome. I love these conversations with green building professionals and I love it when we have an international guest on, you know, I'm based in Atlanta, Georgia. I get to travel a good bit for the training we do, the projects we work on. And so let's talk a little bit about where you got your start. So where'd you grow up and where did you go to school?

Andrew ([01:50](#)):

Well, I grew up outside of Toronto in the suburbs of Mississauga, and spent most of my formative years there. And I sort of just regular suburban life. So can't say there was anything particularly notable about it. And then I think you asked me about the school. Where did I go?

Charlie ([02:08](#)):

Yeah, like college, you know, I know you've got some advanced degrees, so yeah. Tell us a little bit about what it was like, you know, college, what'd you major in and, and, and kinda maybe you went back and got a master's. Tell us about that.

Andrew ([02:21](#)):

Sure. Yeah. So I went to a university known in Canada, not, not so well known outside called Queens University. It's also in Ontario. And yeah, I did electrical engineering. That was my undergrad degree and you know, I sort of had an interest in, well more I'd say probably computers. Earlier on going back to high school that kind of veered a bit more into the electrical side. So I decided to now end up majoring in that. So I was kind of all set for a career in electrical engineering and I just had what was developed in me. It was an interest in neuro energy as always, in undergrad and what I was finding there wasn't really

much available to learn. Like there's the odd course that kind of covered it brief or an out, but it wasn't much there.

Andrew ([03:10](#)):

So, since I wanted to get into the rural energy space, I started to look for opportunities, couldn't get any real education and undergrad. So look for job opportunities and this is back in 2004 or five. And yeah, at the time the renewable sector was really a cottage industry. So, you know, I'd go to like solar energy society of Canada's annual conference and there'd be maybe before vendors and you know, a couple of people installing PV system and I've asked them about jobs and they just laugh, right? So I realized, in order for me to get my foot in the door, I'd have to do a master's program. And so I started looking where in Canada for programs. There wasn't really anything available. Like there are people doing primary research, so solar cell technology research looking to improve the efficiency.

Andrew ([04:02](#)):

But actually my my girlfriend at the time was living with somebody who is completing her master's at the university of Toronto in solar research. And after speaking to her, she was telling me how she spent two years improving the efficiency of solar cells by, you know, 0.1%. You know, that's, it's great you're doing that. But like, that's, I don't want to spend two years doing that. And then when I looked further in the U S there, it was the same story people were doing primary research, but nothing really kind of led into jobs outside of research. So I started to look further fields and there's actually a professor edge worked with who who was in, he was in the renewable space, but yet he was doing research, primary research. He was aware of a couple master's programs in Europe. And so I just looked into them and decided, okay, let's take a punch. You know, they weren't certainly known much in North America. So I ended up at a school in Germany that had a program dedicated to renewable energy and it was, I mean, it existed since the late eighties. So the oldest program in the world, they had great faculty, great alumni network and so ended up, it turned out really well. It was just this like unknown known school. I talked to anyone who wasn't from Germany and they had never heard of the heard of the town or the city that the university was in.

Charlie ([05:23](#)):

Now is that how you got an early stint at BRE and breeam early in the career. So you're really kind of bounced right into kind of the green building side of things. Cause I'm always curious, you know, how'd you get that start? It sounds like you're passionate about renewables, you're really curious, you know, was there kind of an aha moment you wanted to make a career out of green buildings? Like tell some more about that.

Andrew ([05:45](#)):

Sure. Yeah. He's actually during the master's program where I, you know, I guess thinking more like almost philosophically about energy generation, I came to the conclusion in my mind that it was easier save a kilowatt hour than try to figure out different alternative ways of actually generating that kilowatt hour. And that's what got me interested in energy efficiency. And ultimately building energy efficiency. And it was just true, you know, a bit of luck really. I that I found the Passivhaus Institute in Germany that, you know, I hadn't heard of them and my background's all a construction from education. So you know, they, they just happen, you know, they had this lowly website and I managed to find it, found an opportunity with them. I actually worked. So I ended up doing my master's thesis at the institute as well

as work there and I worked on the, their software, the Passive planning package, so it's like passive energy modeling software .

