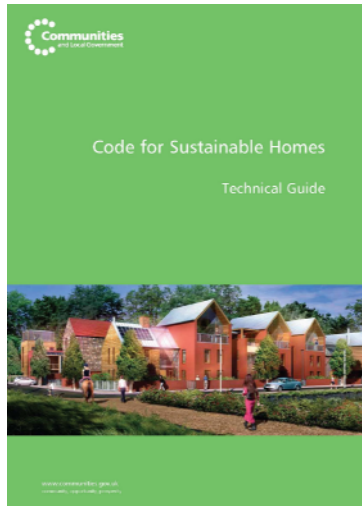


## The Code for Sustainable Homes

On 13 December 2006, the Code for Sustainable Homes - a new national standard for sustainable design and construction of new homes was launched. Since April 2007 the developer of any new home in England can choose to be assessed against the Code.



The Code measures the sustainability of a new home against categories of sustainable design, rating the 'whole home' as a complete package and uses a 1 to 6 star rating system to communicate the overall sustainability performance of a new home. The Code sets minimum standards for energy and water use at each level and, within England, replaces the EcoHomes scheme, developed by the Building Research Establishment (BRE).

Full technical guidance on how to comply with the code can be found here [http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/uploads/code\\_for\\_sustainable\\_homes\\_techguide.pdf](http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/uploads/code_for_sustainable_homes_techguide.pdf)

Wood windows will help gain some of the credits required to achieve different star ratings.

- Energy performance ratings – look for windows with U-values exceeding App. Doc L requirements with a value better than 1.8w/m<sup>2</sup>k or with BFRC ratings of A,B or C
- Responsible sourcing of materials. Use windows with FSC or PEFC certification or chain-of-custody proof. There is no responsible sourcing criteria for windows made from any other material .
- Use products with a Green Guide rating of D or better. Generic BRE environmental profile data shows fully finished and glazed wood windows to have a GG rating of A and A+