

VEM - Northmore Gordon

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VEM

VEM stands for 'Virtual Energy Manager', as defined in our glossary entry. This service represents a named role or capability within our energy management offerings, enabling organizations to access energy management expertise and oversight without requiring a dedicated full-time internal resource. The Virtual Energy Manager provides structured responsibility for implementing decisions, observing performance, and responding when operating conditions change, turning energy assessments into ongoing improvement across the organization.

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What does VEM stand for?

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How does a Virtual Energy Manager support energy management in practice?

A Virtual Energy Manager provides structured energy management responsibilities aligned with the energy-management system framework in our guidance. The role supports assigning ownership to energy decisions, maintaining opportunity registers with descriptions and accountabilities, reviewing performance measures like consumption and cost, investigating unexpected changes, and closing the loop by documenting what was implemented and how performance will be checked. This ensures organizations have explicit accountability for energy performance without hiring a full-time internal position.

What named roles can a Virtual Energy Manager assume within an organization's energy management structure?

A Virtual Energy Manager can serve as a management sponsor approving capital expenditure, a site energy owner observing performance at specific locations, an operations representative implementing energy management changes, a data owner managing information systems, or a project owner

managing specific improvement initiatives. The flexibility allows one external resource to hold multiple responsibilities depending on organizational structure and needs, with each role's authority and accountability clearly documented to ensure decisions are approved and outcomes are tracked.

Why might an organization choose a Virtual Energy Manager instead of hiring a dedicated internal energy manager?

A Virtual Energy Manager provides cost efficiency and flexibility for organizations lacking the scale or budget for a full-time dedicated resource. This approach allows smaller businesses, multi-site operators, or organizations with variable energy priorities to access structured energy-management practices and consistent performance tracking without fixed internal employment costs. The service delivers the same oversight responsibilities—assigning ownership, maintaining opportunity registers, reviewing measures, and investigating changes—at a fraction of the cost while providing external expertise and accountability.

How does a Virtual Energy Manager fit into Northmore Gordon's six-stage delivery approach?

The Virtual Energy Manager service aligns primarily with our 'Perform' stage, where ongoing outcomes are sustained and performance reviews drive next decisions. However, it also supports continuity across other stages by ensuring measurement and verification activities produce actionable results, opportunity registers remain current and prioritized, and energy-management changes translate into documented performance improvements. This operational management layer ensures energy audits, investment cases, and implementation projects sustain organizational improvement rather than becoming one-off initiatives.

What specific responsibilities does a Virtual Energy Manager hold regarding opportunity registers and decision tracking?

A Virtual Energy Manager maintains an opportunity register for each identified improvement, documenting its description, evidence quality, expected benefit, assessment stage, dependencies, next action, and accountable role. The register separates ideas from assessed options and approved work, keeping rejected or deferred opportunities with reasons so the organization can revisit them when conditions change. This structured approach enables the organization and finance teams to see why opportunities rank highly, what uncertainty remains, and who owns moving each opportunity to the next decision stage.

What types of organizations benefit most from Virtual Energy Manager services?

Organizations across multiple sectors can benefit: industrial facilities managing energy costs and reporting obligations, commercial buildings seeking consistent performance, water and wastewater utilities operating distributed assets, and multi-site operations requiring standardized energy management across locations. The service is particularly valuable for entities that have identified energy opportunities through audits or assessments but need ongoing accountability, data management, performance review, and responsive decision-making without the fixed cost and commitment of establishing a dedicated internal position or team.

How does a Virtual Energy Manager approach measurement and verification of implemented projects?

A Virtual Energy Manager oversees execution of measurement and verification plans by ensuring baseline data is collected before implementation, tracking post-project performance against established baselines, investigating whether outcomes match forecasted estimates, and documenting results for reporting or funding applications. This role ensures M&V activities produce credible evidence rather than remaining disconnected from operational accountability. By maintaining measurement records and investigating unexpected changes, the Virtual Energy Manager distinguishes actual savings from bill changes due to production decline, weather variation, or operating-hour changes.

