

University reduces carbon emissions by 11 per cent and total energy savings by £10,000 per month.



“Sheffield Hallam University has already achieved many of the big win energy savings so needed to improve its processes. The framework of ISO 50001 has provided us with a tool to deliver this which allows us to maximise potential opportunities and implement changes to operations and behaviours.”

Gillian Wright
Energy Carbon Manager
Sheffield Hallam University

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Customer objectives

- Proactively respond to government and sector-led carbon reduction programmes
- Minimise the risk to future operations by improving reputation, reducing financial increase and reducing reliance on fossil fuels
- Adopt a formal structure to better manage energy consumption and achieve greater energy savings
- To be able to ‘practise what they preach’ – many of the university’s courses have elements of sustainability and sustainable development as part of the syllabus

Customer results

- 11 per cent reduction in annual carbon emissions from total energy use from baseline of 2005 prior to the ISO implementation annual savings of 5 per cent CO₂ of electricity even though the estate has increased in size by 2 per cent. Savings of carbon by floor area of 6.5 per cent
- Savings across projects of £50,000 over last 5 months and over £100,000 over past year – with prices increasing, the savings already made will be even more significant
- Enhanced reputation and best practice example for energy management – awarded a first degree at People and Planet League Table, platinum award for Business in the Community and Climate Champion award

Why certification?

Sheffield Hallam University (SHU) addresses a range of sustainability topics and issues such as energy management, engineering and environmental studies. SHU was therefore keen to be seen as operating to best practice and be 'practising what it preaches'. The organisation has been implementing a Carbon Management Plan in partnership with the Carbon Trust since 2009 and has been on a journey with BSI from Carbon Reduction Commitment Early Action Metrics, through Kitemark, to certification to the energy management standard BS EN 16001 and subsequently to the internationally recognised standard, ISO 50001. SHU also holds certification with BSI to ISO 14001 for environmental management so it made sense to continue the partnership and adopt a joined up standards approach.

Implementation

Since SHU has an established and dedicated energy team, many of the elements required for best practice energy management were already in place but just not formalised. By developing a management system in line with the requirements of ISO 50001 SHU was able to formalise its approach, maximise opportunities and continue to raise awareness of energy issues.

First SHU expanded its in-house energy team in order to provide additional resource to develop this project strategically. The facilities directorate created a new post and recruited an 'Energy Carbon Manager' to co-ordinate and move existing energy management systems and processes to strategic, formalised processes.

To overcome any concerns regarding availability of resource, SHU also decided to employ a team of consultants to undertake a gap analysis. This activity would help identify what needed to be addressed in order to transition from the requirements of BS EN 16001 to

ISO 50001. The University also embarked upon a BSI training programme to gain the competence to undertake internal energy management audits.

"The responsiveness of the whole SHU team has helped the University achieve impressive energy savings as a result of behavioural change," says Energy Carbon Manager, Gillian Wright. "Voluntary inputs from departments and colleagues provided great support and board level backing has raised the importance and profile of this project. People are now beginning to understand implications of energy due to personal circumstances and news and this is making a real difference."

ISO 50001 adds an additional requirement for design and operation and procurement which SHU believes adds leverage to embed the processes. The University now uses a specialised document control and sharing system supported by IT for auditing.

Benefits

SHU continues to reap a wealth of benefits from the implementation and independent audit of its ISO 50001 energy management system. These include:

- Achievement of carbon targets and access to Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE)
- Mitigation of climate change and environmental management
- Reduced impacts of scarcity and cost of energy supply
- Lower cost of carbon emissions and availability of allowances
- Enhanced reputation for students and research along leading to external funding

"ISO 50001 gives us a robust framework for SHU to demonstrate that we can save energy and therefore money that can be invested in our facilities and teaching, thereby giving students a better learning experience," continues Wright.

Long term benefits will be gained from the organisation's external demonstration of transparency and accountability for energy management. Internally the adoption of a systematic approach to reviewing and measuring activities will help engage staff and students to further identify and respond to energy saving opportunities.

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The future

"The purpose in this system is to continually improve. We feel this system gives us the framework and tools to deliver our objectives but doesn't do it in itself. Achieving the standard is just the first stage in our objectives of meeting carbon targets, reducing reliance on energy, and protecting our organisation against cost increases and availability of carbon and energy," concludes Wright.

Since adoption of the ISO 50001 standard the University has been recognised as a pioneer in best practice energy management and frequently receives invitations to speak at conferences both within its sector and further afield.

Next steps

With the cost of energy (electricity, gas, oil) rising, proactive energy management is becoming a necessity for most organisations. Find out how BSI can help your business better manage energy consumption and make excellence a habit, visit www.bsigroup.com/ISO50001 or call **0845 080 9000** to speak to someone.



Contact us to find out how BSI can help your business make excellence a habit

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