



What is the Code for Sustainable Homes?

To help meet its CO₂ targets, the Government launched the Code for Sustainable Homes in 2006, to protect the environment by setting new environmental standards for house building. The Code measures the sustainability of a home against 9 categories:

- Energy/ CO₂ emissions
- Water efficiency
- Materials
- Surface water run off
- Waste
- Pollution
- Health and well being
- Management
- Ecology

It is proposed that all new homes will eventually have a Code rating. At the moment only housing associations are required to build to a Code standard but from 2010 private house builders will also be required to build to a higher standard.





Why is the Code important?

By redesigning our homes and how we live in them there is a significant opportunity to reduce the damage we do to the environment. In reducing this damage the Code assists Government to meet national targets.

Who needs to meet the standard?

All homes built with grant funding are required to cut carbon emissions by 25% over current standards in line with Level 3 of the Code. It is intended that there will be an increase to the next Code level with each funding round to meet the Government's zero carbon target in 2016.

What do we have to do to achieve Code Level 3?

To meet Code 3 we need to achieve the following on all new developments:

- Improve our carbon emissions by 25%
- Use less than 105 litres of water per person per day
- Use materials with a low environmental impact
- Minimise surface water run off rates
- Provide adequate space for waste storage and minimise construction waste
- Achieve set levels of day light in key rooms
- Achieve set levels of sound insulation
- Provide Home User guides
- Adopt principles of Secured by Design standards
- Provide a variety of trees and shrubs

