National GreenPower Accreditation Program:

Program Rules

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GreenPower®
Accredited Renewable Energy

Contents

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1. The National GreenPower Accreditation Program

1.1 Introduction

The *National GreenPower Accreditation Program: Program Rules* (formerly titled the *National GreenPower Accreditation Program Accreditation Document)* outlines the terms and conditions of participation in the National GreenPower Accreditation Program for GreenPower Providers and GreenPower Generators. It provides participating GreenPower Providers and GreenPower Generators with information about the National GreenPower Accreditation Program, including:

Section 1 Background and aims of the National GreenPower Accreditation Program; interaction with sustainable energy schemes in Australia

Section 2 Definitions for GreenPower Products, GreenPower Generators and GreenPower purchases

Section 3 Technical Criteria for gaining and maintaining accreditation for a GreenPower Product

Section 4 Marketing Criteria for gaining and maintaining accreditation for a GreenPower Product

Section 5 Eligibility requirements for GreenPower Generators

Section 6 GreenPower Provider reporting and annual audits

Appendix A Assessment guidelines for approval of GreenPower Generators

Appendix B Application for GreenPower Generator approval

Appendix C Special waiver process

Appendix D Definitions of terms

Appendix E National GreenPower Steering Group Charter

Appendix F GreenPower Provider Fees

1.2 Background

In 1997, the Sustainable Energy Development Authority (SEDA) in NSW established the GreenPower Accreditation Program to accredit electricity retailers' Renewable Energy products[1]. The program was developed in consultation with the energy industry, and various non-government organisations including the Australian Consumers Association, Greenpeace, the Australian Conservation Foundation and the World Wide Fund for Nature.

The program is now offered nationally through joint collaboration by participating jurisdictions, collectively known as the National GreenPower Steering Group (NGPSG).

As of March 2005, any organisation (including a non-licensed energy retailer) that was eligible to purchase Renewable Energy Certificates (now Large-scale Generation Certificates) became eligible to seek accreditation of GreenPower Products. As a result, all relevant references to 'retailers' in the Program Rules were replaced with 'GreenPower *Providers*'.

Mission

To drive investment in Renewable Energy in Australia, with a view to decreasing greenhouse gas emissions from the generation of electricity, by increasing awareness of, and ensuring consumer confidence in, environmentally sound Renewable Energy products.

Aims

- To facilitate the installation of new Renewable Energy generators across Australia beyond mandatory renewable requirements.
- To encourage growth in consumer demand for Renewable Energy.

[1] SEDA's functions were incorporated in the NSW Department of Energy, Utilities & Sustainability (DEUS) on 1 July 2004 and DEUS' functions were incorporated into the NSW Department of Water and Energy (DWE) on 27 April 2007 and DWE's Energy Division functions were incorporated into Industry and Investment NSW on 1 July 2009. In 2011, Industry and Investment NSW was incorporated in the NSW Department of Trade and Investment, Regional Infrastructure and Services (NSW Trade & Investment) which then became NSW Department of Industry, Skills and Regional Development (Department of Industry) in 2015.

- To provide consumer choice for, and increase confidence in credible Renewable Energy products
- To increase consumer awareness of Renewable Energy and greenhouse issues.
- To decrease greenhouse gas emissions associated with electricity generation.

The National GreenPower Accreditation Program is an independent test for products offered by GreenPower Providers. Those that meet the Accreditation Criteria earn the right to use the GreenPower Product logo, providing customers assurance that their products adhere to these requirements and that monies will be put towards the purposes expected.

Both GreenPower Providers and GreenPower customers may benefit from promotional packages, developed by the National GreenPower Accreditation Program's participant jurisdictions, which includes the use of the GreenPower logos at no cost (see Section 4), and may include joint promotional events and advertising through both print and electronic media.

National GreenPower Steering Group (NGPSG)

In May 2000, the National GreenPower Steering Group (NGPSG) was officially established to oversee management of the program. This governing body is currently comprised of representatives from state and territory government agencies from the Australian Capital Territory, New South Wales, South Australia and Victoria.

Program Managers

Accreditation:

NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment has been appointed as Program Manager: Accreditation and administers the program on behalf of the NGPSG for GreenPower Products and GreenPower Generators.

Marketing:

NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment has been appointed as Program Manager: Marketing and administers the national marketing functions of the program on behalf of the NGPSG.

Refer to the Charter in Appendix E for further details on the role of the NGPSG, and respective responsibilities of the Program Manager and the NGPSG.

1.3 Interaction with Sustainable Energy Schemes in the Australian Electricity Market

The Federal Renewable Energy Target (RET)

The Renewable Energy Target (RET) scheme has been established to encourage additional generation of electricity from renewable energy sources. The Commonwealth Government has committed to ensuring renewables make up 20% of Australia's electricity generation by 2020.

