

ClearLead Consulting – ESOS: are you ready?



What is ESOS?

The Energy Savings Opportunity Scheme (ESOS) is the UK Government's mandatory energy auditing scheme, which requires all UK "large undertakings" to carry out an energy audit every four years.

In the UK, an organisation is considered a large undertaking if:

1. It has 250 or more employees, or
2. It has fewer than 250 employees, but its annual turnover and its annual balance sheet exceed £42.5 million and £36.5 million, respectively.

In addition, if an organisation is part of a group of organisations that contains at least one large undertaking, it lies within the scope ESOS.

How to Comply with ESOS

Each qualifying ESOS participant is required to estimate its total energy consumption (including energy used in buildings, industrial processes and transport), identify cost-effective energy saving opportunities and submit a formal notification to the Environment Agency confirming that it has met the requirements of ESOS in each compliance period.

ESOS runs in four-year compliance phases. Within each four-year period, a qualification date and a compliance date have been set. Participants must assess whether they are considered large organisations (and therefore, whether they fall within ESOS) on the Qualification Date of each phase. If they qualify as a large organisation, they must meet ESOS requirements before or on the Compliance Date of each phase. ESOS began in 2014 with the first Phase ending on 5th December 2015. The second Phase is already underway and ends on 5th December 2019. The qualification date for Phase 2 is 31st December 2018.

ESOS participants are required to:

- determine their total energy consumption over the Reference Period (a 12-month period spanning the Qualification Date of each phase);
- identify their areas of significant energy consumption to account for at least 90% of all energy consumption or cost;
- take into consideration which ESOS compliance routes are available for covering their areas of significant energy consumption and choose the most appropriate routes to compliance for them.;
- assign a lead auditor to conduct and/or supervise the necessary energy audits and/or approve the ESOS assessment;
- ensure that a director/senior manager has signed off the main energy saving conclusions and recommendations coming from the ESOS assessment;
- submit a formal notification to the Environment Agency confirming their compliance with ESOS.

As well as energy audits, participants can also use other forms of audit such as Display Energy Certificates (DECs) or certification of part or all of their organisation to the Energy Management Standard ISO50001.

ClearLead's ESOS Services

ClearLead has huge experience in energy auditing across all industrial, commercial and public sectors, and our qualified Lead Assessors can help you decide on the most cost-effective route to compliance, whether it be energy audits or ISO50001.

Our auditing approach is compliant with the requirements of BS EN16247-1/ISO50002, and is designed help you extract maximum value from ESOS. We are skilled in identifying cost-effective, practical measures that are readily implemented, saving you money, meaning that ESOS brings you the full benefits intended, rather than being a costly "tick box compliance" exercise.

If we feel ISO50001 might be a more sustainable, cost-effective approach for you in the longer term, we'll discuss this with you; if you agree, then our compliance team are there to take you through the process, from initial scoping to final certification.

ClearLead's ESOS Team

ClearLead Consulting's energy team brings together a core team of experienced energy auditors with a combined experience of over 75 years in energy auditing in all industrial, commercial and public sectors, both in the UK and internationally.

The team is led by James Patterson, a Chartered Engineer and Fellow of the Energy Institute. James is an ESOS Lead Assessor under the Energy Institute's Register of Professional Energy Consultants and has over 28 years' experience in energy efficiency and management consulting. James is supported by George Bryant (CIBSE ESOS Lead Assessor), Dave Covell (CIBSE) and Jess Hill, together with other members of ClearLead's team experienced in data collection and analysis and transport energy auditing. In addition, ClearLead has a network of Associates with extensive experience of energy auditing across all sectors who can be called upon to meet peak demands, so you can be sure of a seamless, integrated and efficient approach.

Our compliance team is led by Dr Emma Goodchild, who has 23 years' experience in environmental management and compliance services. Emma is supported by Claire Bushell and the wider ClearLead team.

ESOS Approach, Costs and Benefits

ClearLead will carry out an initial, low cost scoping exercise with you, to understand your organizational structure, sites and activities, and energy use and cost. Once this is complete, we will be able to propose a cost-effective auditing or system-based approach which leverages maximum value for you, at minimum cost. Auditing or ISO50001 development costs are always a tiny fraction of the overall potential savings identified and implemented.

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