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Transforming Standards for Net Zero

The London Declaration:
ISO Management System Standards
Impact Assessment Report

2025



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Executive Summary

Climate change demands urgent and coordinated global action. This report presents the findings of BSI's impact assessment of climate-focused changes to ISO Management System Standards (MSS). In doing so, it illustrates how the global framework of standards can empower organizations to respond more effectively to the climate crisis.

As the first organizational-level assessment, this study examined the impact of the amendments for UK organizations. The findings demonstrate that the revised MSS are already delivering meaningful impact, and supporting the strategic prioritization of climate considerations. This shift is enabling tangible benefits, including enhanced resilience, reputational value, and stronger foundations for future climate action: highlighting the value of standards as practical, trusted tools to move from intention to implementation.

The amendments were introduced as a result of the London Declaration – a global commitment to embed climate considerations into all

international standards and engage civil society and those most vulnerable to climate impacts in the standards development process. This landmark initiative is integrating climate into the global standards system, and equipping organizations to lead credible, scalable climate action and navigate the risks and opportunities of the climate crisis with confidence.

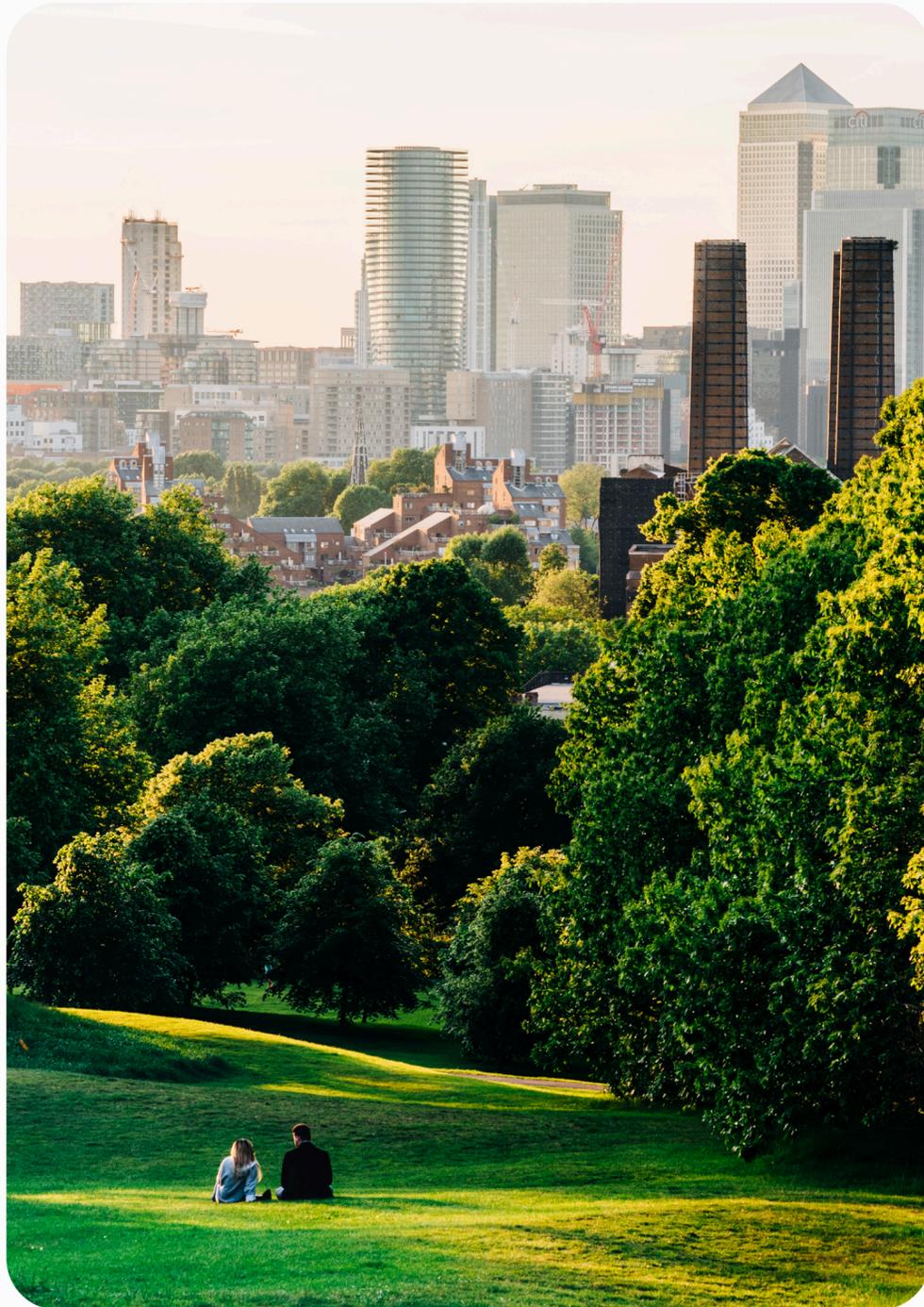


Susan Taylor Martin
Chief Executive, BSI

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As the originator of the London Declaration, BSI is proud to have led this impact assessment, showing how the commitment is delivering real-world impact and empowering organizations to take meaningful climate action. These findings are highly encouraging, demonstrating how climate-focused standards can accelerate and scale progress towards a resilient, net zero future.

Introduction



Climate change is the defining global challenge of our time – impacting every individual in every country and fundamentally reshaping the global economy.

From government, to industry, to business, all organizations face a growing array of climate-related risks, including the need to fulfil legally binding net zero targets – such as those set out in the [UK's Net Zero Strategy](#)¹ and global goals like the [Paris Agreement](#)². In parallel, the transition to a low-carbon economy presents significant opportunities and a clear case for more sustainable practices. As the crisis intensifies, the need for coordinated, systemic action has never been clearer.

Despite growing pressure, many organizations remain uncertain about how to take effective climate action. BSI research from the [Net Zero Barometer](#)³ indicates a 34% drop in net zero momentum across UK businesses since 2024, with 83% seeking clearer guidance. Standards – already embedded across the global economy – offer a practical solution. By codifying best

practice, they provide trusted frameworks that support organizations to take meaningful action on climate change.

