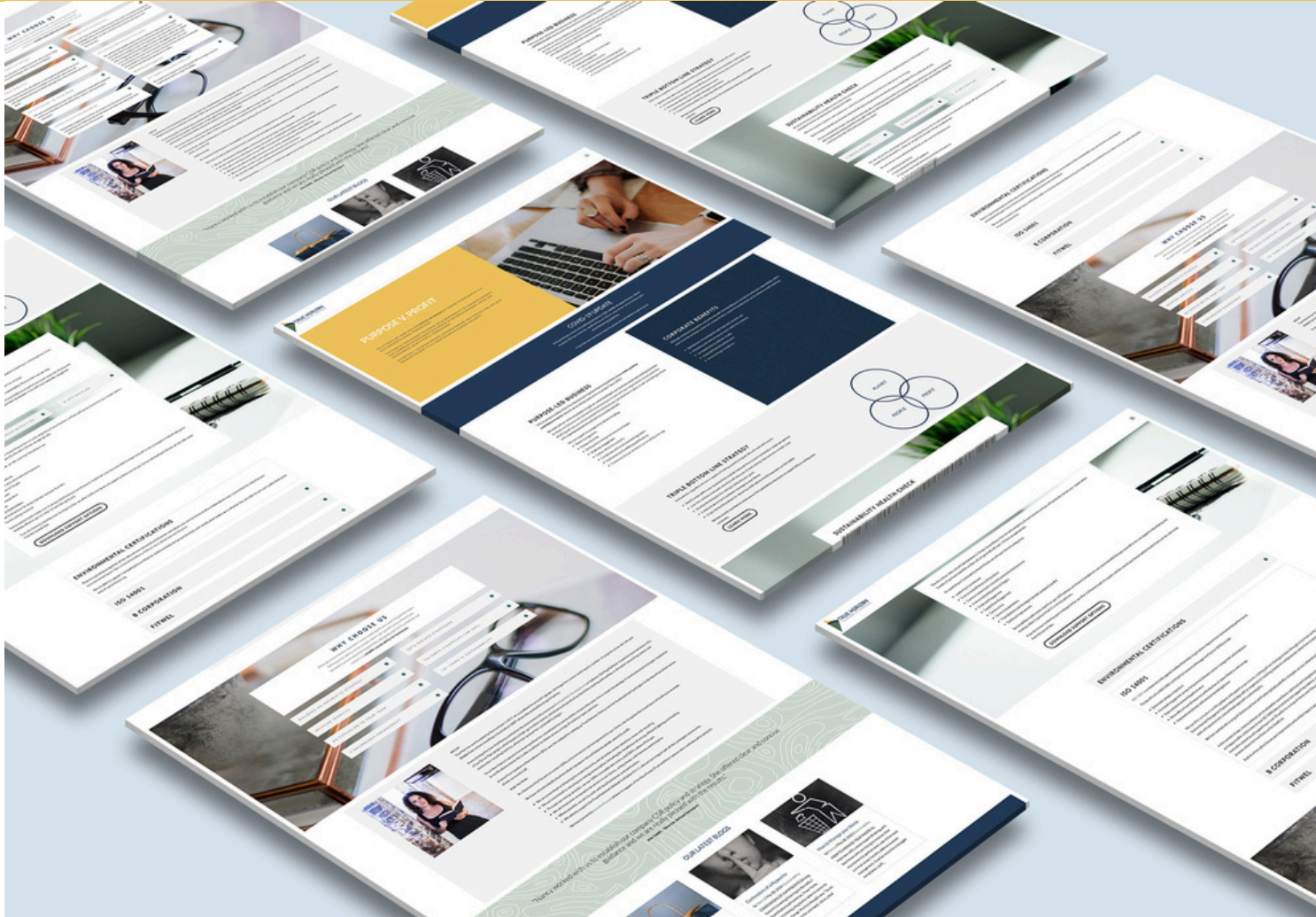


YOUR GUIDE TO SUSTAINABILITY CERTIFICATIONS: ISO 14001 V. B CORP



WHICH CERTIFICATION IS RIGHT FOR YOUR BUSINESS?

Many companies are choosing to obtain environmental & social certifications that include verification by external bodies and for good reason.

There are a wealth of benefits to obtaining certifications including:

- Cost savings through enhanced resource efficiencies
- Improved customer loyalty & trust
- Attracting clients & employees with similar values
- Simplifying the communication of environmental and social commitments

The certifications I get asked about the most tend to be ISO 14001 (Environmental Management Systems) and B Corp certification.

The two certifications are very different and so this guide is designed to help you decide which (if either!) will better support your business performance before dedicating the required time and resource.



COMPARISON CHART

	B CORP	ISO 14001
Scope of certification	B Corp assesses environmental and social across 5 impact areas: Governance, Workers, Community, Environment and Clients.	The ISO 14001 standard provides a framework for developing an Environmental Management System (EMS) to improve environmental performance.
Recognition	Internationally recognised with over 9,000 certified companies globally (Sept. 2024)	There are more than 500,000 certification to ISO 14001 across the globe.
Scoring	Companies must score a minimum of 80 points across all impact areas in the B Impact Assessment in order to certify as a B Corp.	There is no scoring system for ISO 14001 but companies must comply with all areas of the standard to certify.
Costs	Fees are linked to revenue starting from: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Submission Fee: £200 (one off)• Verification Fee: £360 (one off)• Annual Fee: £1,000	Pricing will vary depending on the certification body, the required duration of audits and the frequency of visits. Fees are payable annually.



COMPARISON CHART

	B CORP	ISO 14001
Verification	<p>Full verification only takes place at certification and then every 3 years after that though an impact report should be completed annually. Evidence is provided via the B Impact Assessment alongside an online verification call with a B Lab analyst. Some larger companies may need a site visit as part of the process.</p>	<p>Businesses must undergo a minimum of annual site surveillance audits via a certifying body. The duration and frequency is dependent on the size of the business and the associated risk levels. Full recertification audits take place every 3 years.</p>
Eligibility	<p>Companies must be for profit and have been operating for a minimum of 12 months in order to certify. There are also restrictions based on the type of industry and if the business serves clients in what B Lab deems to be controversial industries, for example tobacco, defence and fossil fuels.</p>	<p>Companies across all industries can certify to the ISO 14001 standard, including non profits and government organisations.</p>



NEXT STEPS

If you're interested in learning more about how True Horizon can support you obtain ISO 14001 or B Corp certification, use the links below or [book a call](#) to chat through your options.

I'm interested in [B Corp certification](#)

I need [ISO 14001 certification](#)

Prefer a more flexible approach? Learn how True Horizon can support you to [develop a tailored sustainability roadmap](#) aligned to your goals and aspirations.

