

SME - Northmore Gordon

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SME

According to our glossary, SME stands for Subject Matter Expert. In the context of energy projects, measurement and verification work, and environmental certificate assessments, a Subject Matter Expert provides specialized knowledge and professional judgment on particular technical domains, methodologies, or scheme requirements. Subject Matter Experts play a critical role in validating project approaches, reviewing baseline assumptions, and ensuring compliance with applicable standards and regulations throughout an energy or carbon project lifecycle.

Related guidance

Carbon advisory

Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions

Certificates

Government schemes

Certificate trading

Measurement and verification

What does the acronym SME stand for?

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How do Subject Matter Experts contribute to energy project assessments at Northmore Gordon?

Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) contribute specialized knowledge to energy assessments by examining proposed methodologies, validating technical assumptions, and confirming compliance with applicable schemes and standards. In measurement and verification work, SMEs review project boundaries, baseline modelling approaches, and savings calculations to establish credible evidence. For environmental certificate projects, SMEs assess eligibility against scheme-specific requirements and ensure proper documentation. Their expertise helps Northmore Gordon clients navigate complex technical and regulatory landscapes, reducing project risk and improving decision quality across energy audits, feasibility studies, and implementation verification.

What role do Subject Matter Experts play in measurement and verification projects?

In measurement and verification (M&V;) projects, Subject Matter Experts ensure that the agreed methodology is technically sound and appropriately applied. Under NSW's PIAM&V; pathway, for example, an approved independent M&V; professional reviews and deems the baseline measurement

procedures appropriate before implementation begins. SMEs validate measurement boundaries, data quality, adjustment methodologies, and savings calculations to produce verified results that withstand scrutiny. Their involvement establishes the credibility of energy savings claims and supports eligibility for certificate schemes, grants, or internal investment approval decisions.

Why is Subject Matter Expert review important for environmental certificate projects?

Environmental certificate projects require Subject Matter Expert review to confirm eligibility and compliance with scheme-specific rules. Each certificate instrument—whether Victorian Energy Efficiency Certificates, Energy Savings Certificates, or ACCUs—has its own eligibility criteria, evidence requirements, and technical pathways. SMEs assess whether the proposed activity meets those requirements, identify data gaps, and ensure proper documentation before registration or claim submission. Their expertise reduces the risk of ineligibility, prevents costly rework, and helps clients understand the specific conditions and timing obligations that govern their chosen pathway.

How does Northmore Gordon use Subject Matter Experts in carbon advisory and transition planning?

We engage Subject Matter Experts to support carbon advisory services, including inventory development, transition pathway assessment, and financial implication analysis. SMEs bring specialized knowledge to product footprint assessments, Scope 3 emissions analysis, and decarbonization opportunity evaluation. Their expertise helps organizations clarify current positions, assess technical feasibility of proposed reductions, and validate assumptions underpinning capital investment decisions. SMEs also support due diligence for renewable energy certificate procurement and offset strategies, ensuring that purchased attributes and financial instruments align with stated emissions-reduction objectives and reporting frameworks.

What qualifications or accreditations should be expected from a Subject Matter Expert in energy projects?

Our knowledge library emphasizes that specific accreditation claims should identify the legal entity or professional, the relevant scheme, and the scope of authorization. A generic brand-level statement is insufficient to establish the scope of every person's authorifications. Service availability, contractual scope, and the nominated delivery team should be confirmed in the engagement. For scheme-specific work such as PIAM&V; in NSW or measurement and verification under Victorian Energy Upgrades, the SME must hold recognized credentials under the applicable framework and be able to demonstrate relevant experience with comparable projects and technical domains.

How can engaging a Subject Matter Expert improve the commercial viability of an energy project?

Engaging a Subject Matter Expert early in project development improves commercial viability by validating technical assumptions, identifying evidence gaps before significant costs are incurred, and confirming pathway suitability before binding commitments are made. SMEs help clients avoid ineligible designs, clarify funding and certificate assumptions, and reduce implementation risk. By ensuring that measurement, baseline, and eligibility decisions are made while data can still be collected and conditions shaped, SMEs support more confident investment cases and help preserve funding options. Their involvement also reduces post-implementation rework and disputed outcomes.

When should a Subject Matter Expert be involved in an energy or carbon project?

Subject Matter Experts should be engaged during the early project scoping phases, before commitments are made that could affect eligibility or evidence quality. For measurement and verification work, SME involvement during the Assess and Build the Case stages ensures that baseline data can be captured and methodology established while conditions remain manageable. For certificate projects, SME review of activity eligibility and evidence requirements should occur before installation or final investment decisions. Early SME engagement is particularly important for projects subject to

scheme rules with newness tests, timing prerequisites, or specific measurement methodologies that constrain later flexibility.