

RESA - Northmore Gordon

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Details:

[Home](#) › [Glossary](#) › RESA

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RESA stands for Recognised Energy Savings Activities. These are energy-saving projects that meet the eligibility criteria of government schemes such as the NSW Energy Savings Scheme or Victorian Energy Upgrades. Recognition by a scheme means the activity qualifies for environmental certificates or other incentives, provided the project meets specific method requirements, evidence standards and timing conditions. RESA status is activity-specific rather than technology-specific; a technically sound upgrade is not automatically eligible. Our knowledge library guides clients through assessing whether a proposed activity qualifies as a recognised activity under the applicable scheme rules.

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[Certificate trading](#)

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What does RESA stand for?

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How do Recognised Energy Savings Activities differ from general energy improvements?

A general energy improvement reduces consumption but may not meet a particular scheme's method, equipment or documentation requirements. A Recognised Energy Savings Activity qualifies under a specific government programme's rules, enabling the creation of tradable environmental certificates or access to other formal support. The difference is important because eligibility depends on the activity type, jurisdiction, equipment specifications, project timing and evidence available. Not every energy-efficient upgrade becomes a RESA. We help clients determine whether their proposed project meets recognition requirements and support the evidence planning needed to establish eligible status.

What role do Recognised Energy Savings Activities play in environmental certificate creation?

Environmental certificates—such as Energy Savings Certificates under the NSW scheme or Victorian Energy Efficiency Certificates—can only be created for eligible activities. A RESA provides the

foundation for certificate creation by establishing that the activity meets scheme method requirements. However, recognition alone does not guarantee certificate issuance; the project must also provide sufficient evidence, correct nomination and verified outcomes. Certificate quantity, ownership and commercial value remain separate considerations. We provide guidance on activity selection, evidence requirements and the commercial assessment needed before relying on certificate revenue in an investment case.

What information must be prepared to assess whether a project qualifies as a Recognised Energy Savings Activity?

Assessment requires the project location and jurisdiction, proposed equipment and specifications, existing and proposed operating conditions, project timeline and stage, available baseline energy data, and any prior incentives or certificate arrangements. Early identification of the relevant scheme and activity type helps determine what evidence must be collected before installation. Different schemes have different method requirements; a project-based activity in Victoria requires different documentation than a prescribed activity. We recommend submitting a project brief describing the decision, site and available evidence to establish the applicable screening file and evidence responsibilities.

How does project timing affect the recognition status of an energy-saving activity?

Timing affects eligibility under several schemes. ACCU projects generally require registration before commencement, with method-specific exceptions. Measurement and verification pathways require baseline data collection before upgrades begin. Certificate programmes have specific rules about what constitutes project commencement and whether retrospective claims are possible. Installing equipment before checking eligibility requirements can eliminate funding options that were available earlier. Our guidance emphasises raising scheme and measurement questions during project scoping, before final investment decisions or purchases, to preserve available pathways and avoid unintended consequences.

What are the consequences of misidentifying an activity's recognition status?

Treating a non-eligible activity as recognised can lead to wasted evidence collection, failed certificate applications, ineligible project nominations and loss of expected funding. Conversely, assuming an activity is ineligible when it qualifies can mean missing funding opportunities or grant deadlines. The commercial consequences depend on the project stage: an error discovered during feasibility can be addressed; the same error discovered after commissioning may be irreversible. Our knowledge library and assessment services help clients establish the correct activity classification early, avoid false assumptions about certificate value and confirm commercial treatment before relying on incentive revenue in investment cases.

Which government schemes recognise energy-saving activities and create certificates?

The NSW Energy Savings Scheme creates Energy Savings Certificates for eligible activities. Victorian Energy Upgrades creates Victorian Energy Efficiency Certificates for recognised activities, including prescribed projects and project-based work. The NSW Peak Demand Reduction Scheme recognises eligible battery and demand-reduction activities. The Emissions Reduction Fund recognises carbon-abatement projects under approved methods, issuing Australian Carbon Credit Units. Each scheme has its own eligibility criteria, method requirements, evidence standards and certificate types. Our knowledge library provides scheme-specific guidance to help clients identify which programme applies to their location and technology, and what recognition and evidence are required.

How can Northmore Gordon assist with determining and documenting Recognised Energy Savings Activity status?

We provide energy audits that identify opportunities and assess their technical feasibility. We offer measurement and verification services to establish project boundaries, baselines and evidence standards required for recognition. We supply environmental certificate assessment, including activity eligibility, evidence planning and commercial treatment of certificate proceeds. Our delivery approach includes an 'Assess' stage to identify opportunities, a 'Build the Case' stage to evaluate technical and commercial viability, and a 'Capture Value' stage to confirm funding and certificate pathways. Clients can submit a project brief describing their decision, site and available evidence to receive a proportionate first assessment.