Andrew ([06:39](#)):

So that's also how I got started into the green building space. And I feel like I'm fortunate that I kind of started at the source of, you know, where, where this now worldly applied standard international building standard for highly energy efficient high performance comfortable, my quality indoor, like all, you know, all the things that come with Passivhaus that I basically found that the organization that had it together. So that's how I ended up getting started in Passivhaus. I worked there for a while and then I jumped over to the UK where you mentioned BRE, the building research establishment was. And so I got a job with them and worked for them for maybe four or five years. And that was in the Passivhaus space as well as, and more generally in sustainable buildings. And I worked as well on, to manage the low carbon building technology, a program on behalf of the UK governments. We had a contract where any manufacturer or supplier that had a device they were claiming or system or component they were claiming carbon savings for, we would assess that product. So we developed testing and calculation methodologies to properly assess what kind of, savings these technologies actually would. It would, carbon, how much carbon it would actually save

Charlie ([08:01](#)):

Really good opportunity to young in your career there. Well tell us about did you have any mentors along the way or anyone that kinda, you looked up to anyone that influenced you or maybe maybe they did open a door. Any mentors along the way?

Andrew ([08:14](#)):

Not, certainly not in the sustainable building, or renewable energy space. It was just something I was drawn to and I just found my own path. There wasn't, wasn't really much going on in North America at the time, so I didn't really have anyone to look to. So yeah, I was just really about carving my own path.

Charlie ([08:33](#)):

No, that's awesome. That's what a lot of listeners here need to hear as well. It's a, you know, you were out there and you made it happen so. Well what are some of your proudest achievements? And then in a minute we'll talk more about what you do with Peel Passive House, I love to give my podcast guests some permission to look at the highlight reel and what stands out, you know, brag a little bit. What are some of proudest achievements

Andrew ([08:56](#)):

So far? That's great. Yeah. Cause we often don't give or receive acknowledgement. Yeah. I think actually most recently we've, completed the world's first Passive car dealership, which, had some people find it. Oh, you know, it's like an oxymoron, you know, side by side. But yeah, in a Red Deer Alberta, so it's in Canada and you know, the owner, he's not an environmentalist but you know, it's a family run business. They, I actually just celebrated their 50th anniversary in 2018. And they just found that applying Passive House to their dealership really aligned with their, their views around longterm value around it. Space for their employees, for occupants or customers. Obviously lower energy bills, helpful, more durable construction. Yeah. That value or the I for long term they saw a lot.

Andrew ([09:52](#)):

No, that's awesome. I mean there's, you know, we have to accept, there's going to be a lot of buildings built, a lot of buildings renovated. Sure. You know, if we can go through certain certification programs as best practices to make it a better building, that hopefully is energy efficient, less harmful to the environment, a better place for those workers to work in. I mean, you know, we definitely can justify it. So it was pretty cool that you got that certification there. So anything else stand out though you're really proud of as you look back? Yeah, like specific things. I mean certainly proud of carving, my own path, like and not really, I like being always committed to the work, like the vision of transforming to the construction industry so that we're building buildings with to pass those performance levels across the board and really creating a company.

Andrew ([10:38](#)):

You know, my company is eight years old and when we, when I founded it, there was very little happening in the passive base. I mean it was the odd house that was going out and so actually just remaining committed and not like not taking on work that doesn't align with the mission or the vision. So really about creating a mission based or vision-based organization. Most people bet on you a little bit. So what, what drives you as, especially to, if you feel like you were out there doing it by yourself. Like is it to make the world a better place? Is it just this is the right way to do it is if you're going to be in business and being an entrepreneur, you want to be in this industry. Tell me a little more like a, you know, if you peel back that onion so to speak, like you know, what really keeps you fired up?

Andrew ([11:20](#)):

I mean since I was young, I've had, there in the background and some, you know, environmental thinking. I can't say it was very strong as a, as a kid or nor did I take a lot of action. But you know, I remember you being eight years old, I'd like reuse strings, you know, to tie things up. I remember being excited about when they first started to recycle juice boxes in school. And so it's kinda been a thread throughout my life. It wasn't until looking at career that it really became more prominent and started to integrate it more into my life. And yeah, so certainly there's an environmental side of things. I definitely like better quality things. You know, I've learned my lesson enough times of buying something cheap and it break you down like investing, you know, making an investment in the thing that you're going to make the biggest investment in, in your life is your home that you're investing for the longterm. You're investing in something more durable, better quality and it gives you better indoor air quality. I mean I could say that if it's a passive house, there's just, it just makes so much sense. Like when you think of, you know, the same that yeah, why like spend a bit more money up front and sometimes you don't even have to, but even if you have to just to make something that's going to give you a much better product that you're going to enjoy for over its lifetime. Just, it just makes so much more sense.

