



# *Climate change – how ISO 14001 supports organizations*

*Version – December 2016*

One of the major challenges that face us all is that of mitigating and adapting to climate change. Internationally, work has progressed from the formation of United Nations Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) which is used to signify both the Convention (agreed in 1994), the Secretariat and frequently also the countries that are members of the Convention.

At the end of 2015, countries negotiating a new agreement under UNFCCC agreed the Paris Agreement which came into force on 4 November 2016. Under the Paris Agreement countries agree to hold the global temperature increase due to increase in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, to below 2 °C, aiming at 1.5 °C. This commitment is realised through a commitment at national level to reduce national GHG emissions. Additionally, countries agreed to support action to adapt to the consequences of climate change. Most of the policy and regulatory framework associated with the Paris Agreement have yet to emerge and be agreed (as at 30 November 2016).

Achieving the Paris Agreement will require innovative approach and contributions from all of use including organisations. Paris Agreement is both a challenge and an opportunity. It may create business opportunities for organizations.

For users of ISO 14001 the question is **‘How does ISO 14001 help organisation to mitigate and adapt to climate change?’** The attached diagram schematically sets out the link between key clauses in ISO 14001:2015 and climate change mitigation and adaption. It is intended to help users of ISO 14001 to show how they address climate change challenges through their management system.

ISO 14001 deals with the need to adapt to any change in environmental conditions and hence include matters such as the need to adapt to other environmental consequences which are not due to climate change, for example loss of ecosystem services and biodiversity.

Additionally ISO 14007 and ISO 14008 help organizations provide a ‘value’ and ‘determine the costs’ for the GHG they emit and to ‘determine the cost benefit’ in their organisation for any action they take to adapt to climate change (effect of the environment on the organization).



**ISO 14001:2015 and climate change**  
Illustration

**4.1 - Understanding the organisation and its context**  
*'...determine external and internal issues that are relevant to its purpose and that affect its ability to achieve the intended outcomes of its environmental management system. Such issues shall include environmental conditions being affected by or capable of affecting the organization....'*

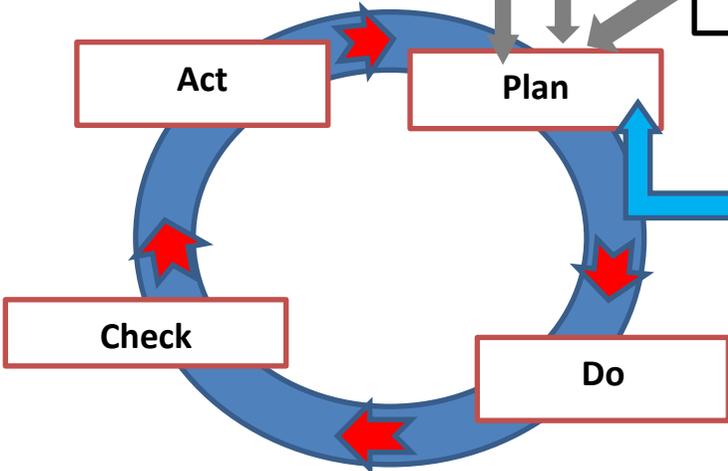
**4.4 - Environmental management system**  
*'...To achieve its intended outcomes, including enhancing its environmental performance, the organization shall establish, implement, maintain and continually improve an environmental management system ...'*

**6.1 Actions to address risks and opportunities**  
*.....determine the risks and opportunities, related to its environmental aspects, compliance obligations and other issues and requirements....,*

Understand GHG emissions	
Environmental aspects	Compliance obligations

Mitigate climate change e.g.		
Risk of failing to meet reduction objectives	Risk of interested party's demands	Risk of regulation

Adapt to climate change e.g.		
Understand how environmental conditions affect the organisation	Risk due environmental conditions e.g. water shortage, flooding, soil erosion etc.	Risk related to organisations activities e.g. resource shortages, logistic challenges; supply chain challenges



**Other 'risk and opportunities' including environmental aspects and conditions**