

Global Renewable Electricity Certificates and Carbon Offsets

Canonical: <https://northmoregordon.com/services/buy-and-retire/>

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Northmore Gordon helps organisations source and retire renewable electricity certificates and carbon credits across Australian and international markets. The work starts with the reporting boundary and the statement the organisation needs to support. It then moves through instrument selection, commercial sourcing, registry transfer, retirement and the evidence file needed for reporting or assurance.

The source service page reports experience across more than 50 countries, registry access in major markets and more than six million environmental attribute certificates registered over a decade. Those figures describe Northmore Gordon's published experience; the available instruments, counterparties and scheme rules still need to be confirmed for each transaction.

Start with the claim and reporting framework

A renewable electricity certificate and a carbon credit answer different accounting questions. Before requesting a quote, define the legal entity, facilities, electricity or emissions boundary, reporting period, market, intended beneficiary and exact claim. This prevents a low-cost instrument from being selected for a purpose it cannot support.

| Need | Typical instrument | What it does | | --- | --- | --- | | Renewable electricity or market-based Scope 2 evidence | LGCs, I-RECs, GOs, TIGRs, NZECS or another recognised electricity attribute | Documents renewable electricity attributes for the covered consumption, subject to the applicable framework | | Compensation for residual emissions outside the inventory boundary | ACCUs, VCUs, Gold Standard credits, CORCs or another eligible carbon credit | Represents an avoided or removed tonne of CO₂-e under the relevant method and programme | | Physical emissions reduction | Energy efficiency, electrification, renewable heat or process change | Changes the organisation's own operating emissions and should remain visible separately from certificates |

Renewable electricity attributes do not remove Scope 1 fuel emissions or all Scope 3 emissions. Carbon credits do not make electricity renewable. Northmore Gordon can connect procurement with a broader carbon advisory or net zero roadmap so each action is labelled correctly.

Choose instruments for the market and period

Instrument selection can consider generation location, technology, vintage, commissioning date, reporting period, registry, scheme recognition and the organisation's voluntary or compliance commitment. Northmore Gordon's published markets include Australian LGCs, international I-RECs, European Guarantees of Origin, TIGRs, New Zealand Energy Certificates and Japanese instruments, along with Australian and international carbon credits.

The same generation cannot always support multiple certificate pathways. Scheme exclusivity, prior nominations and attribute ownership must be checked before contracting. For Australian projects, the environmental certificates guide explains why LGCs, STCs, VEECs, ESCs, ACCUs and other instruments are not interchangeable.

Environmental attribute due diligence

Due diligence should cover the instrument and the proposed public claim. A review can include:

scheme and registry eligibility for the relevant location and period;

ownership, transfer history and exclusive claim rights;

generation or abatement technology, vintage and project information;

double counting, prior nomination and overlapping-incentive checks;

beneficiary, site allocation and retirement wording;

contract counterparty, delivery terms and evidence responsibilities; and

the calculation and wording that the retirement is intended to support.

For carbon credits, project method, additionality, permanence or reversal risk, safeguards and independent verification may also matter. Quality cannot be inferred from the standard name or price alone.

From procurement to retirement evidence

Define: agree the consumption or emissions boundary, reporting period and intended statement.

Screen: compare eligible instruments, project characteristics, volumes, vintages and delivery options.

Contract: document price, quantity, delivery date, registry, beneficiary and responsibility for fees or shortfalls.

Transfer and retire: move the instruments through the relevant registry and retire or cancel them for the named beneficiary and period.

Close the evidence file: retain invoices, serial numbers, transfer records, retirement certificates, allocation schedules, calculations and approved claim wording.

Northmore Gordon's certificate trading service supports spot, forward and multi-year requirements. The carbon accounting and disclosure guide explains why acquisition, retirement and public reporting must stay aligned.

What to prepare

Send the countries and facilities to be covered, electricity or emissions data by reporting period, current commitments, preferred technologies or exclusions, proposed claim, procurement deadline, expected volumes and any existing supply or power purchase arrangements. If the boundary or inventory is incomplete, begin with Scope 1, 2 and 3 definitions and a documented carbon inventory.

Contact Northmore Gordon to define the procurement brief, evidence requirements and timetable before entering the market.

What service does Northmore Gordon offer through this page, and what does it involve?

We source Environmental Attribute Certificates in more than 50 countries and retires these certificates on behalf of corporations transitioning to a low-carbon economy, helping them achieve global sustainability goals such as 100% renewable energy and Net Zero targets. The service encompasses selecting appropriate renewable electricity certificates or carbon offsets, conducting environmental-attribute due diligence to verify integrity before procurement, and managing the complete lifecycle through to retirement.

