

Energy Audit Consultants

Canonical: <https://northmoregordon.com/certification/energy-audit-consultants/>

Details:

An energy audit turns bills, operating data and site observations into a practical plan for reducing energy use and cost. The useful output is not just a list of equipment: it is a decision record showing where energy is used, which opportunities deserve further engineering, what evidence supports the estimates and who should act next. Northmore Gordon's energy audit consultants can help scope that work for a facility, portfolio or planned investment.

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When to engage an energy audit consultant

An audit can be useful when energy costs have changed without an obvious operational explanation, when a business is planning a major equipment replacement, or when management needs a credible sequence of projects for an emissions or efficiency program. It can also help a multi-site operator decide which facilities warrant detailed investigation first. The decision to commission an audit should be tied to a question that the resulting report can answer: for example, whether a proposed heat-recovery project merits design work, or which operating changes can be tested before capital is committed.

Agree the site boundary early. A whole-facility study, a process study and a targeted check of a single system need different data, access and specialist input. The Australian Government's energy-audit guidance describes different audit depths and recommends selecting the relevant part of AS/NZS 3598 for the task. The standard itself is not automatically compulsory for every Australian audit; a contract, program rule, law or agreed scope may impose a specific requirement.

Define the brief before collecting data

A useful brief names the facilities and systems in scope, the decision-maker, the intended investment horizon, the reporting period and the form of deliverable. It should say whether the consultant is expected to identify opportunities, develop investment-grade estimates, verify an existing proposal or prepare a baseline for later measurement. If a funding or certificate scheme is relevant, confirm its method, accreditation and evidence rules separately; do not assume that an audit report alone secures eligibility.

Provide the consultant with available utility bills, interval data, fuel records, production or occupancy information, operating schedules and major equipment details. Note abnormal shutdowns, new lines, changed hours and missing periods. Those facts help distinguish a persistent opportunity from a temporary change in activity. Where records are incomplete, the report should say what was estimated and which further measurements would reduce uncertainty.

How the audit becomes a decision

The work generally begins with a desk review of consumption and operating patterns, followed by a site visit and discussion with the people who run the equipment. The consultant then maps significant energy uses, tests possible causes of waste and develops opportunities at a level of detail appropriate to the brief. Some measures can be assessed from existing records; others need metering, engineering design or a controlled trial before the projected savings are credible.

For each material opportunity, the report should identify the affected system, baseline, proposed change, expected energy effect, key assumptions and practical constraints. The business can then compare implementation cost, disruption, maintenance impact, operational risk and any available incentive. A staged plan is often more useful than a single ranked list: immediate operating actions can proceed while higher-cost options move to detailed design, procurement or a feasibility study.

Move from findings to measured results

An audit estimate is a forecast, not a measured outcome. Before implementation, assign an owner and record how the result will be checked. For a significant project, establish the baseline, relevant independent variables and a measurement and verification plan that fits the change. Keep physical energy savings distinct from certificate revenue and from a public emissions claim. If the project later creates certificates, check the instrument's rules and evidence requirements before relying on projected proceeds in the investment case.

Use the completed report as a working document. Confirm which recommendations were adopted, which were deferred, and what data must be revisited when operating conditions change. A portfolio operator may repeat the same decision process at another site, but should not transfer savings estimates without checking its loads, hours, tariffs and equipment.

Evidence, standards and limits

No audit can guarantee a saving or make every project investment-ready. The accuracy of the findings depends on the agreed depth, access to records and equipment, the representativeness of the period examined and the assumptions used. Ask the consultant to distinguish observed facts, calculations and recommendations. Where a standard or program requires a particular audit type or accredited practitioner, record that requirement in the brief and verify it before work starts.

Northmore Gordon can connect an audit to implementation planning, energy-audit services, energy optimisation and certificate assessment. Contact the team with the facilities, key energy uses and decision you need to make so the audit scope can be tailored to the project.

Which Australian Standards guide energy audits, and when do they apply?

The AS/NZS 3598:2014 series covers commercial buildings (Part 1), industrial and related activities (Part 2), and transport-related activities (Part 3). Australian Government guidance recommends using the relevant part when scoping an audit and describes Type 1, 2 and 3 audit depths. Standards Australia says standards are voluntary on their own; a law, contract, program rule or agreed scope may make a particular standard or level necessary for a specific engagement. Confirm the applicable requirement and deliverables before work begins.

