

Increasing the Impact of Strategic Energy Management

As a Strategic Energy Management (SEM) program manager or implementer, you understand the value of providing your key customers with a pathway toward continued improvement of their energy performance. Experience has shown that a robust energy management system (EnMS)¹ can greatly improve energy performance improvement outcomes year over year, with associated improvements in annual energy savings.

Through the 50001 Ready initiative, the US Department of Energy (US DOE) seeks to support your SEM efforts by providing tools, such as the 50001 Ready Navigator, that offer a step-by-step approach to implementation of the ISO 50001 standard. But as you know, motivating your customers to undertake SEM often requires more than effective tools and case studies. Expert technical assistance can be extremely valuable in helping your commercial and industrial customers focus their energy management efforts. Unfortunately, expert assistance is also a relatively costly, and often limited program resource.

Within the context of SEM, how can you be certain that you are providing the highest customer value for your investment?

Strengthening the Value of Technical Assistance

Early in the development of ISO 50001, US DOE recognized that effective implementation of organization-level energy management systems would require a unique set of skills not readily available in the market (*see sidebar*). These skills are needed to varying degrees in both the consulting community and within your key customers' organizations to implement and evaluate the effectiveness of their EnMS. In 2010, US DOE initiated the Institute for Energy Management Professionals (IEnMP) to offer professional credentials to meet this market challenge.

Today, the IEnMP offers a range of fully-accredited professional credentials to meet this market need, including:

EnMS Implementation

- 50001 EnMS Practitioner in Training
Certificate providing early career or transitional recognition for energy management professionals seeking the experience to become 50001 Certified Practitioner in Energy Management Systems
- 50001 Certified Practitioner in Energy Management Systems (50001 CP EnMS)
ISO/IEC 17024 accredited certification demonstrating competence in the implementation of ISO 50001:2018

EnMS Evaluation/Assessment

- EPI ISO 50001 Lead Auditor²
ISO/IEC 17024 accredited certification based on international best practices and demonstrating competence in auditing of organizations for compliance with ISO 50001:2018 requirements
- SEP Performance Verifier
ISO/IEC 17024 accredited certification based on the US DOE's SEP 50001 Measurement and Verification Protocol and demonstrating competence in evaluating and validating organizational energy performance improvement

Using Certified Professionals is a proven way of obtaining and demonstrating value from your program technical assistance.

For further information concerning these professional certifications, please contact either Frank Faulk at Frank.Faulk@IEnMP.org or Aimee McKane at atmckane@manage4energy.com.

Why Energy Management Skills Matter

An ISO 50001 Energy management system (EnMS) requires skills from two different communities- management system auditors and energy efficiency experts.

Management system experts are often not familiar with energy issues.

Energy efficiency experts are often not familiar with management system processes.

Energy efficiency professionals without the skills to implement a management system risk establishing an ineffective EnMS without a top management-driven continual improvement process.

Management system auditors without the skills to assess an organization's continual improvement in energy performance risk certifying organizations without measurable energy performance improvement.

¹An EnMS is a series of business process requiring use of energy data to support continual improvement of energy performance.

² in partnership with Energy Professionals International (EPI)