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# ISO 50001 Energy Management Systems Implementation Case Study City of London



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## Aims

- Reduce carbon emissions by 15% by 2015
- Deliver tangible and sustainable carbon reduction measures
- Secure senior management commitment to carbon reduction

## Benefits

- Accountability for energy use among senior management
- Potential cost savings
- Demonstrate best practice

## Background

The City of London provides local government and policing services for the financial and commercial heart of Britain, the Square Mile. Its responsibilities extend far beyond the City boundaries in providing a host of additional facilities. These range from managing 10,000 acres of open spaces such as Epping Forest and Hampstead Heath to the famous Barbican Arts Centre.

For centuries The City of London have ensured that the 'Square Mile' has continued to thrive. Today's City of London, through its philosophy of sustainable development, aims to share these benefits with future generations of residents, businesses and workers. It also has a core function to support and promote the City as the world leader in international finance and business services.



## Why adopt ISO 50001?

The City has actively managed energy use since 1975, with its own energy team in place since 1985 and monitoring processes since 1995. The City gained Beacon Status for climate change adaptation and mitigation in 2008 in recognition of its Climate Change Mitigation Strategy and has been awarded the Carbon Trust Standard twice, most recently in 2011.

In 2009 the City put together its Carbon Descent Plan (CDP) to deliver the first phase of its strategy. The aim is to reduce energy use by 15% by 2015 with a sliding scale of

5% reduction in the first year and 2.5% in the second and third year – followed by 1.7% in subsequent years.

## Getting started

City of London felt that it was already in a position to meet 95% of ISO 50001 requirements. In the short term, the City of London is piloting ISO 50001 on its flagship Guildhall complex, incorporating additional sites as part of the departmental action plans. The standard will be used as a benchmark to align its current energy management practices with best practice.

With increasing legislation policies and procedures, including the government's Carbon Reduction Commitment Scheme, any proscriptive process would appear daunting. It is crucial that the City of London understands ISO 50001 requirements and how they align with work on the ground. An energy management and sustainability legacy as well as guidance from ISO 50001 consultants has helped the City of London to understand the requirements and how existing procedures dovetail into the ISO standard. The flexibility of the scheme really surprised them.

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## Conclusion

Energy Manager, Paul Kennedy explains: "For those who have a level of experience and are looking to improve and embed good energy management, ISO 50001 could be invaluable, especially for local authorities that can have very bold targets on carbon emissions but have a huge gulf between the aspiration and the practicalities of implementation. We are never content with maintaining the status quo, we are always looking to and being encouraged to improve."

Kennedy also sees the value of the standard in potential cost savings and in giving more weight to energy management: raising the profile internally, and gaining external recognition for the rigour in its energy management activity.