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Systematic reduction of energy costs

Publication on energy management systems gives businesses and organisations guidance on savings potential

Energy-intensive businesses are granted a reduced rate Renewable Energy Sources Act (EEG) levy- provided they have instituted an energy management system, or EMS. An EMS is also worthwhile for other businesses and organisations such as public authorities and church institutions. A joint publication by the Federal Environment Agency and the Federal Environment Ministry shows how to systematically improve energy efficiency. "Companies of any size and in any industry will find structured, easy-to-understand instructions on how to set up an energy management system. They can easily determine their energy saving potential and take targeted steps to boost energy efficiency," says Jochen Flasbarth, President of the Federal Environment Agency. The new ISO 50001 international standard has stipulated the uniform requirements of an EMS since this year. There are already 900 businesses worldwide certified according to ISO 50001, 470 of which are in Germany.

An energy management system means setting up, implementing and monitoring the results of energy savings plans. Practical examples have shown what potential can be tapped in this area: a construction materials manufacturer reduced its energy costs through the use of heat exchangers by 450,000 euros per year and reduced its annual CO₂ emissions by 3,225 tons. The investment already paid off after two years. A mail order business saved 5,500 euros per year at no financial cost by checking and adjusting the lighting in its furniture warehouse.

The joint publication by the Federal Environment Agency and the Federal Environment Ministry titled *Energiemanagementsysteme in der Praxis - ISO 50001: Leitfaden für Unternehmen und Organisationen* [Energy Management Systems in Practice - ISO 50001: A Guide for Companies and Organisations] shows how it works. It offers clear and practical help to introducing an EMS, no matter what the status quo of energy consumption, size of the organisation or which industry. The European EN 16001 standard was replaced by the international ISO 50001 standard in April 2012. It marks the first-ever uniform criteria for certified EMS which is valid in every country and for every company and organisation. ISO 50001 (and its precursor EN 16001) outlines the requirements of an energy management system which companies can use to develop and introduce energy policy, to set strategic and operative goals, and to determine action plans. By adopting the standard, companies and organisations can determine their energy savings potential and improve energy efficiency. Energy consumption can be rapidly reduced, and long-term efficiency is clearly improved. The guide also has a checklist with a tabular comparison of

ISO 50001 to ISO 14001 and EMAS, the two established environment management systems, and provides orientation about the correlation between energy and environmental management systems.

Further information and links:

The publication can be ordered from the Federal Environment Ministry (BMU) or downloaded from the Federal Environment Agency website at: <http://www.umweltbundesamt.de/uba-info-medien-e/4013.html>

More information about EMAS and ISO 50001 is also available from the German EMAS Advisory Board at BMU: www.emas.de

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