What are the three types of energy audits a consultant might offer?

Consultants offer Type 1 audits, a basic overview providing breadth of site coverage and uncertainty acceptable for screening-level decisions; Type 2 audits, a more detailed assessment including financial evaluation to support capital investment comparisons; and Type 3 audits, a precision assessment of a major subsystem with additional measurement and specialist expertise. Each type answers different questions: Type 1 identifies where to investigate first, Type 2 determines which opportunities deserve capital, and Type 3 assesses whether to replace specific equipment like a boiler, compressor or chiller. The choice depends on the client's actual decision, not the size of the resulting report.

What evidence should a client prepare before commissioning an energy audit?

Clients should gather at least one year of available electricity and fuel history, plus interval data, production volumes, operating schedules and equipment information. Flagging missing data, major shutdowns and significant changes in output helps the consultant scope the investigation appropriately. Government guidance emphasizes energy-use patterns and the relationship between consumption and

business activity as essential for meaningful audit findings. A year containing unusual operations may not represent the period an investment will serve. Transparent disclosure of data gaps and anomalies enables more accurate opportunity identification and prevents recommendations based on unrepresentative periods.

What is an opportunity register and what information must it contain?

An opportunity register is a documented list of identified improvement opportunities produced by an energy audit. For each proposed measure, the register should identify the boundary, estimated energy effect, assumptions, implementation dependencies, evidence quality and next decision. Consultants must keep energy savings, tariff savings, maintenance benefits and certificate revenue separate to prevent confusion. Interactions between measures deserve their own treatment—for example, a smaller heating load after insulation changes the economics of replacing the heating system. This structured register becomes the foundation for prioritizing investments and assigning accountability for implementation and performance verification.

Why should an audit type not automatically promise construction-ready design or fixed-price equipment quotation?

An audit type provides evidence and assessment at a specified depth, but scope boundaries and deliverables must be agreed separately with the client. Construction-ready design requires detailed engineering investigation beyond the audit itself, and a fixed-price equipment quotation demands competitive procurement and supplier commitment that extend beyond audit conclusions. Consultants should agree which outputs are needed and clarify which later investigations may remain as separate, subsequent work. This prevents misaligned expectations, scope creep and disputes over what the audit was supposed to deliver versus what additional services are required.

How does Northmore Gordon describe its six-stage delivery approach for energy projects?

Our approach connects technical assessment, commercial decisions and ongoing operational performance through six stages: Assess (identify opportunities and missing evidence through audits and benchmarking), Build the Case (evaluate technical and commercial viability through feasibility studies and investment cases), Capture Value (identify funding or certificate contributions), Deliver (implement and verify outcomes), Procure (manage energy and environmental attribute purchasing), and Perform (sustain outcomes and plan expansion). Each stage supports specific decisions, and the starting point depends on the project's current status. A site with an audit can progress to feasibility, while a site without reliable data should start with metering and monitoring planning.

What accreditation applies to consultants creating Victorian Energy Efficiency Certificates?

Consultants creating Victorian Energy Efficiency Certificates for eligible activities under the Victorian Energy Upgrades scheme must be Accredited Providers. Eligibility depends on the specific activity, premises, equipment and scheme conditions; a technically sensible upgrade is not automatically eligible for certificates. Consultants should assess the right project pathway by selecting between standardised activities with prescribed requirements and project-based methods using measurement-and-verification or benchmark-rating approaches. Choosing the method early helps identify evidence that must exist before equipment changes. The correct choice is a technical and procedural assessment, not simply the route showing the largest estimated certificate quantity.

What questions should a consultant address before finalizing an NSW Energy Savings Certificate project estimate?

Before finalizing a preliminary estimate, consultants should establish the exact activity and equipment proposed, the precise implementation date and its justification under the method, the identity of the energy saver and how nomination will be documented, which baseline and operating variables are necessary, and what equipment, installation and commissioning evidence is required. The NSW

Energy Savings Scheme Rule version matters; changes effective 7 September 2026 exclude certain gas-fired boilers from PIAM&V; eligibility. A preliminary estimate should be labelled as such until assumptions and evidence are checked. Keep engineering savings, scheme-recognised savings, created certificates and customer proceeds as separate quantities to support transparent project assessment.