

EEC - Northmore Gordon

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EEC

EEC stands for the Energy Efficiency Council, a not-for-profit membership association founded in 2009 for businesses, universities, governments and NGOs. The EEC focuses on building a market for energy management products and services that delivers healthy, comfortable buildings; productive, competitive businesses; and an affordable, reliable and sustainable energy system for Australia. It is important to distinguish the EEC as an organisation from energy-efficiency certificate instruments such as VEECs, ESCs and PRC, which belong to separate schemes and serve different purposes in energy project funding.

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What does EEC stand for?

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How does the Energy Efficiency Council (EEC) differ from energy-efficiency certificate schemes?

The EEC is a membership association representing the energy efficiency sector as a whole. In contrast, energy-efficiency certificates such as Victorian Energy Efficiency Certificates (VEECs), Energy Savings Certificates (ESCs), and Peak Reduction Certificates (PRCs) are financial instruments created under specific government schemes in Victoria and New South Wales. These certificates represent quantified energy savings or demand reductions and are tradeable commodities with distinct eligibility criteria, calculation methods and programme rules. EEC membership and certificate eligibility are separate pathways.

Why is it important to keep energy-efficiency certificates separate from one another?

Each energy-efficiency certificate belongs to its own programme with distinct eligibility requirements, measurement methodologies and commercial rules. VEECs operate under Victorian Energy Upgrades;

ESCs operate under the NSW Energy Savings Scheme; and PRCs operate under the Peak Demand Reduction Scheme. Combining certificate quantities or assuming one scheme's requirements apply to another creates errors in project assessment and can jeopardise funding eligibility. Our environmental certificate services include identifying which instrument and scheme pathway is appropriate for a proposed project based on its technology, location, timing and intended outcome.

What types of projects might be assessed for energy-efficiency certificates rather than EEC membership?

Energy-efficiency certificate eligibility depends on the specific activity, jurisdiction, timing and scheme method. Examples include industrial equipment upgrades, building heating and cooling improvements, refrigeration replacements and battery installations, provided they meet the prescribed or project-based requirements of the applicable scheme. We assess whether a proposed activity meets the particular scheme and method requirements, identify required evidence, calculates eligible quantities and advise on commercial treatment. The EEC as an association is separate from these scheme-specific assessments.

How should energy projects assess funding eligibility across grants, certificates and financing?

Energy projects may involve different forms of support—grants, certificates and finance—which should be assessed separately on their own terms. For certificates specifically, establish activity eligibility under the relevant scheme, evidence requirements, calculated quantity, ownership arrangements and sale timing and price separately from any grant or loan component. We provide engineering and commercial assessment for environmental certificates, helping clients understand eligibility, verify assumptions and structure the commercial case. A project's technical merit does not automatically establish certificate eligibility or funding suitability.

What information is needed before assessing a project for energy-efficiency certificate eligibility?

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, plus who gathers the evidence and who can make the application. Submit a project brief identifying the state, project stage and intended outcome. We can then establish appropriate starting scope for environmental certificate assessment.

Can an installed or partially completed project still qualify for energy-efficiency certificates?

That depends on the method, dates, evidence and prior arrangements. Timing-sensitive pathways exist under various schemes, and some methods allow retrospective assessment while others require registration or baseline approval before work commences. Early assessment is critical; manufacturing retrospective records is not acceptable. Before assuming a project qualifies, establish the actual chronology, describe existing evidence and ask whether the applicable method allows the project to proceed under its conditions. We conduct timing reviews to clarify whether an available pathway remains or whether intended eligibility has been lost.

What should a preliminary certificate estimate clearly show, and what should it not claim?

A preliminary estimate should be labelled as such and should show the activity, applicable rule version, energy calculation methodology, certificate assumptions, commercial price date and outstanding conditions. It should distinguish engineering savings, scheme-recognised savings, created certificates and customer proceeds as separate quantities. A preliminary estimate is useful for screening but should not be treated as proof of certificate creation, financial commitment or payback until eligibility has been verified and scheme processes completed. Keep preliminary estimates separate from verified results and issued certificates in the project file.

How does Northmore Gordon's environmental certificate service support energy project investment decisions?

We describe support for project registration, certificate creation and trading alongside engineering and commercial assessment. We help clients determine which instrument and scheme apply to a proposed activity, identify required evidence and measurement responsibilities, assess activity eligibility, calculate indicative quantities and advise on commercial terms. Services cover industrial operations, buildings, waste treatment, animal processing, data centres, bioenergy, solar and battery projects. Our published cases demonstrate practical assessment pathways; outcomes remain specific to those projects and should not be assumed applicable to other sites.