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Poster Title: Making Sustainability Stick through Leveraging an International Framework

Abstract: But how do you integrate sustainability into operations across an organization, and ensure persistence over time? How do you sustain behavior and results, even when a key individual leaves? Berkeley Lab is leveraging the rigor of the international standard and "Plan-Do-Check-Act" framework, ISO 50001. The purpose of the framework is to establish a lasting system for managing environmental performance that is integrated into operations, rather than a discrete exercise reliant on one or two individuals. The framework guides an organization to critically evaluate, improve, record, and maintain both process and results. Some key elements include: 1) Obtaining top management support, 2) establishing an interdisciplinary team and an organization-wide policy, 3) identifying significant uses, objectives, and key performance indicators, and 4) developing a manual to document and guide activities. Any organization can implement some or all of the elements of the framework to improve and sustain their environmental performance. At Berkeley Lab, developing a central, online manual has been the keystone element of this effort. Processes no longer live in one person's head or hard drive. The manual serves as a resource hub that guides the way the organization manages its resources and reduces its carbon and water footprint, helps to promote and scale up best practices, and ensures that energy and water savings continue to improve and persist.