Charlie ([12:37](#)):

Absolutely. So let's kind of fast forward to today cause I want to learn more about your company, but I want to learn more about Passive House. This is a topic that, you know, we teach a lot about lead and well and fit well and you know, even the living building and some other things. But passive house keeps coming up and more and more, you know, the architects, engineers, contractors especially work with, they want to learn more here. So if you could tell us a little more about passive house, maybe, what are some things that maybe we should know that maybe are misconceived in the marketplace? You know, is it only for, residential? I mean, is it like commercial? How big of a building could we use passive house? So could you give us a little way of the land on, you know, passive house and maybe some projects you're currently working on and we'll see where that goes.

Andrew ([13:21](#)):

So fundamentally a passive house can be applied to any building type, I mean, stretching. Yeah. From your single family homes through large multiunit, are there some high rise buildings where there's one already in New York that was built and more are on their way across the world applies to all sorts of nonresidential buildings. I just mentioned this car dealership, museums police stations, schools offices. I mean you name it, that it's there surpass versus a bit of a misnomer. It's also a bit of a mistranslation so there's been confusion I think as the market's evolving that that confusion is kind of dissipating and you know, people are just seeing passive house as a building standard and a lot focusing on the house side of things. Yeah. And it's gaining much more traction around the world and particular in North America we see certain hot hotbeds like in Vancouver in New York, we're seeing projects here in Southern Ontario.

Andrew ([14:18](#)):

Yeah, I mean, you know, this is happening both in cases where there's policy, like the city of Vancouver actually has specific policy where they require passive certification depending on the situation, you know, with like rezoning projects. Others. It's strictly voluntary, but the, the, the owners are actually seeing value. You know, it's quite popular in affordable housing, affordable housing space. Cause we have long term owners. We're actually working with an organization now on a 20 story tower retrofits we're doing a passive retrofit of this building. It's in Windsor, Ontario, which is just across the river from Detroit. And the organization spends half of their operating budget on energy, which is not heard of such a figure. So they're highly motivated to just save energy. And you know this, there are the pastoralist retrofit will achieve a lot of that.

Charlie ([15:11](#)):

The one that, I mean it sounds like it's a lot more, there's a lot more to the program than I think some of us that maybe have been focused only on leed for a number of years would think so help us understand. When would you apply say passive house instead of leed or have there ever been projects that do both, I guess what kind of clients are you recommending it? Is it more because it's coming over more internationally and leed has done a good job to keep some other programs out of the U S I don't know. Tell us what's realistically happening out there with a program like passive house compared to say even leed or even leed for homes

Andrew ([15:45](#)):

Plus there's a bit more narrow but deeper. So focuses on energy performance, indoor air quality, occupant comfort does a deep dive in those areas and it doesn't, well it's got a great track record of delivering on its promise. So the energy modeling we do to predict how much energy buildings actually to be used. You know, we go through a fairly rigorous process that, you know, that needs to be all design ultimately needs to be built, but there are, as part of that quality assurance process that certification brings passive for certification based certainly in the construction of the building as well. And so yeah, we see it. They actually perform as expected consistently. And this is true of different building types, right? Not just of homes. We don't, we don't generally have to sell Passive because clients are coming to us because they want passive house.

Andrew ([16:33](#)):

I mean that's the whole idea of, you know, I created a company focused on passive house and you know, build that reputation of the company so that people, seek us out say, so it's not a matter of selling one

versus the other. I mean sometimes there are discussions or clients aren't fully committed as to what are the advantages. And certainly passive house can marry well with other standards like leed. So whereas leed is much broader, right? It's covering elements that you don't see with passive house material selection among other things. And so we see projects further actually pursue both. So they can be complimentary. And I think where people have turned to passive house sometimes and not leed would be where they really want the, you know, energy or CO2 savings where it's need has, there's been great examples, highly efficient for the savings here. A lot of CO2 and the way there were cases where, you know, via certified led building they maybe hadn't put as much focus on energy efficiency or carbon savings and so making have kind of equivalent certification in leed by quite different outcomes in terms of carbon or energy savings.

