

## **FAQs on the Code for Sustainable Homes**

Below are some answers to typical enquiries about the Code. If the answer to your question does not appear here please email your query to the code inbox at [cs@bre.co.uk](mailto:cs@bre.co.uk) and it will be passed to the appropriate person who will reply as soon as possible.

### **Q1. What will happen to EcoHomes when the Code is introduced?**

*A1 The Code will replace EcoHomes for new housing built in England. EcoHomes 2006 will continue to be used for refurbished housing in England and for all housing in Scotland and Wales for the moment.*

### **Q2 Will EcoHomes still be updated in future years?**

*A2 Provided EcoHomes is still being used it will be regularly updated just as it is now.*

### **Q3. Is it much harder to meet the requirements of the Code than the requirements of EcoHomes?**

*A3 Because the Code method contains some mandatory requirements and so offers less room to manoeuvre than EcoHomes it is likely to be challenging for some developments. The positive side of this is that the Code can guarantee to deliver environmental savings in specific areas like energy and water.*

### **Q4 What is BRE's role in the new Code.**

*A4 BRE will run the competent person scheme and act as the registration and quality assurance and certification body for the new Code assessments. It will do so under contract to DCLG.*

### **Q5 What is BRE doing to ensure that information on the Code is available to all?**

*A5 A series of free seminars are being held in the New Year both at BRE initially and then regionally to ensure that anyone interested in finding out more about the code can do so. Information on these events is available on our website at*

### **Q6 What is BRE doing to ensure that there will be sufficient assessors to deliver the Code if it becomes mandatory in the immediate future?**

*A6 There is an active training programme for assessors that can be geared up at any time and up to 65 assessors can be trained on one course.*

### **Q7 If the Code now belongs to DCLG will BRE still have any influence over its technical content?**

**A7** BRE will continue to provide DCLG with technical advice and assistance on the Code but the ultimate decision on its technical content will rest with DCLG.

**Q8 How regularly will the Code be updated?**

**A8** *This will be decided by DCLG but the Code will be updated from time to time as are Building Regulations etc.*

**Q9 When many more homes are being assessed will the cost of assessment and certification come down?**

**A9** *It is possible – However because the Code involves a mandatory Post Construction certification in addition to a design stage review the whole process is likely to be more expensive at least initially.*

**Q10 Why has it taken so long to produce the Code given that it is similar to EcoHomes and was expected last year?**

**A10** *Some considerable effort has been spent in following the same procedures that would be applied to the introduction of new legislation – this has included consultation exercises, peer reviews, regulatory impact assessments and legal examination of all the proposed credits – unfortunately all this takes time..*