Recognizing the crucial role of standards in the net zero transition, in 2021 BSI proposed the [London Declaration](#)⁴ – a landmark global commitment to embed climate considerations into **all** international standards and engage civil society and those most vulnerable to climate impacts in the standards development process, supporting organizations worldwide to reach net zero.

The commitment was approved by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO)⁵, subsequently endorsed by [IEC](#)⁶, [CEN](#) and [CENELEC](#)⁷, and adopted at the national level by many standards bodies. Since its launch, BSI has driven the commitment globally to mobilize action across the standards system. A major milestone in February 2024 was the publication of amendments to [ISO MSS](#)⁸, **requiring** organizations to explicitly consider climate change in their management systems.

With over 2.3 million organizations certified globally, these targeted amendments represent a significant shift in how climate is embedded into organizational governance and practice.

To understand the outcomes and impact of these changes to date, BSI conducted the first organizational-level MSS impact assessment. This report shares the experiences of UK organizations using the revised MSS and early evidence of impact, as the amendments are already starting to drive meaningful change. The findings offer practical learnings for global stakeholders including government, industry, and specifically organizations implementing MSS, all of which must consider their strategic approaches to net zero. **By understanding how UK organizations are using standards to embed climate considerations into their management systems, stakeholders can work towards unlocking the full potential of MSS and other standards as tools for credible, scalable climate action.**

The London Declaration

The London Declaration is a landmark commitment, proposed by BSI and approved by ISO, to transform the global standards system. Through integrating climate aspects into the standards implemented by organizations around the world, the commitment aims to accelerate progress towards global climate goals including the Paris Agreement, an internationally binding treaty on climate change.

The Declaration has two key pillars:

- **Integrating climate science:** Fostering the active consideration of climate science in the development of all new and revised standards.
- **Inclusive participation:** Facilitating the involvement of civil society and those most vulnerable to climate change in standards development.

“ BSI is proud to lead the development of the London Declaration and is fully committed to seeing it implemented across the 40,000 standards in our national portfolio. The Declaration will help ensure that climate-friendly standards become the norm across all industries.



Scott Steedman
Director-General, Standards, BSI

ISO MSS Impact Assessment

The amendments to ISO MSS, introduced to support the objectives of the London Declaration, mark a significant evolution, addressing the critical need for organizations implementing these MSS to explicitly consider climate relevance in their management systems.

