

Certificate Specialists - Northmore Gordon

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Certificate Specialists

Certificate specialists test a project's eligibility, evidence and timing against a particular scheme. Early review helps preserve options before equipment, contracts or project milestones are committed.

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What is a Certificate Specialist and what role do they play in energy projects?

A Certificate Specialist is a professional with expertise in environmental certificates and scheme requirements who reviews projects to ensure compliance with applicable standards. They assess whether activities qualify for certificate support, verify scheme requirements at appropriate project stages, and distinguish between preliminary estimates and verified results. Certificate Specialists are particularly valuable during the 'Capture Value' stage of project development, where they help identify whether environmental certificates can contribute revenue to support funding decisions and investment cases.

Why is it important to involve a Certificate Specialist early in project assessment?

Involving a Certificate Specialist early helps preserve funding and measurement options by clarifying whether a proposed project meets specific scheme requirements before significant commitments occur. Different schemes have different eligibility rules tied to activity, jurisdiction, timing and intended claim. A specialist can identify timing-sensitive requirements, evidence gaps and conditions that affect project viability. Waiting until after equipment is installed or commissioned may eliminate available pathways, so early eligibility assessment is essential for protecting project options and supporting informed investment decisions.

How do Certificate Specialists assess activity eligibility and what factors do they consider?

Certificate Specialists evaluate whether an activity meets specific scheme and method requirements by examining the location, equipment, capacity, existing and proposed operating conditions, project timeline and ownership arrangements. They prepare an evidence schedule identifying what must be recorded before works, during installation and after commissioning, and establish who gathers evidence, who checks it, and who can make relevant applications. They also verify that prior

installations, nominations, certificate claims, grants or assignments of environmental attributes do not prevent eligibility under the intended scheme.

What do Certificate Specialists mean by keeping different certificate types separate?

Different environmental instruments serve different purposes and have distinct eligibility, calculation and use rules. Energy-efficiency certificates, renewable-energy attributes and carbon credits are separate instrument families, each governed by their own scheme requirements. Certificate Specialists ensure these are not treated as interchangeable or combined inappropriately. For example, electricity attributes, carbon credits and physical energy savings serve different accounting purposes and must be selected based on the intended public claim and inventory boundary, not assumed to be equivalent substitutes for each other.

What services do Certificate Specialists provide to installers and project teams?

Certificate Specialists provide certificate nomination and evidence gathering support to help installers obtain required certifications and meet accreditation requirements. They review preliminary estimates and calculations against scheme rules, establish evidence standards and verification requirements, and coordinate roles across facility teams, installers, advisors and finance teams. They also assess commercial treatment of certificates separately from energy savings and grants, help prepare investment cases with accurate assumptions, and ensure that timing-sensitive pathways are addressed before equipment is installed or operational commitments are made.

How does Northmore Gordon support certificate assessment through its delivery approach?

Our delivery approach includes a 'Capture Value' stage specifically designed to identify funding or certificate value that can support projects through environmental certificates alongside grants and financing pathways. During this stage, Certificate Specialists assess activity eligibility, evidence quantity and commercial terms separate from other project benefits. They help distinguish eligible-in-principle opportunities from calculated or issued certificates, ensure evidence responsibilities are clear, and coordinate with measurement and verification professionals to establish what data must be collected and by whom to support certificate claims.

What information should be prepared before requesting Certificate Specialist assessment?

Prepare the project location, equipment type and capacity, existing and proposed operating conditions, project timeline and ownership arrangements. Identify any prior installation, nomination, certificate claim, grant or assignment of environmental attributes. Provide records distinguishing estimates from measured data. A project brief including the state or country, project stage and intended outcome helps scope the assessment appropriately. If incentives are being investigated, disclose previous arrangements and who owns relevant energy-saving or renewable-electricity attributes, as this affects eligibility under most schemes.

What are common mistakes that Certificate Specialists help projects avoid?

Common mistakes include relying on unconfirmed certificate revenue before checking scheme eligibility and method requirements, treating different certificate types as interchangeable, comparing historical case-study results to new projects without verifying current scheme rules, manufacturing earlier records or changing dates after work has begun, and promising certificate prices or payback based on historical projects rather than current conditions. Certificate Specialists help avoid these by ensuring preliminary estimates are labelled as such, keeping engineering savings separate from scheme-recognised savings, and confirming timing and evidence requirements before installation.

Which environmental certificate schemes do Certificate Specialists typically assess?

Certificate Specialists assess projects under multiple Australian schemes including Victorian Energy Upgrades (VEECs), the NSW Energy Savings Scheme (ESCs), the Peak Demand Reduction Scheme

(PRCs), the Small-scale Renewable Energy Scheme (STCs), Large-scale Generation Certificates (LGCs), Renewable Electricity Guarantee of Origin certificates (REGOs) and the Australian Carbon Credit Unit Scheme (ACCUs). They also support international renewable instruments and help clients navigate the eligibility requirements, calculation methods and evidence standards specific to each scheme.