

Mid-Scale Solar Certificate Pathways

Canonical: <https://northmoregordon.com/technologies/mid-scale-solar/>

Details:

Pathways · STC transition · VEEC assessment · Comparison · What to prepare

Mid-scale solar can sit across several certificate regimes. The correct pathway depends on capacity, location, installation date, site consumption, scheme version, evidence and the environmental attributes the owner intends to keep or transfer. Northmore Gordon assesses these choices before construction and can manage the selected certificate process.

STCs, LGCs and VEECs answer different questions

| Pathway | General role | Main checks | | --- | --- | --- | | STCs | Upfront deeming under the Small-scale Renewable Energy Scheme for eligible systems | Capacity, installation date, equipment, installer, deeming period and current application arrangements | | LGCs | Ongoing generation certificates under the large-scale Renewable Energy Target | Power-station accreditation, metering, generation, claims and ongoing creation | | VEECs | Victorian Energy Upgrades project pathway for eligible grid-energy savings | Premises, activity, registration timing, baseline, measurement, onsite consumption and current specification |

The same generation cannot simply be counted under every pathway. Eligibility, certificate ownership and the owner's renewable electricity claim must be assessed together.

The 2026 mid-scale STC expansion

The Clean Energy Regulator states that eligible mid-scale solar systems above 100 kW and up to 1 MW installed from 1 October 2026 can use the expanded SRES pathway, with a fixed five-year deeming period. The regulator also states that applications are expected to open in mid to late November 2026. Transitional requirements, product and installer rules, installation evidence and the actual application process should be confirmed against the current CER mid-scale solar guidance .

An installation date near the transition should be documented precisely. A policy announcement, quote or expected application window is not the same as an issued entitlement.

Victorian VEEC assessment

Victorian projects may be assessed under a project-based VEU method. The original page described a measurement and verification approach using pre-project energy, production and irradiance information, followed by post-commissioning operating data. Current activity and approval requirements must be verified before construction.

Historical claims that VEECs always outperform LGCs, old price ranges and pre-2026 examples should not be used as a new-project forecast. Certificate quantity, market price, evidence cost, issuance timing and the value of retained or transferred renewable attributes all belong in the comparison.

Compare complete cash flows and evidence duties

model electricity savings and export value from the site load and tariff;

show certificate quantity and price as separate assumptions;

include application, metering, verification, registration and transaction costs;

record when cash is expected and what conditions remain;

state who owns the certificates and what claim remains available; and

show a base case without unconfirmed certificate proceeds.

For a VEU M&V; pathway, define the baseline and data responsibilities while representative pre-installation evidence still exists. For LGCs, account for ongoing creation and metering. For STCs, apply the current deeming and application rules.

Information needed for assessment

Provide the site and jurisdiction, rated capacity, design and commissioning dates, existing or expanded system details, electricity bills and interval data, production profile, self-consumption and export assumptions, equipment list, network status, controlling entity, quotations and any prior funding or certificate arrangements.

Related guidance includes small-scale solar PV , commercial solar feasibility , environmental certificates and M&V; .

Contact Northmore Gordon before construction to compare pathways using the current rules and the project's actual evidence.

Which certificate pathways can apply to mid-scale solar?

Depending on capacity, location, installation date and project structure, a system may be assessed for STCs under the Small-scale Renewable Energy Scheme, LGCs under the large-scale Renewable Energy Target or VEECs under an eligible Victorian Energy Upgrades project pathway. The schemes have different evidence, timing and attribute consequences.

What changed for solar systems above 100 kW in October 2026?

The Clean Energy Regulator states that eligible solar systems above 100 kW and up to 1 MW installed from 1 October 2026 can use the expanded SRES pathway, with a fixed five-year deeming period. The regulator also states that applications are expected to open in mid to late November 2026, so transitional and application requirements must be checked for the actual project.

Can a Victorian mid-scale solar project still create VEECs?

Potentially, where the current VEU activity, premises, registration timing, measurement method and evidence requirements are met. The original service used a project-based M&V; approach. Eligibility must be confirmed before construction, while representative baseline data and required approvals are still available.

Do VEECs always provide more value than LGCs or STCs?

No. Historical prices and examples cannot establish the best current pathway. Compare certificate quantity, market price, fees, evidence and verification cost, issuance timing, cash-flow timing and the value of any renewable attributes transferred. The answer depends on the project and rules in force.

What baseline data may be needed for a VEU solar M&V; project?

The assessment may require representative pre-installation electricity and production data, the site's operating variables, solar design and irradiance information, a defined grid-energy boundary and post-commissioning operating data. The governing activity and approved measurement plan determine the final requirements.

Can the same solar generation create STCs, LGCs and VEECs?

Do not assume it can. Each scheme has its own eligibility and exclusivity rules, and transferring certificates affects ownership of the associated environmental attributes. Select and document the pathway before making overlapping claims or relying on multiple incentives.

What should be included in a mid-scale solar pathway comparison?

Include rated capacity, installation date, self-consumption and export, tariff value, application and metering costs, certificate quantity, price, fees, issuance timing, evidence responsibilities, attribute ownership and a base case without unconfirmed proceeds. Use the same energy and operating assumptions for each option.

What if design or construction has already started?

Record the actual design, commitment, procurement, installation and commissioning dates and ask which pathways remain available. Do not assume a pre-construction registration requirement can be met retrospectively. The remaining options depend on the current scheme and evidence.