The RET legislation places a legal liability on wholesale purchasers of electricity to proportionally contribute to an additional 33,000 gigawatt hours (GWh) of renewable energy per year by 2020. The legislation also sets the framework for both the supply and demand of renewable energy certificates (RECs) via a REC market.

The RET provides renewable energy power stations and owners of solar water heater and small generation unit installations (small-scale solar PV panels, wind and hydro electricity systems) with a financial incentive through the creation and trade of renewable energy certificates (RECs) via the REC-Registry.

The *Renewable Energy (Electricity) Amendment Bill 2010* was passed by the Federal Parliament on the 24 June 2010 and received Royal Assent on 28 June 2010.

As of 1 January 2011, the RET was split into two parts, the Large-scale Renewable Energy Target (LRET) and the Small-scale Renewable Energy Scheme (SRES).

Certificates created under the LRET will be Large-scale Generation Certificates (LGCs) whilst those created under the SRES will be Small-scale Technology Certificates (STCs).

Only LGCs will be accepted within the GreenPower Program. STCs will not be accepted within the Program for 2011 and future compliance purposes. GreenPower only accepts LGCs generated by accredited GreenPower generators. These are known as GreenPower LGCs or GreenPower RECs.

The RET and the National GreenPower Accreditation Program have similar objectives - to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the electricity generation sector and drive investment in renewable energy projects. However, the two schemes utilise very different mechanisms to deliver the same objective.

The RET is a Federal mandatory requirement, while GreenPower relies on voluntary participation by consumers. The Renewable Energy purchased to make GreenPower sales is not able to be used by energy suppliers to meet their RET obligations.

Refer to Section 3.8 for accreditation requirements related to the interaction of GreenPower and the RET.

The Victorian Renewable Energy Target (VRET)

The Victorian Renewable Energy Target (VRET) scheme has now ended and was transitioned into the Commonwealth's Renewable Energy Target (RET).

For more information on the transition, please refer to http://www.esc.vic.gov.au/public/VRET/

Future Mandatory Energy Targets

GreenPower will interact with all future mandatory energy targets in a similar way to those already in existence. That is, Renewable Energy purchased to make GreenPower sales will not be able to be used by GreenPower Providers to meet mandatory obligations.

The NSW Greenhouse Gas Reduction Scheme

From 1 January 2003, NSW electricity retailers (and certain other parties) were required to meet mandatory targets for abating greenhouse gas emissions from electricity production and use. This scheme was known as the NSW Greenhouse Gas Reduction Scheme and was implemented through the *Electricity Supply Amendment (Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction) Act 2002.*

Under this scheme, GreenPower Providers are not able to count sales and associated greenhouse gas reductions made through their GreenPower Products towards meeting their compliance targets.

The NSW Greenhouse Gas Reduction Scheme was closed on 1 July 2012, upon the commencement of the Commonwealth Government's Carbon Price, to reduce duplication among the Commonwealth and State schemes and to minimise costs for electricity consumers.

Clean Energy Future and the Carbon Pricing Mechanism

The Commonwealth Government's *Clean Energy Act 2011,* which includes carbon pricing from 1 July 2012 as well the provision of support for energy efficiency and renewable energy, is now in force. Under the legislation, the Commonwealth will take voluntary action into account when setting pollution caps. Any purchases of accredited GreenPower from the start of the carbon pricing mechanism will be treated as voluntary action.

The Kyoto Protocol

The Kyoto Protocol is an international agreement created under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Kyoto, Japan in 1997. The Kyoto Protocol has been ratified by 192 countries and entered into force in 2005. It requires developed country Parties to take on binding emission reduction or limitation targets.

The targets take the form of an absolute emissions cap for each country for the 2008 to 2012 period, and in aggregate equate to 5.2 per cent below 1990 baseline levels. International negotiations are currently underway to address climate change beyond the first compliance period of the Kyoto Protocol, which ends in 2012.

On 3 December 2007 the Australian Federal Government signed the instrument of ratification of the Kyoto Protocol which came into effect on 11 March 2008. Under the Protocol Australia has committed to ensuring its greenhouse emissions in the period 2008 to 2012 are no more than 8 per cent above 1990 levels. Australia remains on track to meet its Kyoto target with emissions expected to reach an average of 583 Mt CO2-e per annum over 2008-2012, which is 7 per cent above 1990 levels.

Australia's Kyoto target represents a minimum, not absolute, level of effort with respect to emissions reductions. The Commonwealth Government has the ability to force a higher level of effort through the cancellation of Kyoto units, leading to a decrease in the cap and additional abatement.