Charlie ([17:36](#)):

Yeah. Well thanks for demystifying that even for me, a focus on energy kind of mandated or that's how we're going to hit our energy goals in some areas. And then of course the air side of it. So one of my previous guests, when we talked passive house, there was something that I wanted you to maybe help with too is on the air quality side. You know, as I understand it, you maybe want a much more airtight building and you really control that outside fresh air more precisely than just breathable envelope. So can you speak to that for a minute? Do you end up with overall better air quality and outside fresh air instead of relying on, you know, building envelope that you know, may be letting air in or conditioned air out where you don't want it. Can you speak to that for a minute.

Andrew ([18:18](#)):

This is definitely one, one of the aspects of Passive House that both anecdotally and empirically through a data monitoring, our indoor air quality monitoring is demonstrated that yes, passive house delivers superior indoor air quality whether it's through CO2 measuring up programs or you know, when, when building owners agree to install CO2 monitoring systems or when we talk to clients or the occupants of buildings and just get their feedback that, yeah. And that's really down to both how Passive house approaches ventilation system design as well as the requirements on controls and CO2 levels. And so they, they, it blends well like the air quality side with energy efficiency. So it's, it won't compromise on indoor air quality, but it tries to deliver that in an energy efficient possible?

Charlie ([19:12](#)):

Good. Oh, that's fantastic. Yeah. Thanks for taking us there. Well tell us some more about what's keeping you busy today. Andrew do you focus more on like the consultant side of passive house? Do you do some design? They're like, tell us what kind of work you do at your firm and you know, walk us through that process.

Andrew ([19:31](#)):

Sure. Yeah. We have a few major services, one being Passive consultancies. So that's where we will support clients, design teams, developers, or even other consultants with pastoralists design and construction. You know, throw right from start to finish for the projects. You know, we have deep expertise with passive house. So sometimes we'll be working with other qualified passive practitioners who, you know, may not have, uexperience with certain building types or, and I am, we don't have experience with every building type. Like the car dealership we worked on, you know, I'd never worked on a car dealership. I didn't know much about it, but we brought our kind of passive thinking and design philosophy and experience to the project team, which did have experience with car dealerships. So

consulting's a big part. We do a certification. So unlike other systems like Leed where all the certification goes through either the U S GBC or CA GBC with the passive house certification building certification there. We actually are contracted to the Institute in Germany and there are other certifiers operating in North America as well. So we kind of essentially compete, I mean we work up to the same standard, but there are options for, for teams who want to employ a certifier

Charlie ([20:54](#)):

Can you certify your own projects?

Andrew ([20:56](#)):

No, there is a strict separation there. So if we are a consultant on a project we ourselves would have to find another certifier.

Charlie ([21:03](#)):

Gotcha. And, and I have to assume a lot of the costs are going to be in the actual, you know, tight building envelope. Maybe some more efficient systems. But you know, is there a certain cost comparison or range like you know, someone want to do this on a project, is it a 1% premium, 5% I don't know how to answer the cost question. It's Hey, not too much more, but your payback is so fast. Look how much more energy efficient we are. So you know, what's the premium to do passive house?

Andrew ([21:31](#)):

That's common question that comes up. And I generally, I veered a bit differently now I'm steering and trying to steer the discussion a bit differently where it's like, okay, as a client, what's your budget? What's your square for a dollar a square foot costs, you know, it might be a range there and okay, well let's work to that and deliver a passive house within that budget as opposed to delay, you know, trying to build, design a conventional building and then slot passive house on top, where we've had projects that try to shoehorn a design into Passive then yes, it's inevitably going to be more expensive and sometimes noticeably more expensive.

Charlie ([22:10](#)):

No, that's smart. I was smart. I like that. That's fantastic. Thank you for walking us through that and tell us more what you're working on today. Let's talk about the future of this sustainability and green building movement. If you had a crystal ball, you know, what should we be reading up on now? What's, what's, what's around the corner?

