

# I-REC - Northmore Gordon

Canonical: <https://northmoregordon.com/glossary/international-renewable-energy-certificate-i-rec/>

## Details:

Home › Glossary › I-REC

### # I-REC

I-REC stands for International Renewable Energy Certificate. I-RECs are environmental attribute instruments representing renewable electricity generation that operate within international markets, distinct from Australia's national schemes. They function as contractual instruments for tracking and trading renewable energy attributes globally, enabling organisations to purchase renewable electricity attributes separately from physical electricity. I-RECs support market-based renewable electricity claims in international contexts where organisations require recognition beyond Australia's specific scheme frameworks or participate in multinational sustainability commitments.

### ## Related guidance

Carbon advisory

Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions

Certificates

Government schemes

Certificate trading

Mid-scale solar

### ### What does I-REC stand for and what role do they play in renewable energy markets?

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### ### Can a facility create both I-RECs and REGOs or LGCs for the same electricity generation?

No. I-RECs cannot be created for the same electricity generation as REGOs (Renewable Electricity Guarantees of Origin) or LGCs (Large-scale Generation Certificates). A facility must choose which certificate scheme to participate in for a given amount of electricity production. This restriction ensures that renewable attributes are not double-counted across different certification systems. The facility's location, generation profile, and intended renewable electricity claims should determine which single instrument pathway is most appropriate for that electricity.

### ### How should an organisation approach the decision between I-RECs and Australian renewable schemes?

Start by documenting the organisation's intended claim: renewable-electricity assertion, market-based Scope 2 accounting, or voluntary commitment such as RE100. Identify whether the facility is located in

Australia or internationally, and which reporting framework applies. Australia's Renewable Energy Target (STCs and LGCs) operates until 2030 with defined eligibility criteria, while REGO continues beyond 2030. I-RECs serve global markets. Our environmental certificate assessment process helps organisations establish which instrument aligns with their documented objectives, reporting deadline, and eligible generation before making a commercial commitment.

### What evidence must an organisation retain to support a valid I-REC renewable electricity claim?

An organisation must establish the applicable reporting framework, contractual instruments confirming I-REC ownership, registry records showing issuance and transfer, retirement or cancellation evidence, the consumption period and electricity volumes covered, and the beneficiary and site allocation. The evidence should be retained as a claim file distinguishing forecast assumptions from realised outcomes. Our procurement evidence checklist addresses site consumption boundaries, instrument type and vintage, ownership and exclusive rights, registry transfer evidence, and the proposed public statement with its supporting calculation.

### How do I-RECs integrate with Northmore Gordon's moREnewable100 renewable procurement service?

moREnewable100 is described as a service for procuring renewable energy certificates without changing existing electricity supply contracts, offering multi-site coverage, procurement flexibility, and RE100-aligned sourcing. I-RECs may be assessed as an eligible instrument within this service where international renewable electricity attributes serve the organisation's documented objectives. The engagement should establish the instrument type, market, period, and claim, then conduct environmental-attribute due diligence before procurement and retirement. moREnewable100 includes technology and due-diligence support to verify I-REC integrity before purchasing.

### What commercial factors should influence an I-REC procurement decision?

Before relying on I-RECs in an investment case or sustainability report, establish the certificate quantity eligible under the facility's actual generation, verify the sale price and timing assumptions separately, and identify any due-diligence or transaction costs. Compare I-REC value with alternative renewable pathways under the same operating and price assumptions. Model scenarios showing how certificate price uncertainty and timing affect the project outcome. Retain the versioned calculation and price date. Do not label I-REC proceeds as secured funding until contract terms confirm price, quantity, and payment conditions.

### How does I-REC ownership and retirement treatment affect renewable electricity claims?

Renewable electricity attributes must be carefully managed when I-REC certificates are transferred or retired. An organisation claiming renewable electricity use must establish exclusive ownership rights, ensuring the same attributes are not simultaneously claimed by multiple parties. The applicable reporting framework determines how retirement evidence supports the organisation's claim. GHG Protocol Scope 2 Guidance addresses purchased electricity attributes. Our environmental-attribute due diligence assesses whether I-REC ownership, retirement treatment, and accounting approach satisfy the organisation's reporting requirements and external framework obligations.

### When should Northmore Gordon's environmental certificate services be engaged for I-REC assessment?

Engage environmental certificate services early in the planning stage, before binding commitments or installation decisions. We describe support for instrument selection, due-diligence assessment, procurement strategy, and retirement planning. The engagement should clarify whether I-RECs are suitable for your jurisdiction, reporting framework, and intended renewable electricity claim. We help organisations separate renewable-attribute purchases from physical energy reductions, establish ownership evidence, and confirm that I-REC retirement supports the stated claim without creating accounting conflicts or double-counting across reporting boundaries.