The National Carbon Offset Standard

The National Carbon Offset Standard (NCOS) applies to the voluntary carbon market. The Standard provides guidance on what constitutes a genuine, additional voluntary offset. It sets minimum requirements for the verification and retirement of voluntary carbon credits and provides guidance for calculating the carbon footprint of an organisation or product for the purpose of achieving 'carbon neutrality'. The Standard also provides a voluntary standard for businesses to use in becoming carbon neutral or developing carbon neutral products.

Under NCOS, GreenPower purchases are treated as a zero-emissions electricity source.

The National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting System

The National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act 2007 (the NGER Act) introduced a national framework for the reporting and dissemination of information about greenhouse gas emissions, greenhouse gas projects, and energy use and production of corporations.

The objectives of the NGER Act, as stated in the legislation, are to inform government policy and the Australian public; help meet Australia's international reporting obligations; assist Commonwealth, state and territory government programs and activities; avoid the duplication of similar reporting requirements in the states and territories; and underpin the introduction of an emissions trading scheme.

The first annual reporting period began on 1 July 2008.

Corporations that meet an NGER threshold must report their greenhouse gas emissions; energy production; energy consumption; and other information specified under NGER legislation.

GreenPower purchases may be included in NGERS reporting as a voluntary measure, but they are not considered in actual emission calculations for liable parties under NGERS.

2. GreenPower Providers, Products, Generators and Acquisitions

This section defines GreenPower Providers, GreenPower Products and GreenPower Generators, in addition to requirements related to the use of GreenPower Generators. Eligibility criteria for Generators are outlined in Section 5. Further details on applying for generator approval can be found in Appendix B with related definitions provided in Appendix D.

2.1 What is a GreenPower Provider?

A GreenPower Provider is any person or organisation that has entered into a contractual agreement with the GreenPower Program Manager to sell GreenPower Products and has had a GreenPower Product accredited by the Program Manager.

2.1.1 GreenPower Provider Fees

The GreenPower Provider agrees to pay to the Program Manager, as a contribution to the cost of administering the National GreenPower Accreditation Program, the annual accreditation fee determined by the NGPSG each year.

Enquiries in relation to the current fee schedule should be directed to the GreenPower Program Manager – Accreditation. The NGPSG reserves the right to review and increase this fee.

For further information on Provider fees, refer to Appendix F.

2.2 What is a GreenPower Product?

GreenPower Products provide a 'green' tariff option to electricity purchasers (residential and/or commercial customers). The GreenPower Provider commits to ensuring an equivalent amount of Renewable Energy is

produced from GreenPower Generators to the amount of GreenPower energy requested (purchased) by the GreenPower Customer. The GreenPower Provider fulfils this commitment through invalidating the corresponding amount of eligible Large-scale Generation Certificates via an offer of voluntary surrender to the Clean Energy Regulator.

The term 'GreenPower Product' refers only to the GreenPower accredited portion of any product offering by a GreenPower Provider and may consist of one or more GreenPower Product Options.

From time to time, the National GreenPower Steering Group will introduce a specialised GreenPower Product to ensure the GreenPower Program adjusts to changing market and industry conditions. Refer to Appendix G for details of any specialised GreenPower Products.

2.2.1 Process of Product Accreditation

Any energy provider may apply to join the National GreenPower Accreditation Program. Energy providers should note that individual GreenPower Products, rather than GreenPower Providers, are accredited. A GreenPower Provider may choose to offer one or several GreenPower Products. Each GreenPower Product requires a separate application, which includes details on administration and eligible GreenPower Customers. To offer GreenPower Products, GreenPower Providers must also meet any local jurisdictional licensing requirements.

The application process for GreenPower accreditation involves the following steps:

1. The applicant will be required to sign a contract with the Program Manager that specifies the undertakings of both parties. Execution of this contract entitles the applicant to use the GreenPower Logos and all other accreditation materials (promotional and reporting) available for any GreenPower accredited products.

2. Request from the Program Manager the necessary GreenPower documentation and forms, including the contract, logo guidelines and logo license application forms (see 'Use of GreenPower Logos' in Section 4).
3. Forward the completed application form, contract and all necessary attachments to the Program Manager, allowing at least three weeks for initial assessment.
4. The Program Manager assesses the application for accreditation. Where the application does not meet the criteria of the National GreenPower Accreditation Program, or where insufficient details are provided, applicants are advised accordingly and amendments suggested.
5. Once the GreenPower Product has been approved, and the contract executed by the Program Manager, the GreenPower Provider will then be advised by letter.
6. The GreenPower Provider may apply to have further GreenPower products accredited at a later time and the contract will be amended accordingly.

