

General

However well-developed your commitment to greener working practices has become, there are many organisations out there to help keep you going. Whether you are simply looking for more environmentally-friendly products or are working towards an internationally-recognised business standard, make sure you get the help you need.

PEFC and FSC accreditations

The Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) is the world's largest environmental certification system. It helps purchasers of wood and paper products promote the sustainable management of forests, offering businesses who use these products an easy way of fulfilling their commitments to more environmentally-friendly working practices. For more information visit: www.pefc.org

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is an international organisation that promotes responsible stewardship of the world's forests. Several thousand products now carry the FSC trademark, including paper. For more information visit: www.fscus.org/

Environmental Management Systems (EMS)

The BSI provides business best-practice standards to organisations such as printers. ISO 14001 is an internationally recognised standard that sets out how printers can put an effective EMS in place. For more information: www.bsigroup.co.uk

The Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) rewards organisations that go beyond minimum legal compliance and continuously improve their environmental performance. Very popular in the EU as an environmental marketing tool, it is seen as an enhancement to ISO 14001 as it requires an additional (audited) environmental 'statement' each year. For more information visit: www.emas.org.uk

The IEMA Acorn Scheme offers accredited recognition for organisations evaluating and improving their environmental performance. A key part of this is BS 8555, a six-stage approach to implementing a generic EMS. Popular with small businesses, it can be used as a route towards ISO14001 and EMAS. For more information visit: www.iema.net/acorn/bs8555

Developing an Action Plan

Write down the main things you want to improve, how they will be done, who's doing them, by when and what improvements you intend to achieve.

Developing an environmental policy

Brainstorm your ideas on what you think is important and needs doing. Then summarise these and write them down as your environmental policy – but keep it to less than a page.

Funds for Print

For more information contact Funds for Print at info@fundsforprint.org.uk or try the Environment and Energy Helpline on **0800 585794**.