

# CASE STUDY 2

## FIRST GROUP



This project was financed with support from the European Union. This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the European Union is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.

Project: Sustainable Development Academy - ESG Management in Vocational Education  
KA220-VET - Cooperation Partnerships in the Vocational Education Sector.



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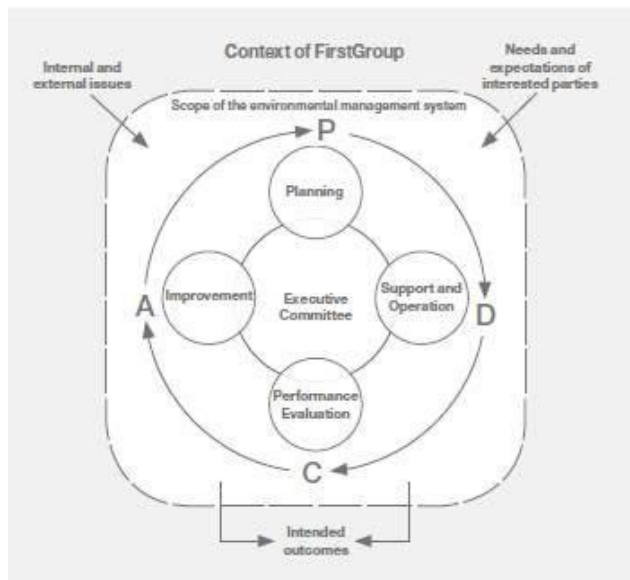
### FIRST GROUP

Leading transport operator, First Group, has recorded significant achievements in sustainable environmental management after implementing the ISO 14001 standard. Through focused actions, the company has successfully reduced energy consumption by an impressive 31 percent. These achievements translate into real financial benefits, with £240,000 saved in just one year thanks to effective energy education initiatives. The company also recorded noticeable savings in the area of waste minimization. Activities focused on waste minimization programs saved First Group £70,000 over the course of the year. These effective programs not only contributed to reducing the negative impact on the environment, but also enabled real profits from an economic perspective.

A large proportion of the company's UK operations use Environmental Management Systems (EMAS) and formal, non-accredited risk-based environmental management systems operate in its North American operations. EMAS provide a systematic framework for processes that aim to protect the environment and respond to changing environmental conditions in balance with socio-economic needs. Environmental Management Systems allow First Group to define requirements to achieve the intended environmental outcomes it sets for its business, taking into account the needs of customers, communities and investors.

### PLAN, DO, CHECK, ACT

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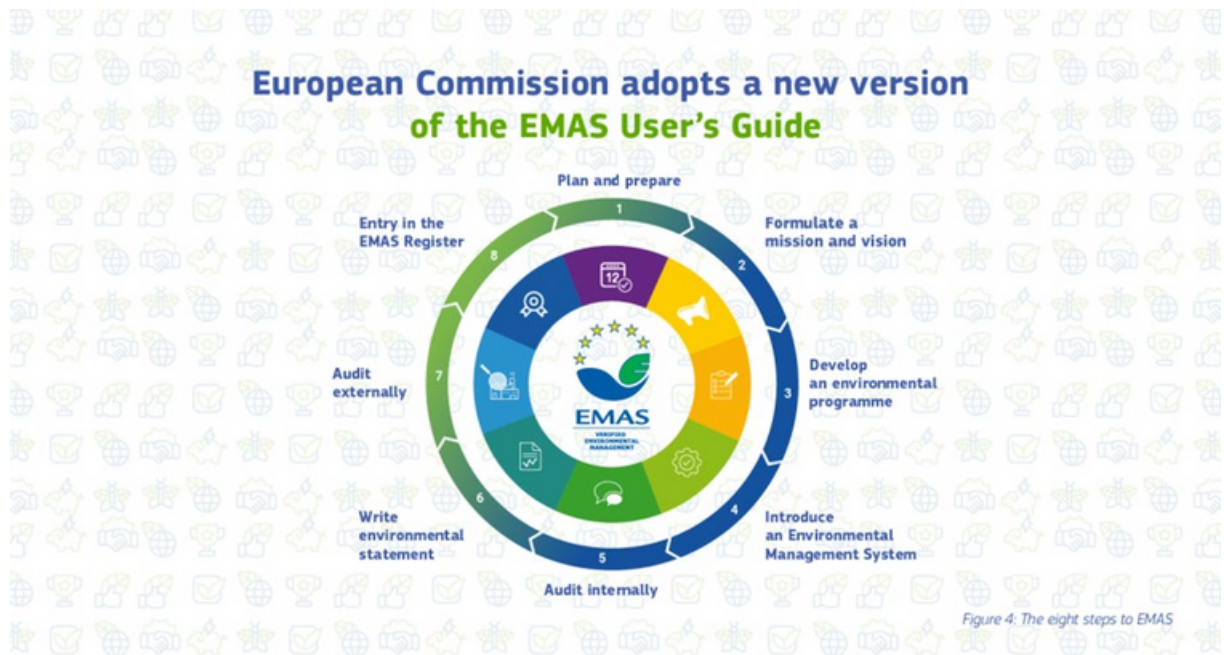
Source: <https://www.firstgroupplc.com/>

A systematic approach to environmental management enables the Executive Committee to access information to build long-term success and create opportunities to contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by:

- protecting the environment by preventing or mitigating negative impacts on the environment;
- mitigating the potential adverse impact of environmental conditions on the organization;
- assisting with legal and corporate compliance obligations;
- improving environmental performance;
- controlling or influencing how services are designed, produced, distributed and disposed of using a life cycle perspective that can prevent environmental impacts from being unintentionally transferred elsewhere in the life cycle;
- realizing the financial and operational benefits that may result from implementing environmentally safe alternatives that strengthen FirstGroup's market position;
- communicating environmental information to relevant stakeholders.

In the UK, the company is ISO 14001 certified for much of its First Bus and First Rail franchise business (excluding Hull Trains) and ISO 50001 certified for certain rail operators. In North America, it has EMAS, which identifies and mitigates environmental risks with the support of environmental compliance partner Strata Inc.

## GROUP APS



Source: EMAS Information Center

ISO 14001 certification was chosen by First Group not only as a tool for effective environmental management, but also as a means of ensuring full compliance with environmental regulations. By operating in accordance with the ISO 14001 standard, the company not only complies with applicable regulations, but also continues its commitment to continuous improvement of environmental protection practices.

The specific results obtained highlight how implementing the ISO 14001 standard can be a key element of an organization's strategy towards sustainable development. First Group not only achieved significant savings, but also reaffirmed its commitment to responsible energy management, waste minimization and full compliance with environmental regulations. This is a perfect example of an effective combination of pro-ecological activities with financial benefits, which in turn fits into the idea of sustainable business development.

Case study prepared based on data from:

<https://www.bsigroup.com/en-PH/iso-14001-environmental-management/case-studies-for-iso-14001/>

<https://www.firstgroupplc.com/>

## QUESTIONS FOR PARTICIPANTS:

1. What specific financial benefits did First Group achieve after implementing the ISO 14001 standard, particularly in the context of energy education and waste minimization programs?
2. What specific actions can an organization take to control the environmental impact at different stages of the life cycle of its services, and how do these actions contribute to sustainable development goals?
3. In your opinion, is it necessary to choose one Environmental Management System in the organization? Can more systems be used?