When offering electricity contracts and tariffs, GreenPower Providers may wish to offer a combination of 'green' electricity with non-green electricity. Some GreenPower Customers will only wish to purchase a portion of their energy or elect a block tariff option associated with only a certain amount of energy from GreenPower Generators. Allowance for this has been made in the development of the National GreenPower Accreditation Program, whereby the 'green' component of a blend can be accredited.

On an annual basis, an independent auditor performs a technical audit of each GreenPower Provider's accredited products to ensure continual compliance with the Accreditation Criteria outlined in Section 3.

2.2.2 Breaches and Withdrawal of Accreditation

The Program Manager, after agreement from the NGPSG, may withdraw accreditation from a GreenPower Product the operation of which has breached, or failed to comply with, the Accreditation Criteria (Section 3).

The Program Manager will advise the GreenPower Provider of any apparent breach of the Accreditation Criteria by way of a "show cause" notice of the apparent breach. Where the GreenPower Provider does not rectify the breach or provide evidence to the contrary within the required time period, the Program Manager will put the GreenPower Provider on probation and advise the NGPSG accordingly. The GreenPower Provider will be given a set period during which to rectify the breach of accreditation, and where the breach is not rectified during the time period the Program Manager will advise the NGPSG accordingly, and accreditation of

the GreenPower Product will be withdrawn subject to NGPSG agreement. Details of any breaches, notices and withdrawal of accreditation will be listed in the annual GreenPower Audit.

If accreditation of a GreenPower Product is withdrawn, the GreenPower Provider will be required to cease promotion of the GreenPower Product and notify their GreenPower Customers, as agreed under contract.

In the event of a delay or failure to comply with the Accreditation Criteria due to Force Majeure circumstances (Appendix C), the GreenPower Provider must provide the Program Manager with sufficient details of the issue. Allowable concessions may then be considered by the Program Manager in consultation with the NGPSG. If the delay or failure to comply exceeds a 30 day period (or such timeframe as agreed to by Program Manager), accreditation may be withdrawn.

2.2.3 Changes to the Accreditation Program

The NGPSG reserves the right to review and amend the operation and conditions of the National GreenPower Accreditation Program and these Program Rules. The Program Manager will notify the GreenPower Provider of any proposed amendments to the operation and conditions of the National GreenPower Accreditation Program and the Program Rules. The GreenPower Provider will be given the opportunity to provide feedback in the review process at least one month prior to such amendments taking effect. Where necessary, the GreenPower Provider will be given reasonable time to adapt the existing GreenPower Product to meet any requirement modifications.

2.2.4 Special Waiver of Program Rules

The GreenPower Program Manager – Accreditation may waive any requirement of these Program Rules on a case by case basis. Any waiver under this section must first be approved through a unanimous vote of the National GreenPower Steering Group.

Before any waiver will be provided under this section the proponent must satisfy all of the following conditions:

- The proponent must demonstrate that it is unable to comply with the Rule/s due to extraordinary circumstances;
- The overall objectives of the scheme must not be compromised; and
- The proponent will be required to revise systems and processes to the satisfaction of the NGPSG, specifying what actions will be taken to rectify all systems and processes to ensure that a similar special waiver situation cannot reoccur.

Potential applicants should note that meeting the above criteria does not guarantee that a waiver will be granted.

For the purposes of a Special Waiver application extraordinary circumstances may arise due to, but are not limited to, any of the following events:

- Compliance by the proponent is likely to adversely impact on the Program;
- Compliance by the proponent is likely to adversely impact on their ability to participate in the Program;
- Compliance is likely to significantly impact the proponent due to unusual circumstances;
- Changes to Government Legislation or Program Rules that are likely to adversely impact upon the ability of the proponent to participate in the Program or will otherwise adversely affect the proponent in its efforts to participate in the Program

If the NGPSG grants a Special Waiver approval a set of conditions will be attached to the approval, including actions to rectify any systems or processes which resulted in the Special Waiver application.

The NGPSG reserves the right to decline Special Waiver applications from proponents who have previously been granted a Special Waiver approval under similar circumstances. The NGPSG also reserves the right to decline Special Waiver applications where it considers that it would not be in the overall interests of the Program to grant the approval.

All public communications related to the Special Waiver must first be approved by the NGPSG.

Any Special Waiver relating to the Program Rules under Section 3: GreenPower Product Technical Criteria will be published in the Annual Compliance Audit.

All media and Public Relations costs related to the Special Waiver will be met by the proponent.

Special Waiver applications for the 2015 Settlement Period relating to Section 3: GreenPower Product Technical Criteria should be submitted to the NGPSG by 31 January 2016. Applications received after this date may not be considered until 2017.

The Special Waiver application process is outlined in Appendix C.

