

# Australian Government Schemes for Energy and Carbon Projects

Canonical: <https://northmoregordon.com/government-schemes/>

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### ## Match the scheme to the project

Government schemes can help improve the economics of eligible energy-efficiency, renewable-energy and emissions-reduction projects. Northmore Gordon helps customers and partners interpret the relevant requirements, organise evidence and assess the potential value.

The first task is to identify the appropriate scheme and activity. A worthwhile engineering upgrade is not automatically an eligible certificate project. Location, equipment, project dates, ownership and the evidence available can all affect the pathway.

### ## Victorian Energy Upgrades

Victorian Energy Upgrades supports eligible improvements through Victorian Energy Efficiency Certificates. Accredited persons create VEECs for activities that meet the scheme requirements, and the certificate market supports discounts or other agreed project value.

Some activities use prescribed equipment and calculations. More complex projects may be assessed through a project-based approach such as measurement and verification or benchmark rating. The method determines the evidence and professional requirements.

Prepare the site address, premises use, existing and proposed equipment, intended dates, energy data and prior incentive arrangements. Choose the activity while it is still possible to collect any necessary baseline information.

### ## NSW Energy Savings Scheme

The NSW Energy Savings Scheme provides a pathway for eligible energy-saving activities to create Energy Savings Certificates through Accredited Certificate Providers. Scheme participants surrender certificates against their obligations, supporting a market for the savings.

The calculation method should be selected before assembling the evidence file. Methods have different requirements for equipment, nomination, measurements, implementation dates and records. A supplier invoice or a successful older project is not sufficient evidence that a new activity qualifies.

Project Impact Assessment with Measurement and Verification is one pathway for assessing project effects. Establish its boundary, baseline and professional-review requirements early. Use the applicable version of the ESS Rule and current method guidance for the actual project dates.

### ## NSW Peak Demand Reduction Scheme

The Peak Demand Reduction Scheme addresses eligible reductions in electricity demand under specified peak conditions. It should be assessed separately from annual energy savings under the ESS.

For a proposed activity, confirm the site classification, equipment configuration, dates and operating arrangements. If a project is expected to reduce bills, provide resilience and earn scheme support, assess each benefit separately and check that the proposed operation can deliver them together.

### ## Renewable Energy Target

The Renewable Energy Target includes small-scale and large-scale pathways. Eligible systems under the Small-scale Renewable Energy Scheme can create STCs. Eligible power stations under the Large-scale Renewable Energy Target can create LGCs.

These pathways have different technology, creation and evidence requirements. Current CER information includes solar batteries and eligible water-heating systems within the small-scale scheme, as well as electricity-generation technologies. Check the current rules for the system and installation date rather than applying an older solar-capacity threshold.

Also establish who owns the environmental attributes. The right to create or sell certificates and the right to make a renewable-electricity claim are related questions, but they are not the same decision.

### ## Australian Carbon Credit Unit Scheme

The Australian Carbon Credit Unit Scheme supports eligible projects that avoid emissions or store carbon under an applicable method. It is administered by the Clean Energy Regulator.

The steps from an opportunity to an issued unit are distinct: method assessment, registration, monitoring and reporting, then a claim and issuance process. Project rights, consents, commitment history and timing need to be checked before relying on forecast credit income.

An ACCU forecast is not evidence that units have been issued. Likewise, a technical reduction identified in an audit does not automatically qualify as an ACCU project.

### ## Check the requirements before making commitments

Record separate dates for feasibility approval, investment decisions, purchase or lease commitments, installation, commissioning and normal operation. A single label such as “project started” can conceal the event relevant to a scheme.

Before proceeding, agree the governing activity and rule version, eligibility assumptions, baseline needs, evidence responsibilities and certificate rights. For an installation already completed, explain the actual dates and records available so any remaining pathway can be assessed.

Obtain a dated estimate that separates certificate quantity, market-price assumptions, charges and the amount the customer would receive. Check compatibility with any other grant, rebate or certificate arrangement instead of assuming incentives can simply be added together.

### ## Related services and guidance

Understand the certificate types

Browse grants and programs

Identify eligible energy opportunities

Plan measurement and verification

Review hot-water upgrade considerations

### ## Bring the project details to the first discussion

Contact Northmore Gordon with the location, premises type, existing and proposed equipment, project stage and available measurements. Include any earlier incentive applications or assignment of

environmental attributes. See environmental certificates for the instruments associated with these pathways.

Scheme targets, rules and activity lists change. Current administrator guidance should be used for project-specific decisions; historical retailer-obligation tables do not establish today's entitlement.

### Which scheme should be considered first for an upgrade?

Start with the project's location, equipment, intended outcome and dates. VEU and ESS address eligible efficiency activities in their jurisdictions, PDRS addresses relevant peak-demand outcomes, RET supports eligible renewable systems, and the ACCU Scheme has its own project methods and requirements.

### When should I ask about certificate eligibility?

Before commitments or equipment changes remove options or evidence. Record feasibility, purchase, installation and commissioning dates separately, and identify the requirements of the chosen activity or method early.

### Can a completed installation still be assessed?

It can be reviewed, but no entitlement should be assumed. Provide the actual dates, equipment records, measurements and prior arrangements so the requirements of any remaining pathway can be checked.

### Can certificates and grants always be combined?

No. Compatibility depends on the programmes, project, ownership arrangements and relevant conditions. Check them together and separate their values in the project estimate rather than adding every advertised incentive.

### Does identifying a carbon-saving opportunity mean ACCUs have been earned?

No. A technical opportunity is an early stage. The applicable method, project registration, monitoring, reporting and issuance requirements must be addressed before an outcome can be described as issued ACCUs.

### Is a certificate-market estimate the amount my business will receive?

Not necessarily. Ask for the certificate quantity, price date, outstanding conditions and applicable charges. The estimate should distinguish market value from the agreed customer proceeds.