

Funding

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Funding options depend on the project, location, scheme rules and timing. Explore the program pages and discuss eligibility before committing to a project or relying on an incentive estimate.

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What is the practical difference between grants, certificates, and financing for energy projects?

Grants, certificates, and financing are distinct support mechanisms that should be assessed separately. Grants require establishing applicant eligibility, project eligibility, round, deadline, and eligible expenditure before approval. Certificates depend on activity eligibility, evidence quality, quantity, ownership, and sale timing. Financing requires evaluating borrower terms, repayments, security, and conditions. Each has different requirements and risks; combining them requires explicit compatibility checks. We recommend treating these as separate line items in project files and investment cases to avoid overlooking restrictions or misallocating project costs and outcomes.

Why should funding eligibility be checked before installation begins?

Many funding schemes have strict timing requirements tied to project stages. For ACCU projects, certain investment and asset commitments before registration can affect eligibility. For NSW Energy Savings Scheme projects, baseline measurement procedures must be deemed appropriate by an M&V professional before implementation. For Victorian Energy Upgrades, the method and measurement approach must be selected while baseline data can still be obtained. Checking eligibility early prevents losing an option because information was collected too late or commitments were made at the wrong stage. We advise raising funding and measurement questions while the project is still being scoped.

What should an initial funding estimate include to be reliable?

A preliminary estimate should identify the specific activity, rule version, energy calculation method, certificate assumptions, commercial price date, and any outstanding conditions. It should distinguish eligible-in-principle status from calculated or confirmed certificates. Engineering savings, scheme-recognised savings, created certificates, and customer proceeds should be tracked separately. An estimate should be labelled as preliminary until assumptions and evidence have been verified. We recommend asking whether a quoted amount is indicative gross value or what the customer would actually receive after agreed charges, and confirming whether prior assistance or commitments affect the proposed application.

How does Northmore Gordon's six-stage delivery approach address funding within project development?

Our approach includes a dedicated 'Capture Value' stage where funding or certificate value is identified to support projects through grants, environmental certificates, and financing pathways. This stage sits after technical assessment and business-case development but before delivery and procurement. By integrating funding assessment at this strategic point, we connect technical viability with commercial feasibility. The approach also ensures measurement decisions consider scheme requirements early, and that funding assumptions are tested before implementation. This sequencing helps clients present projects with and without conditional contributions, making investment decisions resilient to funding delays or unavailability.

What are the key requirements for obtaining Environmental Savings Certificates under the NSW Energy Savings Scheme?

Energy Savings Certificates (ESCs) require selecting a calculation method before building the evidence file. Projects may use prescribed methods or Project Impact Assessment with Measurement and Verification (PIAM&V;). The energy saver must be nominated and documented; an installer invoice alone does not establish certificate entitlement. Baseline measurement procedures must be deemed appropriate by an approved M&V; professional before implementation. The ESS Rule version matters—gas-fired equipment implemented after specific dates may be excluded. We recommend using the applicable ESS Rule document with relevant method guidance, recording answers in one project file, and obtaining method-specific record-keeping guidance rather than generic checklists.

What should be documented before relying on Victorian Energy Upgrades certificates in an investment case?

Before including Victorian Energy Efficiency Certificates (VEECs) in a business case, confirm the governing activity and document version, main eligibility assumptions, calculation basis, evidence responsibilities, and commercial certificate treatment. Show certificate price and quantity assumptions separately. Verify whether the quoted amount is indicative gross value or the actual customer receipt after charges. The method choice—measurement and verification or benchmark rating—must be made early to identify what evidence must exist before equipment changes. Historical case studies show why measurement mattered but cannot establish today's eligibility for new sites. We advise checking the Essential Services Commission's current approval scope against the proposed project before finalising detailed advice or certificate calculations.

How does project timing affect funding and certificate eligibility?

Project timing directly impacts multiple funding pathways. For ACCU projects, CER's newness guidance identifies investment and asset commitments as potentially significant before registration, with method-specific exceptions. For NSW ESS and Victorian Energy Upgrades, baseline data collection and scheme eligibility assessment windows are tied to specific project stages. If work has already begun without proper documentation, eligibility may be lost. We recommend using separate dates for feasibility approval, investment decision, purchase commitment, installation, commissioning, and operation. This precision helps identify which rule version applies and whether prerequisites can still be met. Early funding investigation clarifies what information to retain and prevents old programme listings from becoming unsupported promises in investment cases.

What role does Northmore Gordon play in renewable certificate procurement and claims management?

We provide certificate procurement services including moREnewable100, which enables renewable energy certificate procurement without replacing existing electricity supply contracts. The service offers multi-site coverage, procurement flexibility, RE100-aligned sourcing, and technology and due-diligence support. We help clients establish the intended claim, eligible instrument type, ownership rights, and

retirement treatment. It also addresses certificate accounting versus carbon offsets, ensuring clients understand that renewable-electricity attributes serve different accounting purposes than carbon credits or physical energy savings. We assist with developing procurement evidence checklists, contract terms, and public statements, helping organisations maximise the full benefits of their environmental initiatives.

What information must be prepared before submitting an environmental certificate project assessment?

Submit a short project brief identifying the state or country, project stage, and intended outcome. Prepare the location, equipment 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 proposed evidence schedule should identify what must be recorded before works, during installation, and after commissioning. Establish who gathers evidence, who checks it, and who makes the relevant application. We emphasise that exact requirements come from the governing scheme, not generic brochures. Prior funding or certificate arrangements must be disclosed to allow compatibility and ownership questions to be checked properly.

How should investment cases present funding to support resilient decision-making?

Present the project with and without conditional contributions to ensure management understands the full decision context. Identify the point at which management would need to revisit the decision if support is delayed, reduced, or unavailable. Keep operating merits of the project visible alongside funding options. State benefit lines separately: energy reduction, tariff effects, maintenance benefits, and certificate proceeds should not overlap. Include equipment, installation, commissioning, operation, maintenance, and planned-interruption costs with notation of which items are quoted versus estimated. For certificate proceeds, disclose eligibility assumptions, quantity, price date, charges, and timing separately. An early funding investigation is valuable even if no grant is currently suitable, as it clarifies what information to retain and prevents old programme promises from becoming unsupported assumptions.