



ISO 14001:2026

Environmental Management Systems

*Guidance you can trust.
Impact you can measure.*



Your roadmap to a sustainable future

Whether you are a small business, a public agency, or a global enterprise, your environmental impact is under the spotlight. Customers, regulators, investors, and communities expect organizations to act responsibly and transparently.

ISO 14001, *Environmental Management Systems* empowers organizations everywhere to improve performance, cut costs and communicate compliance, while building credibility and making a tangible difference for the planet.



What is ISO 14001?

ISO 14001 is the world's leading standard for environmental management systems (EMS), trusted by over 670,000 organizations in more than 170 countries. It provides a **practical, flexible framework** to help you:

- Understand and manage your environmental impact
- Improve compliance
- Enhance efficiency and optimize costs
- Strengthen credibility

ISO 14001:2026 makes environmental responsibility achievable for every organization, whatever its size or sector. The new edition was made easier to understand and implement, even if you do not have prior experience with environmental management.

What is an Environmental Management System (EMS)?

A management system is the way an organization structures and manages its goals, processes and activities. An EMS is part of the management system related to environmental aspects. In other words, it provides a **structured way to manage environmental responsibilities**, address risks and opportunities, and drive sustainability with purpose. It's about integrating environmental sustainability considerations into every part of your operations, consistently and strategically.

With an EMS, you can:

- Identify how your activities affect the environment
- Set measurable goals to reduce negative impacts
- Implement processes to achieve those goals

What are the benefits of ISO 14001?

Organizations using ISO 14001 report:

- **Lower costs** by reducing waste and optimizing energy and water use
- **Easier compliance** with environmental regulations
- **Greater credibility and stakeholder trust** through a consistent, transparent approach to environmental sustainability
- **More engaged employees** who care about environmental goals
- **Stronger supplier performance** through shared expectations and accountability
- **Access to new markets** where environmental credentials matter

Is ISO 14001 aligned with other ISO standards?

ISO 14001:2026 is structured for seamless integration with other management system standards (MSS). With this new edition, you can:

- Align your environmental management system with quality (ISO 9001), health & safety (ISO 45001), and other management systems
- Streamline internal and external audits
- Support your broader objectives of quality, safety and excellence

What's new in the 2026 edition?

All ISO standards are regularly updated to make sure they remain relevant. The upcoming edition refines – not rewrites – ISO 14001. It offers a clearer structure, easier navigation and stronger alignment with today's environmental priorities such as climate change, biodiversity and resource efficiency. It's simpler to understand, smoother to implement and integrates seamlessly with other ISO management systems standards.

Do I need to be certified?

Certification is optional. You can use ISO 14001 internally to improve your environmental performance. However, third-party certification is a powerful way to communicate your commitment to customers, regulators, and partners.

Note: ISO develops the standard but does not perform certification. For more information, visit www.iso.org/certification.html.

Getting started is easier than you think

You don't need deep expertise or a big budget to get started with ISO 14001. Many organizations begin small and grow their EMS over time.

Here's how to begin:

1. **Define your goals:** What do you want to improve?
2. **Get leadership support:** Success starts at the top.
3. **Understand your impacts:** What are your biggest environmental risks and opportunities?
4. **Use ISO 14001 as your guide:** The standard supports you through the rest.



ISO 14001 is designed to build on your existing processes
– not replace them.

"We've been at zero landfill since 2013 and recycle 100% of our site waste. ISO 14001 helped us engage staff and respond quickly to environmental concerns."

Premier Foods (UK)

"ISO 14001 helped us standardize our method and reduce CO₂ emissions by 90%. It boosted our confidence, competitiveness, and employee motivation."

UPCON Corporation (Japan)

Get ready – the new edition is on its way

- **Stay informed:** Visit [iso.org](https://www.iso.org) and sign up for updates.
- **Get expert help:** Contact your national ISO Member for guidance, training, and support.
- **Secure your copy:** The official ISO 14001:2026 standard will be available in 2026 through your national ISO Member.

ISO 14001:2026
Proven. Trusted. Simpler.





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for Standardization**

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