Andrew ([22:27](#)):

My experience, we're seeing more desire to see reliable results that actually buildings deliver the actual CO2 savings that are expected or thought are gonna come from applying better building standards. You know, regardless of the rating system, you know, you just did the, I guess the pressing need for action on climate change has, you know, more and more jurisdictions, you know, we, we get, we're more in touch with those in North America, but I'm sure around the world look to say, okay, how can we address this? The buildings is obviously a big sector, a big contributor. And so I think there's been enough history of, you know, promises not delivered on that. This is greater focus. And I think that's why some jurisdictions are pointing to passive house because they realize, okay this is improvement concept.

Charlie ([23:20](#)):

No, that makes sense. So we gotta make sure we do these third party certifications, not just to validate it, but let's, let's take it further and make sure it really is accurate is something we can use for operations and everyone can trust even more. So. That's good man. Thank you.

Andrew ([23:34](#)):

I think, I mean, I just to expand on that, like ultimately what's important to me and me, I, you know, we've, we've picked passive house, not to say, Oh, it's a winner. Like it's like I just think delivers on so much in my mind and yet what's most important for me at the end of the day when we talk about industry transformation is, you know, do we have appropriate targets being set to meet our climate objective, to meet all of our objectives that we want the buildings to deliver on? And sorry, I lost my other point. Do we have the targets and do we have the appropriate processes to ensure we actually deliver on those targets without that quality? That suitable quality assurance process or, you know, we not say useless, but, certainly not as impactful. And so that's what I really feel that passive house certification brings is that rigor in quality assurance. And so if we can apply that generally to construction industry, you know, whether you label and seal or certify buildings passivist isn't ultimately the most important thing.

Charlie ([24:35](#)):

That's good. Well, thank you very much. Well let's go through some rapid fire questions here. What do you think is your specialty or gift? What are you best at?

Andrew ([24:42](#)):

I certainly quick thinking my can kind of deconstruct or analyze problems fairly quickly. I think it was a lateral thinking would be, but like I, I can think in different shots. You know, I've got a strong technical background but you know, being a business owner and I would say successful business, I can think in terms of business owner and that, that way of thinking and sort of an openness to new ideas and collaboration I think actually speaks more generally to the industry. You know, it's still quite competitive and I want to read more like collaboration amongst, even on our passive house space where there's quite a bit of collaboration, a lot of sharing. There's still this undercurrent of like competition and I think if we're going to transform the market, we need to be working more and more together. And so I think my openness to once they would go into business, but like, you know, there's good healthy competition there that everyone's doing it basically.

Charlie ([25:35](#)):

Yeah. No, I want to unpack that more because you know, here at, at our education company, we've helped over a hundred thousand people around the world study and pass their lead exam. So on one hand you can be like, Hey, we're, you know, we're creating more competition or consultants this or engineer that. But no, it's, you know, a rising tide lifts all boats. But I want to talk about partnerships because I think old school business, you know, maybe a client might assume, Oh, you don't have that skill set in house. You know, but you're partnering out there in industry. So you mentioned on the dealership you brought in an expert. Maybe you know your prime on it, your, your the client relationship, but you're going to bring in some experts to make sure this is a great project. If anything, you know, there's more experts together on their assignment, keep it within budget. But, you know, how do we break down that perception of, Oh, we're not big enough for, we don't have that experience. You know, how do we make sure we're teaming up more? What, what would you suggest?

Andrew ([26:30](#)):

For the car dealership, like we were brought in as the experts, like the architect had done passive house and wanted our extra level of expertise. He was open. Like you know, it's a kind of, you know, there wasn't that ego of like, Oh I can do it all, we'll figure it out. You know, it was like, okay, well yeah we can say they would need some support and can we look to, to bring that, that supporting, I mean we do that as well where there's an area, you know, even if it's like a deeper area of building physics that we're like, okay, you know, that's outside of our comfort more than just outside of our comfort zone. It's just like we couldn't competently advise on this. We'll want to bring somebody in board on board. So it's really about the attitude of the team members as well as willingness for the client to accept that.

