



FCC Environment Sector: Environmental services

FCC Environment shows its commitment to energy management through BSI certification to ISO 50001

The energy challenge

FCC Environment provides a range of services, including collecting business and municipal waste, recycling and processing, and generating green energy from waste. Over several years, the company has developed an integrated management system (IMS) and now maintains BSI certification to four globally recognized management system standards: ISO 9001 (quality), ISO 14001 (environmental management), ISO 45001 (health and safety) and ISO 50001 (energy management).

In the case of energy management, FCC Environment is committed to energy efficiency objectives, taking active measures to control consumption, carbon emissions and costs to meet improvement targets. This sustainable approach underpins the company's environmental policy, which has also been shaped by the need to comply with government regulations and respond to the requirements of large customers, particularly local authorities.

The solution: ISO 50001

The answer to FCC Environment's energy challenge has been certification by BSI to ISO 50001, which it achieved for the first time for all of its sites in 2015. ISO 50001 is the internationally recognized standard that represents the latest best practice in energy management, leading to reduced energy consumption and costs and lower carbon emissions, further boosting the firm's 'green' credentials.

A specific business driver for ISO 50001 was the FCC Environment's need to demonstrate it was meeting statutory requirements for energy efficiency. It could have settled for assessment under the UK Government's Energy Savings Opportunity Scheme (ESOS) but chose to go for the higher standard of ISO 50001.

Benefits of certification

FCC Environment's BSI certification to ISO 50001 has enabled it to meet statutory energy efficiency requirements, cutting carbon emissions, lowering energy costs and demonstrating best practice in energy management to customers, employees and other stakeholders. Specifically, improved performance has included a reduction of over 18% since 2014 in energy usage per tonne of waste processed. And the company is committed to continual improvement in future.

"We knew that BSI would help drive our business forward. Externally, there's a lot of recognition of the BSI brand, and its reputation carries weight with customers and stakeholders. Internally, we wanted a certification body that would stretch us. There's no doubt that BSI has helped us enormously."

Paul Stokes | Head of SHEQ | FCC Environment



Company background

FCC Environment is part of the global FCC Group, one of the world's largest environmental services companies. In the UK, it employs nearly 2,400 people and holds more than 100 contracts across some 60 local authorities.

FCC Environment collects waste – from businesses, local authorities and households – and processes it. Its approach is to minimize the amount of waste going to landfill by transforming it into valuable resources wherever possible. It owns and operates more than 200 recycling, treatment and disposal facilities across the UK, including material recycling facilities, energy-from-waste plants and landfill sites.

Focusing on energy

One of the company's key aims is to operate a sustainable business, which includes a strong emphasis on energy efficiency. As Paul Stokes, FCC Environment's Head of Safety Health, Environment and Quality (SHEQ), explains, "We are committed to monitoring and reporting carbon emissions and reducing our direct impact on climate change by managing energy use efficiently, particularly focusing on areas where we can have the greatest impact, such as plant and fleet fuel use and employee business travel. A sustainable approach is also required of us by many of our large customers, particularly local authorities."


As part of this process, in 2014 the company set out to achieve BSI certification for the first time for all of its sites to the energy management standard ISO 50001. It could have settled for occasional assessments under the UK Government's mandatory Energy Savings Opportunity Scheme (ESOS), but it was keen to show it was exceeding its legal obligations. "We decided to go for ISO 50001 as well, which is both more demanding and more rewarding," says Stokes. "We wanted to demonstrate that we're a leader in our industry."

Implementing ISO 50001

FCC Environment successfully achieved certification by BSI to ISO 50001 for all of its sites in early 2015. Implementation of the standard should be seen in the context of a certification journey that began some five years earlier, evolving gradually. From 2012, it set out to develop a truly integrated IMS, increasing its scope and unifying the way people worked across the whole company. It also decided to bring all its standards under one certification body, BSI.

Stokes explains that ISO 50001 was, and remains, a natural extension of its existing environmental standard ISO 14001, which covers basic energy efficiency measures alongside other key environmental issues. "Having ISO 14001 helped us integrate ISO 50001," he says. "But ISO 50001 challenged us to map our energy use in more detail, focus on improvement measures and quantify energy savings. The standard helped us drive and document this process on our IMS."

Since then, the company has taken its energy management performance several steps higher, driven by campaigns, employee roadshows, clinics and rigorous internal audits by its three BSI-



trained internal assessors, as well as by BSI's regular cycle of formal certification assessments.

"We've worked hard on consultation and participation, which are emphasized in ISO 50001," says Stokes. "We go the extra mile to explain the requirements of the standard and to include all areas of our operations."

Benefits of certification

BSI certification to ISO 50001 has enabled FCC Environment to meet statutory energy efficiency requirements and demonstrate best practice in energy management, helping it to win new customers and motivate employees. It has also enabled the company save very significant sums in energy costs. Improved performance from achieving ISO 50001 has included a reduction of over 18% in energy usage per tonne of waste processed since 2014.

In April 2019, for the first time, FCC Environment underwent certification assessments for all four of its standards at all 248 of its UK sites – which involved 26 audits at 15 of those sites. The results were remarkable, with an average of just one minor non-conformance found per audit. The company's SHEQ objectives include the aim of having zero overdue actions from IMS audits. "We're now achieving this across the board, including for ISO 50001," says Stokes.

He adds, "None of this would have been achievable if we hadn't had the unwavering commitment of the CEO and the management team, as well as the support of our people on so many levels."

Looking to the future

"We now have a consistent, standardized approach to energy management now that everyone understands," says Stokes. "But that doesn't mean we can sit back and relax. We don't accept complacency."

Continual improvements in energy efficiency will be driven by the setting and reviewing of goals based on key performance indicators, customer and employee feedback, internal audits and BSI assessments. In 2020 the company will see a further boost from transition to the latest version of the standard, ISO 50001:2019.

Why BSI?

FCC Environment chose BSI as its single UKAS-accredited certification partner because, says Stokes, "We knew that BSI would help drive our business forward. Externally, there's a lot of recognition of the BSI brand, and its reputation carries weight with customers and stakeholders – it gives them confidence. Internally, we wanted a certification body that would stretch us. There's no doubt that BSI has helped us enormously."