# ESOS Phase 4
# When do I need to start the process?

ESOS Phase 4 is on the horizon and if previous phases are anything to go by it will be a mad scrum to get over the line by the deadline! After all qualifying organisations don't need to submit their assessment to the Environment Agency until 5th December 2027. That's a long way off and there's plenty of time – right?

Maybe but there are options to spread the load over the next 18 months or so and experience has taught us that the nearer we get to the deadline the more demand there is for ESOS Auditors and Lead Assessors. And failure to meet the deadlines can result in significant penalties so surely good practice to get ahead of the game?

The important timeline to be aware of is the Compliance Period for ESOS Phase 4 – It runs from **6th December 2023 to 5th December 2027**. What does this mean with regards to mandatory actions required for ESOS Compliance? It means that your ESOS Phase 4 Audit can take place at any time during the compliance period, not just a few months or weeks before the submission deadline.

This means ESOS qualifying organisations have an opportunity to get a quick start by conducting their audits during 2026 when the availability of qualified auditors is much better than it will be later in the process.

This becomes even more applicable with ESOS Phase 4 which will be more involved and time consuming than previous phases due to changes being implemented which include:

- DECs & Green Deal Assessments have been removed as a compliance route.
- ESOS Audits & ISO 50001 are now the only routes for compliance.
- Phase 4 previously included a focus on Net Zero, including setting of Net Zero targets. This has been postponed to Phase 5, with focus on mandatory Action Planning during Phase 4.
- Participants must now calculate energy intensity ratios across all processes and provide estimated energy savings in Progress Updates.
- Phase 4 represents the first full compliance window through which ESOS Action Plans shall be utilised and continuously reported on.

These changes bring an increased responsibility and workload to qualifying organisations across the compliance period and submission process. Therefore, it makes a lot of sense to consider carrying out ESOS compliant audits during 2026.

One key advantage of completing your ESOS Phase 4 Audit during 2026 is that it will highlight any key issues such as data gaps ahead of your compliance work.

Energy Insights @ Synapsys Solutions have availability and can offer "**early bird**" pricing for all ESOS audits carried out in 2026 and of course we can support you with compliance requirements and submissions for ESOS 4 including the mandatory Action Plans.

For more information or to book a call please contact energyinsights@synapsys-solutions.com

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