Andrew ([27:13](#)):

So I don't know if there's like a silver bullet answer to that or solution, but to me, fundamentally, a lot of it's about attitude. And now you see this, you know, any like, I'd rather have a green team. So it's a team that's never done passive house and they're just learning, you know, in the basics and both they have the right attitude of like, yes, we want to engage on this, we want to learn. We want to be successful versus somebody with more experience. But they're really stuck in their ways of thinking or doing or solutions they weren't, you'd come up with before. Because often on our projects we're having to come up with quite creative solutions because no one's really figured it out before.

Charlie ([27:52](#)):

Right. No, that makes sense. So yeah, better attitude. And then I think what you just did here, and that's what I'd suggest to everybody listening that you know, there needs to be more partnerships out there. I know my businesses this year, I want to make sure we have a lot more partnerships is give examples. Just show, Hey, here's an example of where we had a successful partnership. Turned out a great project. So I think the more people see examples of partnerships and industry. So thanks for, thanks for that. I appreciate it. Well, let's talk about just productivity. Do you have any routines or rituals that kinda help you stay on point, help you stay successful? I mean, any best practice that you could share?

Andrew ([28:26](#)):

Yeah, and this is an evolving thing for me. I realized actually with I'm really a personal coach, but it was like anyways, I've been doing this personal professional development work and a leader of one of the programs pointed out that as things develop, evolve, like they have to revisit your structure, how you structure your day because the game you're playing, the level you're operating at, it's shifted your work offering a higher level. Like maybe that structure isn't suitable. And so this is kind of an ongoing evolution for me. Certainly one of the routines I have been doing for probably half a year now and I'm seeing benefit is that the morning meditation I do, you know, very specific meditation. The learn from this book, it's really about kind of reshaping your way of thinking. And kind of create, create more being a a creator of, of your life and your world, like outside of your world. And so this meditation practice supports that, that thinking, that way of approaching life

Charlie ([29:27](#)):

As long as you just be really intentional. So and that's a good segue to one of my other questions. We'll go ahead and go there about books. I don't know if you'd like to listen to like audio books or pick up a book in your hands, but is there another book or two you would recommend?

Andrew ([29:42](#)):

It's funny, usually in conversation, somebody will say, Oh, I really liked this book. We'll talk about it. And then like right away, I've, you know, I've got my Amazon account, I'll just like, I've got a Kindle so I'll just download a sample. So I'm like, okay, I'll look at it later. And then unfortunately, or fortunately, Enron, fortunately my list of samples just keeps growing. I never quite get to, yeah, I get it books. But one of the books that I was very impactful for me is actually related to this meditation practice. I've been doing called breaking the habit of being yourself by Joe Dispenza. And it's great because he's got a series of books. His previous books were more focused on the theory. He's a, he's a researcher he's done a lot of tens, hundreds of yeah.

Andrew ([30:26](#)):

How many tens of thousands of brain scans at least using a particular technology. And so they've been able to see how the brain is actually operating, I don't know the technical details, but they've uncovered a lot of interesting things about the brain and its operation. And he's then developed this meditation practice based on, on that research. And this is all over this whole idea of like, how can you kind of reshape your brain, rewire your brain to be to operate in a way that, you much more want in your life, right? So if there's just certain way, if you're prone to anger or anxiety or whatever that you can, you can shift that through rewriting your brain through this practice to operate in something that's more desirable.

Charlie ([31:11](#)):

That's so cool, man. No, I think I've actually heard a podcast with him on on another podcast my life podcast. So that's fantastic. Let's talk about, just a couple more questions here. I'm really enjoying this bucket list. Are there one or two things on your bucket list you could share?

Andrew ([31:27](#)):

Yeah, I don't, I can't say I have a form of bucket list. I mean a really cool thing to do is to go to space. I get motion sickness on like you talk about a bucket like, well I'd probably would need a bucket on the way up, but yeah,

Charlie ([31:40](#)):

Yeah, that's a big one that, that is a first, I've had over 100 podcast interviews and I want you to know you win the prize for the furthest and I think that's awesome. And that's probably not too far out. Right? So that is, that is pretty cool man.

