

10 Tips

for turning
ESOS into
your Business
Weapon

The Energy Savings Opportunity Scheme (ESOS), now in phase 2, is the UK government's mandatory energy saving initiative. Firms with more than 250 employees or a turnover of more than €50m must comply by 5th December 2019. Missing the deadline could mean a **fine of up to £90,000**. But ESOS shouldn't just be a compliance hurdle, or a time-consuming checkbox. Harnessed properly, your ESOS report should benefit your business in a number of ways.

This guide, written by accredited Lead Assessor Mike Kenny, will help you get the most out of your ESOS certification, and turn it into a business opportunity.

1

Review your ESOS Phase 1 report

What did you learn about your organisation, and what can you to improve? Act on these points.

Prioritise your targets. If your organisation is energy focussed rather than cost focussed, look for the targets which impact the biggest change on your organisation's energy use. If you are more financially concerned, look at the investments which offer the shortest payback period. If you are concerned about your carbon footprint, look for changes to reduce this.

2

Link ESOS actions to other objectives

ESOS identifies ways to save overall energy expense, but recommendations may align with your organisation's objectives. You'll have more success passing an action if it ticks more than one box in your company strategy.

It's a good time to introduce renewable technology or replace inefficient equipment with energy efficient equipment that suits the organisation's objectives.

3

Agree a budget for ESOS actions

Take this as a rare opportunity to leverage finance. Use your ESOS report to advise an annual budget for investing in energy saving projects, and be clear about payback periods. This will then help you build a programme for your actions.

4

Use the guidance available to you

The Environment Agency has a vast array of online literature to help with every aspect of ESOS.

5

Run an internal assessment

Before your official ESOS assessment, check how you match up to the assessment criteria. Then identify what else you can do to be more compliant.

Shoot for the stars – there's no such thing as being *too* compliant.

6

Involve directors, make sure they understand ESOS

At least one director will need to sign the document, so it's important that they understand it and why it is important. Involving as many directors as possible will mean a higher chance of follow up action.

If your organisation treats ESOS as just a compliance hurdle, it's a wasted opportunity. Instead, directors should understand the financial and business opportunities that ESOS presents.

7

Find and appoint the right accredited ESOS lead assessor

Find an accredited ESOS lead assessor with a proven track record.

Some assessors may be more suited to identifying opportunities in organisations like yours. Will your assessor be happy to spend time with you and explain their findings?

8

Know your ESOS inside and out

Now that you have it, take time to review your report and compare it to what you already know. Grab strategic documents, energy reports, and your ESOS phase 1 report for comparison. What's surprising? What stands out as an opportunity?

9

Communicate the results

Present the results to directors and stakeholders. The more decision

makers you have on-side, the more chance you'll get support for energy saving opportunities.

10

Set your own targets

ESOS has 4 stages, 4 years apart. It's a good opportunity to improve each time. Don't wait 4 years to identify further energy saving opportunities.

It's not mandatory to complete every single recommendation from an ESOS report within 4 years. So long as you are making progress, you benefit from ESOS.

**Need help with ESOS compliance?
Contact Mike Kenny.**

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