

Bioenergy - Northmore Gordon

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Bioenergy

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Related guidance

Carbon advisory

Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions

Certificates

Government schemes

Certificate trading

Measurement and verification

What is biomass?

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How does bioenergy relate to environmental certificates?

Bioenergy is identified as a sector area for environmental certificate assessment applications. Bioenergy projects—those involving energy generation or use from biological sources—may be eligible for environmental certificates under various schemes including Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCUs), Victorian Energy Efficiency Certificates (VEECs), or renewable certificates. Eligibility depends on meeting specific technical, operational and regulatory requirements of the applicable certificate programme, not merely on having bioenergy technology.

What determines whether a bioenergy project qualifies for certificates?

Certificate eligibility for bioenergy projects requires assessment of multiple factors: the specific scheme and method applicable to the jurisdiction; evidence of eligible abatement or energy savings; project timing and prior incentive arrangements; and proper documentation of boundaries and measurement. Technology alone does not establish eligibility. We recommend preparing a comprehensive project brief identifying the state or country, project stage and intended outcome before proceeding with

detailed assessment.

What types of bioenergy activities might qualify for environmental certificates?

Bioenergy activities that may qualify include biomass-boiler installation, biogas utilisation, and biomethane production, among others. However, the applicable instrument depends on the activity, jurisdiction, timing and intended claim. Different certificate types apply to different activities: carbon credits for abatement outcomes, energy-efficiency certificates for energy savings, or renewable certificates for renewable electricity or heat generation. Each pathway has distinct eligibility, evidence and reporting requirements.

What evidence should be prepared before seeking certificates for a bioenergy project?

Prepare documentation of 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 that distinguish estimates from measured data. Develop a proposed evidence schedule identifying what must be recorded before works, during installation and after commissioning, including who gathers evidence, who checks it, and who can make relevant applications or claims.

How should bioenergy projects be assessed within a manufacturing or industrial facility context?

Bioenergy projects in industrial settings should be assessed within the operating duty context. Define the useful energy requirement—temperature, pressure, rate, timing and reliability—before selecting technology. Map heat sources and destinations, record operating schedules, and identify potential rejected heat. Compare complete project options including efficiency, electrification feasibility, reliability and economics. Preserve evidence before installation removes baseline conditions. Use relevant current scheme rules for funding, as older successful cases do not confirm eligibility for new projects.

What role can Northmore Gordon play in bioenergy certificate assessment?

We provide support for project registration, certificate creation and trading, alongside engineering and commercial assessment for bioenergy projects. We can help assess activity eligibility, develop evidence schedules, evaluate certificate pathways, and prepare investment cases incorporating certificate revenue. Our knowledge library includes guidance on bioenergy, process heat, biomass-boiler work and related technical systems, supporting clients through technical opportunity identification through certificate issuance.

Should certificate revenue be assumed as confirmed funding for a bioenergy project?

No. Certificate quantity, eligibility, verification cost and sale price are separate variables that must be assessed independently. Eligible certificates can contribute revenue, but comparing a base case without unconfirmed certificate proceeds with an incentive scenario is essential. Do not promise a certificate price or payback based on historical cases. Present the project investment case with and without conditional support so management understands the decision, treating any proposed certificate proceeds as a scheme-specific component until eligibility and commercial terms are formally established.