



Scale and impact: How BS EN ISO 50001 can make a difference

Avara Foods is one of the UK's largest food businesses, supplying chicken, turkey and duck to the most popular supermarkets and restaurants.


Avara processes 4.5 million chickens every week, across nine sites.

They use BS EN ISO 50001 Energy Management Systems, as part of their larger sustainability agenda, encompassing ethics, bird welfare, health and safety, people, and the environment.

In the fifth year of successfully using BS EN ISO 50001, Avara has seen gains across the business in operational efficiency, cost savings and reputational benefits. Avara first used BS EN ISO 50001, in 2014, as a route to ESOS (Energy Savings Opportunity Scheme) Regulations compliance. The management team wanted to embed a standardized energy management system and to drive efficiency in their manufacturing process. Avara has seen consistent reductions in energy consumption each year, and has saved more than 1000 megawatt hours of grid electricity consumption. They've driven energy efficiency throughout the entire business, helping employees to understand the importance of saving energy. BS EN ISO 50001 has helped them make a significant contribution to environmental and climate protection, while reducing carbon emissions, and enabled them to look at energy from non-linear perspectives.



Find out more: bsigroup.com/en-au



“I’m really passionate about the scale and the impact that BS EN ISO 50001 can have. Other manufacturers should not see it as red tape or bureaucracy, but as a win-win situation that really drives continual improvement. If everyone, across all sectors, achieved the carbon savings that we have, the UK could achieve net zero.”

Baishakhi Sengupta,
Energy Compliance and
Sustainability Manager,
Avara

Client challenge

Avara was looking for help with legislative compliance and a way to demonstrate its commitment to be a responsible business. Avara wants to inspire others in the food sector with what can be done to mitigate the impacts of climate change, using 50001.

Avara’s Energy Compliance and Sustainability Manager explained: “We realize there are imminent business risks from irreversible impacts of climate change. This is where climate-related disclosures will be important to map those critical risks and help build robust strategies to mitigate the impacts.”

BSI solution

BS EN ISO 50001 asks organizations to develop policies for more efficient energy use, to set energy reduction targets and meet them, and to continuously improve energy management.

Avara is reducing its energy usage through:

- Buying the right kit – as part of the procurement process, Avara has installed four combined heat and power plants (three running on poultry litter, one on wood pellets) and 12 biomass boilers which run on wood chip/pellets
- Process review – to drive reduction in energy consumption
- Setting goals – for usage reduction
- Leadership – energy action plans are approved by the Executive Team
- Energy champions – who look for opportunities to drive energy efficiency
- Training

Avara has gained:

- Significant cost savings
- A tool to help win more business
- Help with making a cultural transformation
- Early mover reputational benefits



Why BSI?

Avara chose BS EN ISO 50001, rather than ESOS audits, as it wanted a structured system to drive continual improvement.