



Introducing the Sustainability Standards Network

A network to incorporate and evolve sustainability across British Standards

bsi.

Inspiring trust for a more resilient world.

The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report, published in August 2021, reviewed more than 14,000 environmental research studies and climate policies. The stark conclusion of the panel of international scientists warns we are staring down a future full of “death, destruction, and climate horrors”. This bleak statement is the basis for the IPCC issuing a “code red for humanity.”

It is, the report concludes, “too late to prevent ecological devastation which will almost certainly result in mass death via intolerable heat, drought, flooding, and other extreme weather events, as well as widespread biodiversity extinction over the next few decades”.

Urgent action is required to deliver the outcomes of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), now widely acknowledged as our planet’s plan “A” for recovery.

BSI recognizes the value and importance of standards to drive change. The London Declaration, signed at the 75th anniversary of ISO week in London in 2021, committed the global standards community to actively consider climate science in the development of all new and revised standards. Led by BSI, the London Declaration has been described as a game changer in the race to zero.

The recent United Nations Climate Change Conference, COP26 held in Glasgow saw world leaders vow to progress action laid out in the 2015 Paris Agreement; to achieve net zero by 2050 and try to reduce the harsh impacts of global warming by maintaining a temperature rise below 2°C, preferably 1.5°C. Countries hit hardest by climate change will receive more support, and there was agreement to greatly reduce deforestation and cut methane emissions 30% by 2030. Annual reviews will monitor progress until emissions reach net zero by mid-century.

The role of Standards was highlighted by the United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres, to address the confusion of different metrics tracking progress against net zero targets. Standards were recognised as a crucial and consensus-based tool to bring urgent clarity and direction.

How you can get involved

BSI is seeking input from leading sustainable development organisations to ensure future standards directly deliver change averting the worst case scenario forecast by the UN. The Sustainability Standards Network will operate independently with BSI providing the secretariat.

The network:

ensures environmental and social sector voices are heard when standards are developed and revised



drives change by providing expertise on standards regularly used by UK policymakers, businesses and industry stakeholders



leads the integration of strong environmental principles in the standards development and review process



Influences global thinking on standards as a means for delivering sustainability



It is, the report concludes, “too late to prevent ecological devastation which will almost certainly result in mass death via intolerable heat, drought, flooding, and other extreme weather events, as well as widespread biodiversity extinction over the next few decades”.



Aims of the Sustainability Standards Network

The Sustainability Standards Network aims to enable greater participation of experts from the environmental and public sustainability sectors in standards development activities.

Through collaboration we will deliver climate leadership; essential in a world where biodiversity loss continues to deepen, and extreme weather events increase.

The network will facilitate best practice by sharing and equipping people and organizations with the right knowledge to guide and lead change for a sustainable future; increasing the pace in the race to net zero.

Network benefits

The Sustainability Standards Network brings together like-minded individuals and organizations with a common purpose, delivering the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. Working with BSI Standard-makers we express action in new ways with new audiences and deliver best practice guidance to make life better.

Participation in the Sustainability Standards Network enables stakeholders to make faster progress than they could working alone. The Network extends ambition.

Affiliated with the international charity, the

Environmental Coalition on Standards [ECOS], members have access to training, potential global funding and new partnerships.

This collaboration brings together the best of the UK's diverse and ground-breaking sustainability knowledge and know-how to fuel the green revolution; restoring habitats, bringing equal access to clean air and water, ending poverty of access to food and power and closing the book on the inequalities of the carbon age.

For more information about the network, please contact:
tim.webb@bsigroup.com



BSI Group
389 Chiswick High Road
London, W4 4AL
United Kingdom

T: +44 345 080 9001
bsigroup.com