

SUSTAINABILITY ESSENTIALS

No. 1 – Environmental and Energy Audits

What is an audit?

Environmental and energy audits are a key aspect of the Energy and Environmental Management System (EEMS). Audits aim to check that the University of Reading's practices match the standards that we have set ourselves as well as external standards such as ISO14001 and 50001.

What is an internal audit?

Internal audits will identify good practice, look for positive opportunities, and check for any environmental risks or issues.

Internal audits do not affect recertification to the ISO standard as the results remain internal to the University. But they are essential to manage compliance and early identification of any issues so they can be rectified.

Every year an auditor will complete a full internal audit at the University of Reading to ensure that there is robust management and leadership in place to manage environmental issues at the University.



Certificate Number: 21871-EMS-001

This is supplemented by a series of internal audits which examine specific areas of environmental management such as waste procedures or looking at specific schools within the University.

What is an external audit?

External audits check the University's environmental and energy management practices against the [ISO 14001](#) / [50001](#) standards.

The EEMS documents how we will meet these global standards. Every 3 years the University is independently audited by a UKAS accredited assessment body in order to re-certify the University against the ISO standards. This is supplemented by surveillance audits every year, which check the University is achieving the intended outcomes of the EEMS which are:

- To improve environmental performance
- Comply with statutory and voluntary compliance obligations
- To protect the environment by preventing or mitigating adverse environmental impacts.



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What happens during an audit?

The auditor(s) will visit the University campuses over a number of days or sessions to examine records, conduct interviews with key staff and conduct a physical check of certain locations. The structure varies depending on the type of audit being conducted.

Did you know?

We have been certified to ISO14001 since 2014 and ISO 50001 since 2015.

You can find out more about our EMS here:

- [Environmental and Energy Management System](#)

Find our policies and certificates here:

- [Policies, Strategies and Reports](#)

