There is a vast array of sustainability standards around; with new standards appearing all the time, while more established standards are being revised – in particular the ISO suite of management systems.

We can help you understand the key standards, how they can benefit your business and what you actually need to do.

**Potential benefits**

Used well, standards will help you manage and measure sustainability performance across your business and value chain and will deliver a range of benefits including:

- Improved management of sustainability risk
- Continual improvements and efficiencies
- Compliance with legislation - current and future
- Competitive advantage - customers, both business and public sector, look for standards to show commitment to sustainability.

Gaining a standard requires investment. Frustratingly they are often done badly or just seen as a box ticking exercise and consequently just provide additional bureaucracy with few of the promised benefits.

We will work with you to make sure see all the benefits and a high return on your investment.

**ISO 14001 Environmental Management Systems (EMS)**

ISO 14001 provides a framework for an EMS to help organisations protect the environment, respond to changing environmental conditions and enhance environmental performance. A new version was released in October 2015.

ISO 14001:2015 uses the Annex SL structure; which, over time, will give all ISO management system standards a shared framework making it easier to implement combined management systems, reducing time and red-tape. The new standard will also encourage organisations to look at the opportunities their environmental impacts present as well as just addressing risk.

The new version brings challenges too; it requires a stronger lead from top management, a commitment to continual improvement and increases emphasis on internal communications.

**BS:8903 principles and framework for procuring sustainability**

BS8903 is the only current recognised guidance standard for sustainable procurement.

It helps organisations develop a structured approach to socially and ethically responsible purchasing, minimising environmental impacts through the supply chain, and saving money through resource efficiency.

The standard has been adopted by professional bodies such as the Chartered Institute of Purchasing & Supply (CIPS), and Anthesis has worked with CIPS to offer organisations a full accredited sustainable procurement review against BS8903. This review identifies where you are, your risks and opportunities, and then provides practical guidance on next steps.
ISO 50001 Energy Management System

Energy management is a key mechanism to save energy and reduce carbon emissions. A sensible and systematic approach to improve an organisation’s energy performance sustainably is to establish and implement a standardised, process-based energy management structure. ISO 50001 offers a globally accepted framework for managing energy. It provides technical and management strategies for organisations to increase energy efficiency, reduce costs, and improve environmental performance. Organisations can also use implementation of the scheme to demonstrate compliance with Article 8 of the EU Energy Efficiency Directive (the Energy Saving Opportunity Scheme, ESOS in the UK).

BS OHSAS 18001 & ISO 45001:2016 Occupational Health and Safety Management

OHASAS 18001 is the internationally recognised standard for occupational health and safety management. The well-being and safety of staff and customers should be a priority for every business. But managing this practically and robustly can be a challenge – not least with constantly changing legislation.

A management system helps to embed the process to meet legal obligations, minimise workplace risks and keep employees and customers safe and well.


ISO 31000 provides a structure to implement, support and sustain the risk management process within an organisation. It can be used to develop an Enterprise Risk Management approach based on an internationally agreed standard and risk management principles.

Effective risk management can help your organisation achieve its objectives, identify opportunities and threats and allocate the resources for risk treatment. Through the use of our RiskHorizon™ proprietary tool we can support elements of material risk identification as part of the ISO 31000 risk management process.

ISO 26000 Guidance on social responsibility

ISO 26000 provides guidance to assist organisations in sustainable development and social responsibility. It provides an excellent framework for identifying sustainability impacts and then developing a strategy to manage these impacts.

It is beneficial whether you are just starting out in sustainability management or have been doing it for a while – either helping you develop a new, or challenge an existing sustainability strategy.

Our offer

Anthesis has a comprehensive service to help you implement a new or upgrade an existing system in a targeted, streamlined way.

- Materiality Assessment - Initially we will review your current sustainability approach to align focus with stakeholder requirements and commitments. This will help ensure that the most appropriate standards are being targeted.
- Gap analysis & planning – We then review current processes and systems versus the required standards. This will feed into a high level plan which identifies the key actions required for successful implementation of the standard.
- Training & communications planning – Training and communications are key to the successful implementation of all standards. Our expertise will ensure communications and training are targeted and effective.
- Support with implementation – Every organisation’s requirements are unique. Our flexible support and wide-ranging expertise can be applied where needed.

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