To understand the real-world implications of these changes, BSI's Impact Assessment Center of Excellence, working closely with the BSI London Declaration team, conducted an assessment focused on the outcomes and impacts for UK organizations to date. As the first opportunity to evaluate how the London Declaration is translating into practical change among standards users, this assessment provides a vital foundation for understanding how global climate action can be enabled through adaptations to core frameworks such as international standards.

The assessment involved over 800 UK organizations implementing the 32 amended MSS in total, across three phases: an online quantitative survey, follow-on in-depth qualitative interviews, and analysis of BSI Assurance audit reports.



Four key areas of impact emerged:

- A clear call to act
- Broadening the climate conversation
- Catalyzing change
- Driving meaningful impact



89%

of those aware of the changes had at least **some understanding** of how to demonstrate compliance



90%

of those who hadn't previously considered climate change, **have done so or will in future**



57%

of those who identified climate as an issue, have already **taken action to address climate**



81%

of those making changes, report that these changes are **embedding climate change as a priority**



A clear call to act

For change to occur, organizations must first understand what is being asked of them, and why it matters. The survey findings show that **72%** of respondents aware of the amendments felt they **emphasize the urgency of climate action**. In follow-on discussions, interviewees echoed this, describing the changes as a timely and appropriate reminder of the growing need for organizations to engage more deeply with climate issues. Crucially, **89%** of those aware of the changes say that they understand how to **demonstrate compliance** with the new clauses.

How these changes are seen and understood by those who need to implement them matters. Viewing them as reminder of the urgency of climate change shows that organizations recognise the necessity of climate engagement. **Understanding is the gateway to action**, and clarity on how to respond lays the groundwork for meaningful change. The accessibility of climate-related standards revisions is important to ensure that guidance translates into meaningful, practical next steps.

72%

of those aware of the changes felt they emphasize the urgency of climate action

89%

of those aware of the changes say that they understand how to demonstrate compliance

“

It's a good change to promote [to] companies to not just think about the main factors that influence their industry, but to include that consideration on climate change as well.

Quality Manager, SME, implementing ISO 9001

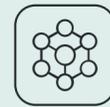




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...14001 isn't appropriate for our business. We don't make anything, we don't have any fleet, we don't have any offices so if [climate considerations weren't] in 9001, it could get missed.

Managing Director, SME, implementing ISO 9001



Broadening the climate conversation

Prior to the 2024 amendments, many organizations were already integrating climate considerations into their management systems. This was especially true for those certified to standards focused on environmental or energy management (e.g. [ISO 14001⁹](#), [ISO 50001¹⁰](#)).

However, the changes prompted a major shift among those not previously engaged. Of this group, **90%** (about one third of the total audience) say they have **now incorporated climate considerations**, or intend to do so, as part of their management systems.

The amendments are **mobilizing a broader audience** to integrate climate considerations into their operations. By expanding the climate conversation, the standards system is drawing in previously inactive users. This creates an opportunity for **more inclusive, system-wide alignment on climate action**.

We further estimate* that the London Declaration could prompt more than 12,500 UK organizations certified to ISO 9001 Quality Management to consider climate change within their quality management systems.

90%

of those who hadn't previously considered climate change, have done so or will in future

* Estimate based on extrapolation from survey findings and UKAS Certification Data (2025)



Catalyzing change

Among organizations that identified climate change as relevant to their management systems, the amendments are prompting real change – with **57% updating their approach** as a direct result.

Nearly all of these organizations have already taken action or plan to do so, either at the **operational (81%)** and/or **strategic (79%) levels**. Common actions include **updating policies or documentation (62%)** and integrating climate change into **risk management or organizational objectives (59%)**. A smaller but significant group are taking broader steps, such as **adapting operations to improve resilience (34%)**, delivering **climate-related training for staff (29%)**, or investing in **new tools and technologies (25%)**.

The changes go beyond raising awareness. They are helping organizations shift from intention to implementation, embedding climate considerations into everyday decision-making.

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It's brought the conversation to the forefront and we're much more proactive in our thinking processing than perhaps we were before.

Quality Assurance Director, SME,
implementing ISO 9001

57%

of those who identified climate change as an issue, have already taken action to address climate

81%

operational level changes

79%

strategic level changes





Driving meaningful impact

The true value of change lies in the impact it delivers. Organizations taking climate action as a result of the amendments are already seeing meaningful benefits.

