

FACTFILE: GCE ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGY

CODE FOR SUSTAINABLE HOMES



Code for Sustainable Homes

Learning outcomes

Students should be able to:

- demonstrate an understanding of the Code for Sustainable Homes; and
- discuss the challenge of the UK government's policy to improve the environmental performance of existing housing stock through the Code for Sustainable Homes (CSH).

Course Content

New homes in England, Wales and Northern Ireland are expected to meet certain standards relating to sustainability. These standards can be measured using an environmental assessment method known as The Code for Sustainable Homes. The code has nine different sustainability criteria and each home can be made an award based on its performance against the criteria. Homes are then given a level ranging from level 1 to level 6 where;

- Level 1 is entry level above building regulations.
- Level 6 is the highest award and reflects exemplary design in terms of sustainability.

The nine criteria are:

Energy and CO2 emissions – this relates to use of energy in the house and any resulting emissions of CO2 to the atmosphere. Issues addressed include energy loss measures and use of energy efficient

internal and external lighting. It can also include provision of cycle storage and home office provision so reducing the need to travel to work.



Water – this relates to any internal and external water saving measures. E.g. low water use, sanitary fittings and rainwater recycling.



Materials – this is concerned with the sourcing and any associated environmental impact of the use of

the materials used in the construction of the home.



Surface water run-off – the management of surface water run-off from the development to reduce discharge of rainfall to public sewers and watercourses and any associated flood risk.



Waste – facilities for the storage of recyclable waste and compost and the recognition that in construction reduce, reuse and recycle was considered in material selection and use.



Pollution – a consideration of the use insulation materials and heating systems in the house which do not, by their use, add to global warming.

Health and well being – the provision of good daylight quality in the home so reducing the need for lighting with provision for sound insulation, accessibility, adaptability and outdoor private space.



Management – a home user guide which can be used too enable home owners/occupiers to understand and operate their home efficiently and to make the best use of local facilities. This also includes a “considerate constructor’s guide” and aspects of home security.





Ecology – this relates to development on land which has a limited value for wildlife and to discourage development of ecologically valuable sites. It also addresses any potential opportunities to enhance the ecological value of a site combined with efficient use of development land.

Each criterion has specific areas of importance and each is allocated a number of credits which if gained successfully by the development can be aggregated towards a final award. New developments can be assessed using the nine criteria and credits collected by the building can be translated into an award using the level descriptors named above.

