

ISO 50001 for Meeting Climate and Clean Energy Goals Key Principles for International Engagement

Global, national, and local leaders from government, business, and advocacy organizations are promoting the use of a proven framework to accelerate achievement of energy and climate goals: the ISO 50001 international energy management system standard.

With over 50 countries contributing experts and national best practices to the standard's development, ISO 50001 not only is a global best practice model for comprehensive and strategic energy management, but also serves as a global benchmark for climate and clean energy action. Energy management systems based on ISO 50001 best practices, or ISO 50001 certification, are often key elements of energy efficiency policies around the world for large energy users, as well as small to medium enterprises.

The Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM) and the International Partnership for Energy Efficiency Cooperation (IPEEC) have been driving the global dialogue on *quality ISO 50001 implementation* since the standard's publication through the Energy Management Working Group (EMWG). Building on years of input and engagement from ISO 50001 implementers from around the globe, the EMWG and its partners have distilled four "Key Principles" which define the value and need for international engagement to ensure mutual success in maximizing the value of ISO 50001 for business and the climate.

These Key Principles are being advanced through EMWG activities and its Energy Management Campaign. Since the Campaign's launch in 2016, more than 25 energy ministers, company leaders, and other key partners joined the Campaign.

Through the Energy Management Campaign, partners strive to achieve 50,001 global certifications to the ISO 50001 global energy management system standard by 2020.

The 4 Key Principles:

Principle 1 – [ISO 50001 provides a framework for measuring climate impacts](#)

Principle 2 – [Qualified ISO 50001 professionals maximize global impacts](#)

Principle 3 – [Robust ISO 50001 certification strategies support consistent global outcomes](#)

Principle 4 – [International input strengthens the market relevance of the ISO 50001 portfolio](#)

Principle 1 – [ISO 50001 provides a framework for measuring climate impacts](#)

What this means: ISO 50001 provides a framework for continual improvement of energy performance with corresponding positive impacts on productivity and climate change. To realize the standard's potential, corporate and government leaders need reliable data to assess the value of ISO 50001 implementation to their organizations and the customers or constituents that they serve. Internationally acceptable methods for data collection, measurement, and analysis consistent with the ISO 50001 framework and portfolio of standards can provide consistency and reliability of outcomes and more informed business and policy decisions. Moreover, these analyses will provide a clearer picture of progress toward energy and climate commitments. Additionally, recognition activities showcasing use of ISO 50001 will provide insights into effective approaches and business value.

Why this matters: The acceptance and use of ISO 50001 continues to grow; however, accurate data are not currently available to identify organizations certified to the standard around the globe. Case studies have demonstrated the business value of implementing ISO 50001, showing energy performance improvements of 10% or more. More data based on globally consistent methods for analyzing the savings potential and impacts are needed by government and organizations to better inform decision-making.

Principle 2 – [Qualified ISO 50001 professionals maximize global impacts](#)

What this means: Organizations need reliable ISO 50001 professionals to ensure their energy management systems help maximize their energy-saving potentials and returns on investment. Rigorous certification credentials provide a pathway for increasing the availability of qualified professionals. International collaboration on the development and adoption of these professional credentials and a shared understanding of the training required to prepare professionals for certification can enable robust and consistent implementation of ISO 50001 globally.

Why this matters: The most effective ISO 50001 professionals possess a highly specific blend of education, skills, and experience with energy efficiency projects *as well as* with business management systems and procedures. Currently, there is a global shortage of professionals with both of these critical skill sets to support widespread adoption of ISO 50001.

Principle 3 – [Robust ISO 50001 certification strategies support consistent global outcomes](#)

What this means: A strong infrastructure to support ISO 50001 has to be built from the ground up—this includes building an infrastructure for certification to the standard. Nationally, building that infrastructure relies on developing a cohesive national strategy in close cooperation with governments, national standards authorities, accreditation and certification bodies, training organizations, private sector end users, and ISO 50001 experts and practitioners. International best practice standards for building a robust certification infrastructure do exist and should guide any national strategy. International collaboration on developing a certification infrastructure for ISO 50001 is another critical element for robust and consistent implementation of the standard globally.

Why this matters: A strong infrastructure to support robust and consistent implementation of ISO 50001 will enable companies to maximize energy saving, CO₂ emissions reductions, and business value through the standard. It will also ensure the value of ISO 50001 as a policy tool for meeting and measuring progress towards energy and climate goals.

Principle 4 – [International input strengthens the market relevance of the ISO 50001 portfolio](#)

What this means: The ISO 50001 international standard actually comprises a family of standards and guidance that are not static but rather are always evolving. Involvement of a wide range of governments, businesses, and other key stakeholders in the standard development and revision process strengthens both the resulting standards and the programs that use them. In addition, strong international cooperation focused on implementation of the ISO 50001 family of standards and guidance contributes to dissemination of best practice approaches and enables robust and consistent ISO 50001 outcomes.

Why this matters: Collective stakeholder adoption and feedback works to reinforce and promote the ISO 50001 standard. Just as stakeholders may contribute to the standard, so must they remain current with its evolution to ensure policies and programs remain appropriate and effective. For instance, in 2014, international collaboration through ISO added several new standards to the ISO 50001 portfolio that can now be integrated into national programs across the globe to boost their effectiveness.

Call to Action on Key Principles

The CEM and IPEEC, through the Energy Management Working Group (EMWG) initiative, seek to accelerate broad use of energy management systems in industry and commercial buildings worldwide. The EMWG's member governments and operating agent, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), undertake activities to facilitate international cooperation to boost ISO 50001 outcomes. Current activities include:

- Regional Strategies for Reinforcing Quality ISO 50001 Certification
- Energy Professionals International (EPI) ISO 50001 Auditor Certification Program
- ISO 50001 Global Impact Research Network
- Global Database of ISO 50001 Certifications
- National and International Awards Program for ISO 50001 Leaders
- Promoting Measurement and Verification Best Practices for ISO 50001

The CEM and IPEEC welcome broader participation on these EMWG activities. Joining and supporting these activities can also count toward partner endorsement and commitments to the Energy Management Campaign.

More information on EMWG and the Campaign can be found on the webpages at cleanenergyministerial.org and www.Driveto50001.org.

For more information or if you have additional questions, contact the EMWG Coordinator at emwg@unido.org.