81% of those who have made progress in changing their approach say that the revisions are **helping to embed climate as a strategic priority** for their organization. Interviewees described how they have brought climate into regular conversations, prompting more reflection and planning. Others noted that they have helped to legitimise the time and resources needed for climate-related work. This shift reflects a deeper embedding of climate change, not as an add-on, but as **a core lens for decision-making**.

The amendments are also supporting a more strategic view of climate risk. **79%** of those who have made progress changing their approach say that they have **improved their organizational resilience**. Some interviewees noted a shift toward a dual materiality

perspective, considering not just their impact on the climate, but how climate change could impact them. This prompted more forward-looking thinking and supported a broader awareness of climate as a business-relevant risk.

For **many (60%)** of those who have made progress, the amendments have also supported **positive reputational benefits**. Interviewees highlighted the growing importance of climate engagement for reputation, future-proofing, and competitiveness. For a small group, the amendments helped formalise their position and supported conversations with key stakeholders, reinforcing credibility and helping to ease concerns.

81%

of those making changes, report that these changes are embedding climate change as a priority

79%

of those making changes say that they have improved their organizational resilience

60%

of those who have made progress, say the amendments have also supported positive reputational benefits

“

I do believe genuinely that if we didn't address it [climate change] that we would be left behind.

HSE Compliance Manager, SME,
implementing ISO 14001



Conclusion

This report shares the findings of the first organizational-level impact assessment of the ISO MSS amendments, providing early insights into how the changes are supporting UK organizations to take meaningful climate action. In a complex and rapidly changing landscape, the amendments are proving to be a timely and practical enabler.

The MSS are successfully supporting organizations to make climate change a strategic priority, expand climate conversations to mobilize broader and previously disengaged audiences, catalyze operational and strategic shifts, and deliver meaningful impact.

Crucially, the amendments are helping to close the prevailing climate action gap, guiding organizations to move from awareness to action, and from intention to implementation. This shift demonstrates the value of standards for organizations – providing the clarity, trust, and structure needed to navigate climate challenges.

As climate risks intensify and expectations rise, the role of standards in enabling credible, scalable climate action will only become more critical. **The initial impact of the London Declaration and MSS amendments demonstrates how the robust framework of standards can empower organizations to not only comply with climate imperatives, but lead – accelerating global progress towards a fair society and sustainable world.**

Methodological Note

This impact assessment was conducted by BSI's Impact Assessment Center of Excellence. It used a three-phase approach to gather robust evidence:

- **Quantitative survey:** An online survey was conducted from 16 April to 21 May 2025 with UK organizations implementing one or more of the 32 amended MSS. The survey sample was drawn across multiple sources to capture insights from a broad range of perspectives – including organizations certified by BSI, certified by other bodies, and those implementing standards without formal certification. A total of 761 responses were received. The survey was structured to ensure that respondents only answered questions relevant to their progress. Data was weighted based on standard downloads to ensure it reflected the profile of BSI's certified client base.

- **Qualitative Interviews:** Twelve interviews were conducted between 27 May and 26 June 2025. Participants were selected from the survey pool and had indicated that they had made changes to address climate change as a result of the amendments. These interviews provided richer insight into implementation and perceived impact.
- **Audit Report Analysis:** 114 BSI Assurance audit reports were analyzed. These audits focused on organizations certified to amended MSS and included observations on compliance with the new climate clauses. This phase provided real-world evidence to complement the survey and interview data.



Acknowledgements

BSI thanks everyone who contributed to the impact assessment. This work would not have been possible without the insight and openness of the organizations who responded to the survey and participated in interviews. Their input has been invaluable in helping us understand the real-world effects of the London Declaration and the amendments to ISO Management System Standards.

References

- 1: [Policy paper: Why Net Zero](#)
- 2: [The Paris Agreement, United Nations](#)
- 3: [BSI Net Zero Barometer Report 2025: Time to quicken the pace](#)
- 4: [Understanding the London Declaration: What You Need to Know](#)
- 5: [International Organization for Standardization \(ISO\)](#)
- 6: [International Electrotechnical Commission \(IEC\)](#)
- 7: [European Committee for Standardization \(CEN\) and European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization \(CENELEC\)](#)
- 8: [IAF/ISO Communiqué on the addition of Climate Change considerations to Management Systems Standards](#)
- 9: [ISO 14001 - Environmental Management System \(EMS\)](#)
- 10: [ISO 50001 - Energy Management System](#)





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