The **Wood Window** Alliance

PRESS RELEASE

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ENERGY EFFICIENCY FOR WINDOWS: ONE SIZE DOESN'T FIT ALL

The Wood Window Alliance (WWA) campaign is challenging the growing perception of Window Energy Ratings (WER) as the simple, 'one size fits all' approach to energy efficiency. The WWA, which promotes the beauty, durability and sustainability of wood windows in the UK, acknowledges the contribution WER make to improving standards, but it recommends that specifiers should evaluate the three individual elements of WER against specific architectural requirements in order to get the right product for their projects.

The values that make up WER are heat loss via the frame and glass (U-value), heat gain via the glass (solar gain or G-value) and heat loss from leakage (L-value). Specifying the right window is about getting the balance of these three right. For instance, whilst increased solar gain could be seen as 'free energy', for a large south facing window it may be better to specify a window with a low solar gain to stop the room overheating in summer and a lower U-value to keep the heat in during the winter. These are the kind of criteria against which windows should be specified.

Modern wood windows can achieve the lowest U-values in the industry as well as a wide variety of G-values. So WWA members are able to manufacture windows to meet A to C-rated standards which are tailored to the needs of specific projects[1].

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Says Sean Parnaby, WWA Campaign Chairman: “There is a danger that the broad-brush approach of WER will become the standard to which building regulations and codes refer. We need an intelligent debate in the fenestration industry about energy efficiency to help architects, specifiers and contractors gain a better understanding of how the requirements for energy efficiency vary across architectural design, aspect and location. It’s a complex area, and we should be working towards a more discriminating and well-informed approach.”

For more information on the WWA visit www.woodwindowalliance.com or contact Barnaby Dickens on 0870 458 6939.

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Notes to Editors

[1] Although softwood is a slightly better thermal insulator than other material, the thermal efficiency of a window is mostly dependent on the glazing unit rather than the frame material. Thermal efficiencies of frame materials are as follows:

Frame Material	**Thermal Conductivity W/m-K**
Softwood	0.13
Hardwood	0.18
Rigid PVC	0.17
Aluminium	160.0
Steel	50
GRP	0.40

Source: ISO 10077 – 2 : 2003: Thermal Performance of windows, doors and shutters. Calculation of thermal transmittance.

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The WWA's campaign aims are:

- to promote the sustainability and beauty of 21st century wood windows whilst dispelling myths about durability and maintenance
- to engage with key stakeholders to ensure wooden windows are fairly represented in policy and research
- to encourage members to provide a consistently high quality of product and service in delivering, installing and maintaining wood windows across the UK.

Wood Window Alliance windows are the 'green' choice

- **Carbon negative:** they store more energy than is used in their manufacture
- **Energy efficient:** double or triple-glazed BFRC 'A' rated windows available
- **Low maintenance:** typically they carry an 8 year paint warranty
- **Durable:** typically they carry a 30 year frame warranty

For further information, please contact:

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