2.3 Use of GreenPower Generators

All electricity generators used in a GreenPower Product must be approved as a GreenPower Generator by the Program Manager. Under the National GreenPower Accreditation Program, a GreenPower Generator is defined as 'an electricity generator that results in greenhouse gas emission reductions (within the electricity sector), Net Environmental Benefits, is based primarily on a Renewable Energy resource, and is approved by the Program Manager.

For greenhouse gas emission reductions the GreenPower Program uses a conversion factor of 1MWh = 1 tonne CO2 equivalent.

All projects are individually assessed for approval against eligibility criteria (Section 5) and other generation type-specific considerations (Appendix A), and require support from consumer and environmental stakeholders.

Please note that “primarily based on a Renewable Energy resource” means that more than half of the energy output must be attributed to an eligible Renewable Energy resource. Non-renewable resources are those based on fossil fuels.

The major renewable electricity generation types include:

- Solar Photovoltaic and Solar Thermal Electric Systems
- Wind Turbines and Wind Farms
- Hydro-Electric Power Stations
- Biomass-Fuelled Power Stations
- Geothermal Power Stations
- Wave and Tidal Power Stations.

Section 5 outlines the eligibility requirements for all GreenPower Generators. Refer to Appendix A for approval considerations for each generation type, and relevant environmental and consumer considerations.

2.3.1 Definition of a GreenPower Generator

A GreenPower Generator is defined as an electricity generator or increase in generator capacity[2], which was commissioned or first sold energy (whichever is earlier) after January 1, 1997 and that has been accredited under the National GreenPower Accreditation Program.

2.3.2 Approval Process

GreenPower Providers must ensure that all generators to be used in their GreenPower Product have been given written GreenPower approval, prior to the inclusion of these generators in the GreenPower Product (as under Section 3.2). Either GreenPower Providers or generator owners can request for approval. The approval application process, and associated fees, for GreenPower Generators is outlined in Appendix B.

The date of accreditation for a generator will be the date on which the application is received by the Program Manager.

GreenPower Providers should advise the Program Manager of the addition of any New GreenPower Generators to the GreenPower Product as soon as practicable. GreenPower Providers will be required to

[2] Where it involves an increase in generator capacity (e.g. upgrades), new generation is measured as that generation which occurs over and above the existing installed capacity as a result of significant capital investment.

report regularly to the Program Manager of all GreenPower Generators used in the GreenPower Product (see Reporting Section 6).

2.3.3 Generator Pre-approval

Power station developers, generator owners or GreenPower Providers may approach the Program Manager at any time to inquire about possible eligibility of generators for GreenPower approval. However, while a preliminary view can be given as to the likely eligibility of a generator (subject to provision of project-specific information including site/location details, environmental and consumer considerations), the proponent will be required to submit a formal application and pay the associated fee for approval once all details are finalised, including fuel sources, technologies and environmental management (as specified in Appendix B).

2.4 GreenPower Acquisitions

As of 1 July 2001, GreenPower Providers were able to purchase and on-sell the GreenPower Rights (GPRs) separately to the electricity produced from a GreenPower Generator, for use in GreenPower Products.

2.4.1 GreenPower Rights

From 1 January 2011 GPRs are no longer required or accepted in the Program. All GreenPower sales to customers will require one LGC to be surrendered for each MWh sold. The GreenPower compliance audit will focus solely on LGCs.

2.5 Dispute Resolution

The Program Manager – Accreditation is acting on behalf of the NGPSG. As such a GreenPower Provider or GreenPower Generator owner has the right to appeal to the NGPSG if there is a dispute over the Program Manager's decision regarding GreenPower Product accreditation, generator approval, ownership of GreenPower Rights or other. The decision of the NGPSG is final and cannot be contested.

3. GreenPower Product Technical Criteria

Sections 3 and 4 define the Technical and Marketing Accreditation Criteria for a product to gain and maintain accreditation under the National GreenPower Accreditation Program. GreenPower Providers are audited against these criteria on an annual basis, and information is made publicly available.

3.1 Technical Auditing

The GreenPower Provider must provide the Program Manager with the reports and other information necessary to carry out a technical audit of all GreenPower Products each year. The technical report must be audited by an independent and suitably qualified auditor approved by the GreenPower Program Manager.

This audited technical report and a separate audit statement prepared by the independent auditors must be provided to the Program Manager in the format specified by the Program Manager and in the timing referred to in Section 6. If a GreenPower Provider fails to submit the technical report in the specified time frame without prior written consent from the Program Manager, it will be considered a breach of accreditation and accreditation may be withdrawn (as per Section 2.2.2).

In cases where it is deemed necessary for auditing purposes, GreenPower Providers will be required to provide financial statements or contractual agreements upon request by the Program Manager.

