



Aligning with global sustainability

5 June is World Environment Day, where millions of people gather to celebrate and promote global environmental awareness. However, due to the global response to the coronavirus pandemic, it will be the first ever digital World Environment Day. What can you do to help? Here are some suggestions:

Create a climate strategy to futureproof your business

As changing environmental conditions transform the business landscape, it's vital that companies everywhere adapt and respond appropriately. Adequate preparation is important to survive and thrive in the face of climate uncertainty.

ISO 14001 provides organizations with a framework to respond to climate change and protect the environment, in balance with socio-economic needs. It requires top-level management to set accurate, meaningful and sustainable targets that can be reviewed and continually optimized, based on current needs.

The standard also calls for strong internal and external communications. Gain employee buy-in and build a pro-environmental culture at work, then share your efforts with relevant stakeholders to boost your brand's reputation.

Use energy and water wisely – and save money, too

Climate change affects both the supply of - and

demand for - water and energy. When organizations lack proper resource management, this only heightens the problem, further contributing to growing global scarcity and rising prices.

Optimizing your company's energy and water footprint protect finites resource, while also providing cost savings. Use ISO 50001 to help establish current energy use, predict future consumption and identify how your business can reduce its consumption, as well as gain recognition from the two major environmental certification programs, BREEAM and LEED.

ISO 14046 helps businesses assess water use and contribute towards better water management, both locally and globally. Other standards, like BS 7592 and BS 8580 support safe water initiatives.

Both help prevent and control outbreaks by testing water systems for legionella bacteria. Meanwhile, the upcoming BS 8680 standard will provide a code of practice to govern water safety planning in buildings.

Crack down on carbon emissions

Finally, as the world moves toward a low-carbon economy, businesses have an opportunity to lead the way. By taking action on your emissions you can improve your company's overall efficiency, cut costs and become more resilient in the process.

Refer to PAS 2050 to reduce your carbon emissions, pre-empt legislation and credibly demonstrate carbon neutrality to external stakeholders. You could also consider completing the process of Carbon Footprint Verification (CFV) to gain ISO 14064-1 certification.

It is undeniable that all businesses must take responsibility and play their role to play in combatting climate change. A standards-based corporate sustainability strategy ensures you'll take the right steps to optimize your organization's efforts and be part of the solution.

Summary:

- Business owners everywhere must recognize the reality of our changing climate and take direct action to fight the effects and protect their enterprise.

- Devising a corporate sustainability strategy is the first step. Create, implement and continually improve yours with ISO 14001 – and build a strong pro-environmental culture and reputation.
- It's also vital to engage in sustainable resource management. Maintain economic viability and limit global scarcity using ISO 50001 to reduce your company's energy consumption and ISO 14046 to lower your water footprint.
- Other standards, like BS 7592 and BS 8580 support safe water initiatives, while the upcoming BS 8680 standard will provide a code of practice to govern water safety planning in buildings.
- Finally, join the global transition to a low-carbon economy and capitalize on the opportunities this brings. Take action to cut your emissions with PAS 2050 or ISO 14064-1, cut costs and become more resilient in the process.

For more information on our standards, visit:

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