



ROAD TO ISO 50001 FACT SHEET

ISO 50001 is a standard that establishes requirements for an ISO-certifiable Energy Management System (EnMS).

The EnMS must include specific components outlined in the ISO 50001 standard, including establishing targets, action plans and processes to support the achievement of those targets. It must also include formal, documented and auditable continuous improvement processes (Plan-Do-Check-Act).

While not officially broken down into these components, in a practical sense, ISO 50001 is made up of three aspects:

- 1 Energy Management Good Practices**

- 2 Plan-Do-Check-Act Processes**

- 3 Third-party Recognition**

ENERGY MANAGEMENT GOOD PRACTICES

Energy management good practices include things like establishing an energy policy and an energy team, managing significant energy users and monitoring and reporting on energy key performance indicators. These practices help organizations reduce energy waste and lower energy consumption.

PLAN-DO-CHECK-ACT PROCESSES

Under ISO, Plan-Do-Check-Act (PDCA) processes represent a formal system of continuous improvement. These processes include identifying opportunities to improve, implementing those improvements, checking that people are acting in compliance with those improvements and then identifying corrective actions. The processes are conducted on a regular schedule and are well-documented so that these efforts can be auditable.

THIRD-PARTY RECOGNITION

Third-party recognition can take the form of certification to verify compliance with the ISO 50001 standard through regular audits of the organization's energy management practices and PDCA processes. It can also be achieved through self-attestation of ISO 50001 compliance through the 50001 Ready program.



IDENTIFYING YOUR INTEREST IN AN ENERGY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Your first step in determining the right path to ISO 50001 for you is to consider your main motivators. Below are three core aspects of ISO 50001, with typical benefits or motivators associated with each aspect.

ISO 50001 ASPECTS AND MOTIVATORS

ASPECT OF ISO 50001	MOTIVATORS
ENERGY MANAGEMENT GOOD PRACTICES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce energy costs. • Improve energy reporting. • Reduce greenhouse gas emissions. • Establish a plan to achieve targets.
PLAN-DO-CHECK-ACT	<p>The benefits of implementing energy management good practices, plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve adherence to energy management practices. • Enhance ongoing energy savings. • More actively pursue continuous improvement. • Increase internal awareness of energy management.
THIRD-PARTY RECOGNITION	<p>The benefits of implementing energy management good practices and PDCA processes, plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comply with regulatory requirements. • Meet customer requirements. • Enhance brand perception. • Access funding programs.

WHICH END GOAL IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

Now that you understand your primary drivers, choose an end goal that balances your needs and the resources you're prepared to invest.

END GOALS				
	ENERGY MANAGEMENT GOOD PRACTICES	ISO 50001 COMPLIANT	50001 READY	ISO 50001 CERTIFIED
ENERGY SAVINGS	✓	✓	✓	✓
DEEPER ONGOING SAVINGS		✓	✓	✓
THIRD-PARTY RECOGNITION			✓	✓
RESOURCE INTENSITY	★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★

Based on your primary motivators and available resources, which of the four options would be your current end goal?

Energy Management Good Practices

means implementing energy management processes to help you establish and achieve energy reduction targets.

ISO 50001 Compliant means implementing all of the energy management practices identified in the ISO 50001 standard, including formal, documented and auditable PDCA processes.

50001 Ready means registering and completing all the tasks in the 50001 Ready Navigator and submitting your self-attestation for approval.

ISO 50001 Certified means engaging a registrar to conduct a third-party auditor and verify your compliance with the standard.

CHOOSE YOUR TIMEFRAME

Once you've identified your end goal, the next step is to understand your timeframe. Typically, organizations on the road to ISO 50001 can be categorized as having one of the following timeframes: short term, long term or undetermined.

TIMEFRAME	MOTIVATORS	END GOAL	RESOURCE COMMITMENT
SHORT TERM	Strong motivators associated with third-party recognition.	Achieve ISO 50001 compliance, recognition or certification within 10-24 months.	May require significant resources.
LONG TERM	Some motivators associated with third-party recognition.	Achieve ISO 50001 compliance, recognition or certification in 2+ years.	Timeframe may vary with ability to commit resources.
UNDETERMINED	Primarily motivators associated with energy management good practices or PDCA processes.	Establish energy management good practices.	Suitable if unable to commit sufficient resources at this time.

