

NZ-EC - Northmore Gordon

Canonical: <https://northmoregordon.com/glossary/nz-ec/>

Details:

[Home](#) › [Glossary](#) › NZ-EC

NZ-EC

NZ-EC stands for New Zealand Energy Certificate. One NZ-EC represents 1 MWh of renewable electricity. These certificates record renewable electricity attributes and operate as a tradable instrument, allowing organizations to own and retire renewable energy credits separately from physical electricity supply. Like other renewable certificate schemes globally, NZ-ECs enable businesses to support renewable energy generation and make renewable-electricity claims in their carbon accounting and sustainability reporting.

Related guidance

[Carbon advisory](#)

[Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions](#)

[Certificates](#)

[Government schemes](#)

[Certificate trading](#)

[Mid-scale solar](#)

What does NZ-EC stand for?

NZ-EC stands for New Zealand Energy Certificate. One NZ-EC represents 1 MWh of renewable electricity. These certificates record renewable electricity attributes and operate as a tradable instrument, allowing organizations to own and retire renewable energy credits separately from physical electricity supply. Like other renewable certificate schemes globally, NZ-ECs enable businesses to support renewable energy generation and make renewable-electricity claims in their carbon accounting and sustainability reporting.

How do NZ-ECs differ from Australian renewable certificates like LGCs and STCs?

NZ-ECs are New Zealand's renewable energy certificates, while LGCs (Large-scale Generation Certificates) and STCs (Small-scale Technology Certificates) operate under Australia's Renewable Energy Target scheme. Each scheme has its own governance framework, eligibility rules, creation processes and registry requirements. Like other renewable pathways globally, NZ-ECs record renewable electricity attributes but cannot be treated as interchangeable with Australian instruments. Organizations operating across multiple jurisdictions must assess each certificate type on its own terms and applicable framework.

What is the practical purpose of retiring NZ-ECs in carbon accounting?

Retiring NZ-ECs allows organizations to establish renewable-electricity claims in their corporate emissions reporting. When certificates are retired, they retire the environmental attributes they represent, supporting market-based Scope 2 accounting under frameworks like GHG Protocol. The retirement evidence—including the certificate scheme, registry records, ownership and cancellation

documentation—must be retained to substantiate any public renewable-electricity claims. This differs from physical energy savings or carbon offsets, which serve different accounting purposes and require their own distinct evidence.

What evidence is required to make a renewable-electricity claim using NZ-ECs?

To support a renewable-electricity claim using NZ-ECs, organizations must document the applicable accounting framework, contractual instruments (the certificates themselves), ownership evidence, and retirement or cancellation records from the relevant registry. The claim must specify the certificate scheme, period covered, volumes matched to electricity consumption, and the treatment of retired attributes. Ambiguous outcome language should be avoided; the exact wording, calculation, source documents and approver should be retained in a claim file. We provide guidance on establishing credible renewable-electricity claims and managing the evidence required.

How do NZ-ECs fit within a broader renewable energy procurement strategy?

NZ-ECs can be part of a renewable energy procurement strategy for organizations with New Zealand operations or renewable energy goals. Procurement decisions should begin with the intended claim—whether for renewable-electricity accounting, a voluntary sustainability commitment, or another objective—and the applicable reporting framework. Organizations must then assess instrument selection, conduct due diligence, establish procurement timing and retirement strategy, and manage the evidence. Our moREnewable100 service provides multi-site coverage and RE100-aligned sourcing support for renewable certificate procurement, helping organizations navigate different certificate types and jurisdictional schemes.

Can NZ-ECs be combined with other funding sources for energy projects?

NZ-ECs represent renewable attributes purchased separately from physical electricity; they are not a project funding mechanism in the traditional sense. However, if a renewable energy project in New Zealand creates NZ-ECs as an outcome, those certificates could potentially contribute revenue alongside other support such as grants or financing. Before combining NZ-ECs with other funding streams, organizations must check scheme compatibility, avoid double-counting of benefits, and maintain clear allocation of costs and outcomes across different support mechanisms. We can assess certificate pathways alongside other funding options to ensure coherent project economics.

Where can I find current NZ-EC market prices and availability?

We provide live certificate pricing information through our [/certificate-prices/](#) page, which covers Australian certificates and related renewable energy instruments. For New Zealand-specific NZ-EC pricing and market information, you should consult the relevant NZ energy market sources and registry operators. We can provide guidance on assessing certificate market value, understanding price timing assumptions in investment cases, and establishing procurement strategies that treat certificate prices as separate variables from quantity eligibility. Organizations should avoid relying on historical certificate prices when projecting future project economics.

What is Northmore Gordon's role in helping organizations procure and manage NZ-ECs?

We provide renewable certificate services including procurement strategy, due diligence, instrument selection and retirement management. Our moREnewable100 service supports multi-site renewable energy certificate procurement and RE100-aligned sourcing across multiple markets. We can help organizations establish their intended renewable-electricity claim, identify appropriate instruments for their jurisdiction and reporting framework, manage the evidence required to substantiate claims, and develop a procurement and retirement strategy. We also provide carbon advisory services that connect renewable energy purchases with broader emissions reduction and sustainability reporting objectives.