

Key Purchasing Considerations for Renewable Energy anywhere in the world using RECs - Northmore Gordon

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Efficiency Assessments Energy Procurement Navigate energy markets with confidence Virtual Environmental Manager Leverage our teams wide experience Certificates Close Certificates Open Certificates Certificates Our Environmental Attribute Certificate services help businesses accelerate technology adoption, improve project ROI, and manage claims of renewable energy, energy efficiency and carbon offset 1 carbon offset = 1 tonne of CO₂-e avoided or removed from the atmosphere. Avoided emissions covers activities that alter behaviour that would have otherwise caused emissions such as energy efficiency improvements or avoided deforestation. Removal covers activities that permanently remove CO₂ from the atmosphere such as new forestry plantations, soil carbon improvement or carbon capture and storage. certificates Live Certificate Prices The value of certificates change day-to-day, check todays prices Solar VEECs (VEU PBA) VEU PBA for Large-scale Solar Measurement & Verification (VEU & ESS) M&V; for Large C&I; Efficiency Projects (VEU PBA & ESS PIAM&V;) BESS Calculator Estimate the Peak Reduction Certificate revenue available to your NSW battery project in minutes ERF & Carbon Credit Registration ACCUs for Emission Reduction Projects Boiler Upgrades (VEU & ESS) NSW & VIC Boiler Rebates REC Registration (I-RECs & LGCs) Register renewable assets for I-RECs and LGCs Trade RECs & Carbon with us Trade Local & International Environmental Attribute Certificates moREnewable100 (RECs & Offsets) Reach Global Sustainability Goals with Certificates and Offsets Deemed Certificates (VEU & ESS) NSW & VIC Rebates Global Certificates Environmental Attribute Certificates Australian Programs Australian EAC Programs Case Studies Sectors Articles Team More Close More Open More Northmore Gordon Learn more about Northmore Gordon with the latest news and insights, were to find us, and the extensive terminology used in emissions reductions About Us Who we are & what we do in energy efficiency & decarbonization. Locations Find our offices near you. Contact Us Get in touch with our team. Careers Join our team making a sustainability difference Articles Learn about energy efficiency & carbon reduction. Latest News Stay informed on industry developments. Government Updates Track policy changes impacting your energy use. Accreditations See our certifications for trusted service. Glossary Define key terms in emissions reduction. Key Purchasing Considerations for Renewable Energy anywhere in the world using RECs Sid Bansal March 22, 2024 Articles Share this article As the world transitions towards a sustainable and greener future, companies are increasingly turning to renewable energy sources to power their operations. One of the simplest avenues for achieving this commitment is through Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs I-RECs, GOs, TIGRs, LGCs, ZNECs, J-Credits). These certificates represent the environmental attributes of renewable energy generation and provide companies with a means to support clean energy initiatives. To achieve best practices, align the investment with sustainability goals and remove the risk of any claims of greenwashing, companies need to consider a number of criteria when purchasing. These criteria include the technology generating the energy, the period (vintage) when it was generated, quantity required, location of generation, alignment with global programs or best practices, and risks associated with the registry (the authority issuing the certificates) or issuing country. The latest advance in RECs now includes timestamping the generation period to match load profiles. RECs globally go by several different names: International RECs (IRECs) New Zealand (NZECs New Zealand Energy Certificate System, the Renewable Energy Certificate registry in New Zealand managed by Certified Energy – Energy Certificates) Australia (LGCs – Large Generations Certificates, and in future Guarantee of Origin – GO) Tradable Instrument for Global Renewables (TIGR Tradeable Instrument for Global Renewables (TIGR) Registry is an online platform for tracking and transferring renewable energy certificates (RECS), enabling developers to generate,verify and sell RECs. The registry is run by APX, a US company that provides infrastructure for environmental markets around the world.) a Registry for RECs RECs Criteria: Technology The technology employed in renewable energy projects significantly impacts the overall environmental benefits. Whether it's solar, wind, hydro, or other clean energy sources, understanding the technology behind the generation process helps companies assess the long-term sustainability and effectiveness of the RECs they are purchasing. For example, Under RE100 RE100 is the global corporate renewable energy initiative bringing together large businesses committed to 100% renewable electricity. The members must be influential based on their either their brand, global presence, significant energy use or other characteristics that bring attention to their commitment. All companies must commit to purchasing 100% of their electricity from renewable sources by 2050 and