Even if achieving ISO 50001 compliance is not your current end goal, staying on the road to ISO 50001 with an undetermined timeline can help ensure your current efforts are still aligned with ISO 50001 requirements, in case your motivators change in the future.

INTERNAL VERSUS EXTERNAL RESOURCES

Regardless of your end goal and timeframe, implementing change is going to require staff who are knowledgeable about energy management good practices and ISO 50001 processes. Some organizations will achieve their end goals entirely with internal resources, while others will make use of external consultants.

The following table can help you determine which resources you may need.

INTERNAL RESOURCES	EXTERNAL CONSULTANTS
Will need internal resources to maintain good practices and ISO 50001 processes, even if an external consultant is used to support implementation.	Likely required to achieve short-term implementation timeframes.
May require training on energy management good practices and ISO 50001 processes.	Reduces training requirements for internal staff to achieve implementation.
Hiring staff with energy management or ISO 50001 experience can accelerate your efforts.	May support staff training to maintain good practices and ISO 50001 processes.

INFORMATION AND SUPPORT RESOURCES

There are several resources available to support your road to ISO 50001, regardless of your end goal and timeframe.

Remember, even if ISO 50001 isn't your current goal, aligning your energy management good practices with the ISO 50001 standard will help prepare you, in case your end goal changes.

ISO 50001 Training Courses can provide your team with an understanding of the standard. Experienced instructors can demonstrate what implementation may look like for your organization.

50001 Ready Navigator translates the standard into actionable tasks in a logical sequence. It also provides guidance and tools to help along the way. It tracks your progress and is required to achieve 50001 Ready navigation.

Save on Energy Strategic Energy Management Program provides ongoing training and coaching support to implement and improve energy management practices aligned with the standard.

The above resources provide different levels and types of support and can be very effective when used in combination.

GETTING STARTED ON YOUR ROAD TO 50001

Identifying your key motivators, desired end goal and timeframe is an excellent start down the road to ISO 50001. Your next step will be to gain consensus around this plan within your organization.

Once that's achieved, a common starting point is to conduct an Energy Management Assessment (EMA) to identify gaps to address along your road to ISO 50001. This can be done with:

- A third-party consultant.
- Your coach in the [Strategic Energy Management Program](#).
- Using the [50001 Ready Energy Management Assessment tool](#) (see bottom of web page for link).
- [SEM Hub Energy Management Assessment Tool](#).
- [ISO 50001 Gap Analysis Checklist](#).

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

ISO 50001 AND CERTIFICATION

[The ISO 50001 Standard](#)

[Eight-step process to ISO 50001 certification](#)

[How to prepare for your ISO 50001](#)

[Registration Audit](#)

[Registrar Resource Center](#)

50001 READY

[50001 Ready Canada](#)

[50001 Ready Canada Navigator](#)

SUPPORT THROUGH SAVE ON ENERGY

[Training and Support](#)

[Energy Manager Support Services](#)

[Strategic Energy Management Program](#)

[Energy Management Learning Platform](#)

YOUR ROAD TO ISO 50001

Referring to page 2 of the fact sheet, which aspect of ISO 50001 do your current **motivators** most align with?

Energy management good practices
Plan-Do-Check-Act

Third-party recognition

Based on your primary motivators and available resources (see page 3), select the following option that would be your **current end goal**:

Establish energy management good practices.

Achieve 50001 Ready recognition.

Achieve ISO 50001 compliance.

Achieve ISO 50001 certification.

Considering your motivators, desired end goal and available resources (see page 3), choose the **timeframe** you think would be most appropriate for you:

Short term (10–24 months)

Undetermined

Long term (2+ years)

Considering your choices above and the pros and cons of internal versus external resources (see page 4), choose the **resources you will use** to achieve your current end goal. Choose any that apply:

Existing staff (experienced)

New hires

Existing staff (training required)

Implementation consultant

Indicate the information and resources you will use to support your road to ISO 50001. Choose any that apply:

ISO 50001 training courses

Save on Energy's Strategic Energy Management Program

50001 Ready Canada Navigator

Save on Energy's energy management support