What is the difference between renewable electricity attributes and carbon offsets, and why does this distinction matter for corporate claims?

Renewable electricity attributes (RECs) represent renewable energy generation and support claims about renewable electricity consumption and Scope 2 accounting under market-based methods. Carbon offsets represent emissions reductions or removals and serve different accounting purposes. GHG Protocol Scope 2 Guidance provides quality criteria for contractual instruments used in market-based accounting. We help organizations understand which instrument supports their intended claim, avoid mixing them inappropriately, and apply the correct reporting framework for each.

What corporate goals can organizations achieve using Northmore Gordon's renewable certificate and offset services?

Organizations can source 100% renewable energy for international operations, align to RE100 commitment requirements (renewable electricity sourced in the same location where used), deliver on Science Based Targets Initiative (SBTi) goals, achieve Australian Climate Active accreditation, meet 100% Greenpower commitments in Australia, address Safeguard Mechanism obligations, and track progress toward Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions reduction targets. We provide technology and due-diligence support to ensure selected instruments credibly support each stated objective.

What global renewable energy certificate markets does Northmore Gordon work with?

We source certificates from markets including International RECs (I-RECs), Tradable Instruments for Global Renewables (TIGRs), New Zealand Energy Certificates (NZECs), Guarantees of Origin (GOs), J-Credits in Japan, Australia's Large Generation Certificates (LGCs), and others. The choice of instrument depends on generation location, intended claim, and applicable accounting framework. We advise on which certificates are appropriate for each corporation's geographical footprint and reporting requirements.

What carbon offset standards and schemes does Northmore Gordon assist with?

We help organizations navigate the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) operated by Verra, the Gold Standard, the United Nations' Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), and in Australia the Emissions Reduction Fund (ERF) which uses Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCUs). Environmental-attribute due diligence ensures selected offsets are issued under trusted certification bodies, transparent, verifiable, permanent, and additional. Rating agencies such as BeZero, Calyx, Sylvera, and IDEAcarbon now assess quality, supporting organizations to develop and apply their own offsetting principles.

What does environmental-attribute due diligence involve when purchasing renewable certificates or carbon offsets?

Environmental-attribute due diligence is an assessment process to verify the integrity and validity of purchased renewable attributes and carbon offsets before procurement and retirement. It involves selecting instruments appropriate for the organization's claims and accounting framework, verifying ownership and exclusive claim rights, assessing registry and transfer evidence, ensuring proper retirement treatment, and confirming allocation across sites or entities. We provide this assessment as part of our moREnewable100 service and broader instrument selection support.

What are the Oxford Offsetting Principles and how do they inform Northmore Gordon's approach?

The Oxford Principles for Net Zero Aligned Carbon Offsetting outline that carbon offsetting should prioritize reducing direct and indirect emissions first (Principle 1A), ensure integrity through measurement, reporting, verification and additionality (Principle 1B), and maintain transparency in disclosing emissions, accounting practices, targets and verification (Principle 1C). The principles also recommend developing a longer-term strategy including transition to carbon removal offsetting for residual emissions. We help clients develop and apply their own carbon offsetting principles aligned to

this framework.

How does Northmore Gordon ensure the quality and credibility of renewable energy certificates before retirement?

We source credible RECs issued under trusted certification bodies: Evident certifies I-RECs, and the Clean Energy Regulator (CER) certifies Australia's LGCs. High-quality certificates must represent additional renewable energy and be transparent, verifiable, and permanent. For carbon offsets, quality standards include certification from reputable bodies like VCS or Gold Standard. We apply its own environmental-attribute due diligence assessment—examining registry records, transfer evidence, and retirement treatment—before advising procurement and managing the retirement process on behalf of corporations.

What does moREnewable100 enable organizations to achieve without changing their existing electricity supply arrangements?

moREnewable100 is our service for procuring renewable energy certificates without requiring replacement of existing electricity supply contracts. It offers multi-site coverage, procurement flexibility, and RE100-aligned sourcing support. Organizations agree on the applicable reporting framework, consumption period, and intended claim (renewable-electricity or market-based Scope 2 accounting) at the start of engagement. We provide technology and due-diligence support to select appropriate instruments, verify ownership rights, and manage retirement evidence—enabling corporations to make renewable electricity claims while retaining existing retail arrangements.