Andrew ([31:56](#)):

Everyone in, funny enough, I recent a colleague, somebody cut from a friend recently. I feel it's the, you know, the professional person of development work and they're doing, you know, we, yeah, we're doing this one course together and she just got up in front of the course one day. And the leader was just you know, leading her through some questions, exploration, exploring her own life and then, you know, she's like, Oh, do you have anything to share? And then suddenly she was just like, Oh yeah. And I want to like develop a space program that like, you know, has it so that people can easily come to space, right? Like, Oh and they totally off the radar. Didn't expect this from her, but that's kind of put space on my my mind recently. You know, if we can find a really cost effective environmental way of doing that, that would be cool.

Charlie ([32:38](#)):

I really hope our paths

Andrew ([32:40](#)):

Continue to help each other in this green building movement. But one day I want you to text me or call me when you, after you go to space and come back, cause I want to know that maybe I have a little hand in that nudge. Good. All right. Okay, that's good.

Charlie ([32:53](#)):

Yeah. You know, you've got to look back on the highlight reel. You've got to look forward to some things. Sometimes part of it's the anticipation. That's what we get excited about. You gotta be intentional. So I love our conversations gone here and, but as we wrap up, let's talk a little bit about, you know, green building careers. There are some listening here to the podcast or loyal listeners. I love every single one of them. And you know, some are lead fellows, they've been doing this for 10 -15 years and sometimes they need another spark or validation. Oh, passive house man. I just got a little more Intel there. I'm going to go look into that more. And then sometimes it's someone that's newer, maybe just got into this green building movement and they need some encouragement. So two part question.s there any advice you wish you had earlier in your career

Andrew ([33:32](#)):

Earlier in my career? I know, I think because I carved out my own path. I mean, the vice versa, I was getting a number one, like the girlfriend of a friend, she was from Germany, she actually studied in Canada and she was like, I wouldn't go to Germany. Like I don't like what's happening in the country, you know, blah, blah, blah. And like, Oh, okay. I mean, I didn't, take her advice at all. So it's like, part of that is really about getting a vision for your life and your career. Like what really motivates you, is passionate about you and kind of take action towards that despite what others may say. Like, you know, carve your own path. You know, there's always some level of realism or whatever, but it's like, you know, do, do what you're passionate about. You know, that's, that's always, that'd be, I've always like, you know, I've never been driven by money, you know, now things, my business is more successful. So I've seen the fruits of that, but it's really about what do I want to be doing on a day to day basis. And been fortunate throughout my career. I've always had interesting projects that keep me engaged. I'm always learning. So always, always find opportunities to learn and grow.

Charlie ([34:33](#)):

Oh, that's good stuff. So then finally, just, you know, here you are growing a business. You're an expert in this field. Any words of encouragement for someone though that is just now jumping in to the green building movement? Are they early? Are they late? Like any words of encouragement here?

Andrew ([34:48](#)):

Well, I say, I certainly think what I just shared really applies for, for young folks. I think passive house is a great space to get into. It's growing. We're seeing more and more projects and you know, whether it's commercial developers or public institutions like universities are saying, okay, we want passive house. And then now it's like the big architects firms, big construction management firms are saying, okay, they want to do passive house through it. Let's figure out how to do this. Honestly, we're getting serious

companies now in this space. So if you're in integrating buildings into low carbon buildings like that, this is a great opportunity.

Charlie ([35:24](#)):

Love it. Love it. Well, Andrew, thanks for being on the podcast. If anyone wants to learn more about passive house. If you want to connect to Andrew up in the Toronto area, please look him up on LinkedIn and I just want to say thank you for being on the podcast. I really appreciate your sharing some of the spin. Great. Oh, thank you Charlie for the opportunity. I just want to say thank you to our loyal listeners. We actually are celebrating over one year here on the green building matters podcast. Me and the entire team are stoked and just so glad you continue to listen every Wednesday morning to a new interview with a green building professional here in this industry or just some pro tips that we want to make sure that you are getting straight from us. Straight to you.

Charlie ([36:08](#)):

Thank you for listening to this episode of the green building matters projects@gbes.com our mission is to advance the green building movement through best-in-class education and encouragement. Remember, you can go to gbes.com/podcast or any notes and links that we mentioned in today's episode, and you can actually see the other episodes that have already been recorded with our amazing, yes, please tell your friends about this podcast, tell your colleagues, and if you really enjoyed it, leave a positive review on iTunes. Thank you so much, and we'll see you in next week's episode.