All claims made around Electric Vehicle charging must be verifiable through the GreenPower annual audit and must also meet all GreenPower marketing criteria. Prior to any sales to consumers, GreenPower Providers are advised to seek approval from the Program Manager for the proposed auditing methodology for any GreenPower Product or Product Option that includes GreenPower sales for Electric Vehicle charging.

3.2 Use of GreenPower Generators

All electricity generators installed as a result of or used by GreenPower Products must:

- be approved by the Program Manager; and
- conform to the definition and eligibility requirements of a GreenPower Generator as set out in Section 5.

The Program Manager, on behalf of the NGPSG, has the right to disallow particular generators that in its opinion do not fulfil the definition of a GreenPower Generator.

3.3 Changes to the GreenPower Product

GreenPower Providers must alert the Program Manager in writing of any changes that are made to the operation of the GreenPower Product (e.g. GreenPower Product structure, changes in fuel sources, etc) prior to those changes taking effect.

It is the GreenPower Provider's responsibility to ensure that those generators being used do have GreenPower approval (see 3.2).

3.4 Minimum Percentage Requirement of Accredited GreenPower in Blended Products

GreenPower Providers are required to have a minimum 10 per cent GreenPower content in products offered to residential customers for all products. The minimum GreenPower content of residential block-based products is set at 647kWh/year. This value represents 10 per cent of the national average residential electricity consumption (based on 2003-2004 ESAA data).

The above figure will be reviewed in consultation with GreenPower Providers.

3.5 Claims of Eligible Generation for GreenPower Products

The Program Manager will only accept claims for GreenPower generation purchases as valid, if it can be verified that:

- An LGC is surrendered for each MWh of GreenPower generation sold through the GreenPower Product (subject to conditions outlined in Section 3.8); and
- Where only a proportion of the generation from a GreenPower Generator is eligible for use in a GreenPower Product (see Section 5.2.2), GreenPower Providers can only claim that eligible portion for a GreenPower Product, as defined under the conditions in the GreenPower Generator approval by the Program Manager.

Any claim found to be invalid (i.e. if either of the above conditions are not satisfied) will be rejected, and it will be the GreenPower Provider's responsibility to rectify the GreenPower purchase. See Section 3.6 for balancing supply and demand.

3.6 Balancing GreenPower Supply and Demand

GreenPower Providers are required to have made valid claims for GreenPower purchases (as defined in Section 3.5) equivalent to the amount sold to their GreenPower Customers through their GreenPower Product within the Settlement Period.

The Program Manager will allow a 3 month reconciliation period after the end of the Settlement Period. That is, GreenPower Providers must have transferred the required number of LGCs into their GreenPower Designated Account within this timeframe (see Section 3.7 for further details).

It is considered a serious breach of accreditation if demand is not met over the Settlement Period. In cases where there is a shortfall of valid claims for the purchase of GreenPower generation the following will apply.

1.(a) The Program Manager will allow a leeway for a 5 per cent shortfall in the surrender of LGCs within the 1-year Settlement Period, subject to notification by the GreenPower Provider. Conditions 2 and 3 will apply. However, all LGCs from a Provider's GreenPower-Connect Product are excluded in the calculation of the 5 per cent shortfall provision.

(b) Where a shortfall exceeds the allowable leeway level (as specified in 1(a)), the GreenPower Provider will be placed on probation and given 2 months to rectify the shortfall. The GreenPower Provider must provide proof that this action is taken and the Program Manager will assess the evidence for compliance

and, if necessary, audit the GreenPower Provider at the expense of the GreenPower Provider. Where the GreenPower Provider makes no attempt to make up the GreenPower generation shortfall, a breach notice will be issued and withdrawal of accreditation may be considered by the NGPSG.

2. This shortfall must be rectified in the following 1-year Settlement Period by purchasing sufficient additional LGCs to make up that shortfall. Evidence of this purchase must be provided within their audited statement, submitted to the Program Manager's independent auditors at the end of the following Settlement Period for evidence of compliance.

3. Where the GreenPower generation shortfall is not made up as required in the following Settlement Period, it is considered a serious breach of accreditation and the NGPSG would then consider appropriate action, as described above in (1b).

GreenPower Providers will be able to carry over a maximum 5 per cent excess of GreenPower LGCs surrendered in the 1-year Settlement Period only to the next Settlement Period for meeting GreenPower demand.

Please note that any shortfall and carry-over generation used by GreenPower Providers will be publicly reported each year in annual audit reports.

3.7 Transfer and Surrender of Large-scale Generation Certificates

GreenPower Providers are required to make offers of 'voluntary surrender' (i.e. invalidate) of eligible LGCs (see Section 3.8 for eligibility of LGCs) as created under the RET for each MWh of generation acquired by the GreenPower Provider and sold as part of a GreenPower Product within a Settlement Period.