purchase that power in the same location they are using it. Interim targets are 60% by 2030 and 90% by 2040. The program is led by the Climate Group in partnership with the CDP. More Hydrogen is not recognized because hydrogen is not an energy resource. Rather, it is an energy carrier that is manufactured and has an underlying energy resource as an input. Hydrogen is therefore only renewable if the energy resource used in its manufacture is renewable, Hence it is critical to be aware of the technical criteria of the framework your business is committed to or adhering to GHG

Greenhouse gases trap heat in the atmosphere. They all have different global warming potentials (GWP) over different time frames, the higher the number, the worse the impact. For simplicity of accounting everything is referenced back to carbon dioxide which has a global warming potential of 1. There are over 200 GHGs listed in the IPCC fifth assessment report, a sample are below. Note that in current carbon accounting standards the 100 year GWP is used. Greenhouse gas 20 year GWP100 year GWPCarbon dioxide CO₂11Methane CH₄8428Hydrofluorocarbon HFC-134a37101300Chlorofluorocarbon CFC-1169004660Nitrous Oxide N₂O264265Sulfur hexafluoride SF₆17,50023,500 Protocol Corporate Standard is considered an excellent benchmark.

Vintage The vintage of RECs is a crucial factor, indicating the year in which the associated renewable energy was generated. Companies should consider aligning the vintage of RECs with their reporting year to ensure accurate representation of their commitment to renewable energy in specific timeframes. For instance, recent years have seen significant improvements in the efficiency of solar panels and wind turbines, leading to increased energy output. As technology advances, procuring recent vintages helps businesses make sure their procurement adheres to the latest regulatory changes and demonstrates commitment. For example, RE100 now only recognizes Starting January 1, 2024, RE100 members will need to secure renewable electricity or GOs specifically from power plants constructed or recommissioned within the last 15 years. However, there's a provision: an exemption applies to 15% of a company's overall electricity usage . Quantity Assessing the quantity of RECs needed involves understanding a company's energy consumption and sustainability goals. Careful calculations of your scopes will help determine the number of RECs required to offset a specific percentage of the company's energy usage or achieve a certain level of renewable energy consumption. Tailoring to energy consumption patterns helps businesses match the right type of RECs. For example, a manufacturing facility with intensive production processes may have distinct energy needs compared to a technology company with extensive data centre operations running 24/7. In this case, the data centre may benefit from procuring new time-stamped RECs or '24/7 RECs' as defined by RE100 Guidelines to match their constant usage. Location The geographical location of renewable energy projects is significant in determining the impact of RECs. Supporting projects in regions with abundant renewable resources not only enhances the environmental impact but may also contribute to local economic development. Companies should consider aligning their RECs with regions that complement their sustainability objectives. Market boundaries are often defined by the framework you are adhering to or as a rule of thumb it is an advisable practice to procure RECs within the country where the emissions took place. RE100 Alignment For companies committed to 100% renewable energy consumption (RE100), ensuring that purchased RECs align with this goal is paramount. RE100-aligned RECs contribute directly to a company's renewable energy targets, demonstrating a clear commitment to transitioning away from conventional energy sources. Here RE100 Members have another option to procure green power directly from the supplier supported by retirement of EACs corresponding to it. Registry Preference Selecting RECs from reputable registries adds credibility to a company's commitment to renewable energy. Registries like the Green-e Energy Certification or the International REC Renewable Energy Certificate Standard ensure that the purchased RECs meet stringent environmental and social standards, providing transparency and accountability in the renewable energy market. Some examples of registries are Evident(I-RECs) , TIGR , Certified energy New Zealand , Clean energy regulator The Clean Energy Regulator is the Australia Government body responsible for accelerating carbon abatement for Australia through the administration of the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting scheme, Renewable Energy Target and the Emissions Reduction Fund. More , M-RETS etc. Sovereign Risk Companies operating internationally should consider the sovereign risk associated with the countries where their chosen renewable energy projects are located. Assessing political stability, regulatory frameworks, and potential risks related to changes in government policies