The transfer and surrender of eligible LGCs is facilitated via GreenPower Designated Accounts (see Section 3.7.1 below).

For the purposes of the Annual Compliance Audit for a Settlement Period (e.g. the 2015 settlement period was 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2015), GreenPower Providers must transfer, but **not** offer for voluntary surrender, eligible LGCs equivalent to their liability for the previous calendar year Settlement Period only, into their GreenPower Designated Account by 31 March (e.g. by 31 March 2016 for the 2015 settlement period).

No LGCs will be permitted to be transferred into, or out of, the GreenPower Designated Account after 31 March without prior written consent of the Program Manager.

Once the Program Manager (or its appointed representative) has verified the validity of the LGCs, GreenPower Providers will receive written confirmation to offer for voluntary surrender all of the LGCs held in their GreenPower Designated Account. This offer of voluntary surrender must take place within 14 days of the written confirmation from the Program Manager. Following this offer of voluntary surrender, the GreenPower Designated Account should hold zero "Registered" LGCs until at least 1 January of the following year.

3.7.1 GreenPower Designated Accounts

In order to comply, GreenPower Providers are required to set up their own GreenPower Designated Account on the nominated LGC Registry (or registries) – established to administer the RET scheme - into which LGCs for GreenPower compliance will be transferred and then offered for voluntary surrender. GreenPower Providers are not permitted to use these surrendered LGCs to meet their obligations under the RET.

GreenPower Providers are also required to grant the Program Manager 'view' access to their GreenPower Designated Account/s, including access to offers of voluntary surrender, to enable the Program Manager or the auditor to complete annual audit reports.

Details on set-up, granting 'view' access and operation of GreenPower Designated Accounts can be obtained from the Program Manager.

3.8 Eligibility of LGCs

Only LGCs created by a GreenPower Generator are eligible for transfer against the requirement arising as a result of the sale of GreenPower generation.

STCs are not eligible to be used within the GreenPower Program.

3.9 Shortfall in LGCs

Any sales of GreenPower generation for which eligible LGCs are not transferred cannot be validly claimed as GreenPower. Where a shortfall for meeting supply with demand occurs as a result, the conditions outlined in Section 3.6 will apply.

3.10 GreenPower Provider Purchase of GreenPower Products

Under the Accreditation Program all GreenPower Providers are required to purchase GreenPower at a level which entitles them to use the GreenPower Customer Logo. This level is defined in "The GreenPower Logo Usage Guidelines". See Section 4.

This requirement applies to each Provider's retail arm as a minimum. Electricity consumption levels for the retail arm will be worked out with, and agreed to by, the Program Manager.

3.11 Treatment of System Losses

System losses will not be considered by the GreenPower Program as these have already been factored into the calculations for the creation of LGCs by the Clean Energy Regulator (CER – formerly Office of the Renewable Energy Regulator or ORER).

4. GreenPower Product Marketing Criteria

4.1 Introduction

GreenPower Providers that offer GreenPower Products provide GreenPower Customers with the choice to make a positive contribution to the environment, encourage the development and use of Renewable Energy technologies, and open new investment opportunities in the energy sector.

To realise this market potential and maintain GreenPower Customer confidence, GreenPower Customers must be provided with clear and concise information about their electricity products and services.

4.2 Compliance Review

GreenPower Providers must submit all GreenPower marketing materials to the GreenPower Program Manager - Marketing for approval prior to the commencement of marketing. The Program Manager will verify compliance with the GreenPower Marketing Guidelines 2012.

Compliance will subsequently be checked annually by the Provider's GreenPower Auditor as part of the annual audit process.

4.3 GreenPower Provider's Intellectual Property

The GreenPower Provider grants to the Program Manager without cost a non-exclusive licence to use any intellectual property relating to the advertising or marketing of the GreenPower Product for purposes covered by these Program Rules and the GreenPower Provider Agreement.

4.4 Provision of Information to Customers

Each GreenPower Provider wishing to use a GreenPower logo, or claim GreenPower accreditation for any of their electricity products agrees to provide all GreenPower Customers, during customer subscription and agreement fulfilment period, with contract pricing and terms and conditions written in clear, simple and easily understood terms.

4.5 Use of GreenPower Logo

The GreenPower logo has been developed to build recognition of the GreenPower brand. To strengthen the effect of these efforts, a common logo has been developed for use across Australia by GreenPower Providers, Customers and GreenPower Generators.

GreenPower Providers

It is important that GreenPower Providers support the recognition of the GreenPower brand, the accreditation processes and overall enhancement of the GreenPower concept. Providers must refer to their product's accreditation in all advertising and marketing in connection with the GreenPower Product or the Program as per the GreenPower Provider Agreement. This includes (but not limited to) all print, broadcast & online material (i.e. e-newsletters, websites and social/new media channels). Online material must also include a hotlink from the GreenPower Logo to the GreenPower website.