can mitigate potential challenges and uncertainties in the long-term viability of RECs. For example, Under recent changes in RE100 guidelines 8 countries have been excluded from the single-market boundary of Europe supporting the Guarantee of Origins RECs. Major Operational Changes in the Past Year Companies should investigate whether there have been any significant operational changes in the renewable energy projects associated with the RECs over the past year. Changes in ownership, technology upgrades, or expansions can impact the overall effectiveness and reliability of the certificates. For example, Unbundled EACs cannot be used to decarbonize electricity from a non-renewable project. (e.g., a CHP system) under RE100 Framework when the project is owned by the company (therefore, the emissions from it are in scope 1), or when the project is on-site or when there is a direct line to the project (therefore, the electricity is not sourced from the grid). As companies strive to integrate sustainability into their operations, the careful selection of Renewable Energy Certificates becomes imperative. This strategic approach not only enhances a company's environmental credentials but also supports the global transition to a cleaner and more sustainable energy future. Although PPAs (Power Purchase Agreements) and VPPAs are feasible alternatives, most organizations prefer EACs due to their inherent flexibility and accessibility when navigating the intricate world of renewable energy procurement. Carbon Offsets , Carbon Strategy , Net Zero , RECs You may also like: Beyond annual matching: The evolution of time-stamped RECs Discover what worked in 2025 and where to focus in 2026. Beyond Net Zero: The Practical Sustainability Moves That Will Matter Most in 2026 Latest Updates ASRS Group 3: are you in scope and don't know it? September 18, 2026 Correct as at 13 September 2026. If your company is a large proprietary company, you Read More » Welcome to our August & September 2026 Compliance Update. September 1, 2026 This edition confirms Northmore Gordon's accreditation for three new PDRS battery activities, tracks the VEUVictorian Read More » Australian Certificate Markets – August 2026 Update September 1, 2026 Price Summary Certificate Open Close Range Effective cap Movement / Reason PRC \$2.70 \$3.35 \$2.70 Read More » Where's the value in renewable heat? August 24, 2026 Most renewable heat conversations start with a technology question: heat pump, biomass, biogas, or electrify Read More » Get in touch Australia 1300 854 561 (Advisory) 1300 878 500 (Certificates) Melbourne Suite 1, Level 4 607 Bourke Street Melbourne VIC 3000 Singapore +65 6690 2480 Singapore 1 Keong Saik Road, Singapore 089109 Stay up to date Alternatively, complete the form and we will be in touch with you. First Name Last Name Email Phone Number Country Australia Singapore Subject Message Send Services Energy Audit Services M&V; Services EEO Assessments Corporate Energy and Carbon Management Grants and Program Strategic Energy Sourcing Virtual Energy Manager Climate Active Certification Sectors Animal Processing Chemical Processing Commercial Buildings Food & Beverage Manufacturing Mining Oil & Gas Pharmaceutical & Health Products Public Sector Waste & Wastewater Wood, Paper & Cardboard Processing Upgrades Boiler Upgrades Commercial Lighting Hot Water Systems Mid Scale Solar NABERS Public Lighting Refrigerated Display Cabinets Solar PV Small Scale UPS Certificates Live Certificate Prices International Renewable Energy Certificates Tradable Instrument for Global Renewables Australian Carbon Credit Units Energy Savings Certificates Large-scale Generation Certificates Small-scale Technology Certificates Victorian Energy Efficiency Certificates Government Schemes Emissions Reduction Fund Energy Savings Scheme Renewable Energy Target Victorian Energy Upgrades Helpful Links About us Meet the Team Careers Contact us Articles News Glossary Privacy Policy Complaints