The GreenPower logo must be used in compliance with the conditions of use that are available in a document entitled “GreenPower Marketing Guidelines”, available from the GreenPower website.

GreenPower Providers are required to submit all marketing material, including all print, broadcast & online material, to the Program Manager for approval prior to publication.

Customers

Commercial GreenPower Customers may be entitled to use the GreenPower logo if they have purchased or contracted to purchase sufficient levels of GreenPower as outlined in the GreenPower Logo Usage Guidelines 2008/2009. This document also describes how and where the logos can be used, and is available from the GreenPower website.

GreenPower Providers must promote the use of the GreenPower logo to all commercial GreenPower Customers purchasing or approached to purchase a GreenPower Product by providing them with information about their eligibility to use the GreenPower logo.

GreenPower Generators

Generator owners are entitled to use the GreenPower logo where more than half of the output of the generator is classified as GreenPower generation. Additional requirements are contained in the GreenPower Logo Usage Guidelines 2008/2009. This document also describes how and where the logos can be used, and is available from the GreenPower website (http://www.greenpower.gov.au/using-the-greenpower-logo.aspx).

GreenPower Events

The GreenPower logo is available for use where an event will be powered by 100 per cent GreenPower accredited energy. The GreenPower logo must only be used on marketing materials directly relating to the event and it must be clearly communicated that the event rather than the entire company responsible for the event is purchasing GreenPower. Additional requirements are contained in the GreenPower Logo Usage Guidelines 2008/2009. This document also describes how and where the logos can be used, and is available from the GreenPower website (http://www.greenpower.gov.au/using-the-greenpower-logo.aspx)

GreenPower Third Party Advocates

Third-party organisations, such as local governments and environmental non-government organisations (ENGOs), may use the GreenPower branding to promote the National GreenPower Accreditation Program subject to written approval by the GreenPower Program Manager.

The approved third-party organisation’s use of the GreenPower brand is subject to strict compliance with the relevant GreenPower Marketing and Logo Usage Guidelines. As such, all activities, including but not limited to print, broadcast, event and online (e-newsletter, web and social/new media) activities and content must be submitted to the National GreenPower Program Manager - Marketing for approval. This approval must be provided in writing by the Program Manager – Marketing prior to release, implementation or publication.

As part of the approval process for third-party organisations, entities must sign a time bound third-party usage agreement clearly stating the intended purpose of their advocacy and promotional activities, and agreeing to adhere to the relevant GreenPower Marketing and Logo Usage Guidelines. Failure to adhere to these requirements could result in the permission to use the GreenPower branding to be rescinded by the Program Manager.

Example of GreenPower Logo

4.6 GreenPower Product Disclosure Label

The purpose of the GreenPower Product Disclosure label is to establish a mechanism to differentiate GreenPower Products and communicate how environmentally friendly each option actually is. It provides full disclosure of the contents of GreenPower accredited products through the inclusion of discrete percentages of all product contents. This more detailed design will present consumers with a greater amount of information. The use of the GreenPower Product Disclosure Label is now compulsory for all marketing and collateral of all GreenPower Products (except GreenPower-Connect products – refer to Appendix G for further details). The full requirements are contained in the GreenPower Marketing Guidelines 2012. This document is available from the GreenPower website.

Example of GreenPower Product Disclosure Label

4.7 Treatment of Blends of 'Green' and Other Energy

Prior to entering into an agreement to provide energy products to a customer, and in all marketing and advertising related to the composition of a GreenPower Product, the GreenPower Provider must provide clear information about the portions of GreenPower accredited electricity and non accredited electricity that will be provided (for each level of GreenPower on offer).

Only those GreenPower Products that contain 100 per cent GreenPower are able to be described as 100 per cent renewable. No 'blended' product (i.e. a product containing less than 100 per cent GreenPower) may be referred to as 100 per cent renewable.

Where GreenPower accredited products are less than 100 per cent, the description of the unaccredited portion (backfill) of the product is prohibited other than referring to the backfill as other grid electricity.

Only 100% GreenPower Products will be able to be described as 100% renewable.

Only 100% GreenPower Products can be described as carbon neutral, having zero greenhouse emissions or zero emissions.

If a customer is offered a 'block tariff', the GreenPower Provider must clearly communicate how the 'block' is structured (e.g. proportions of GreenPower approved energy and other components) and what the 'block' translates to in terms of approximate kWh of GreenPower purchased per day/month/quarter, emphasising that calculations are based on average consumer consumption levels rather than actual.

4.8 Misleading Conduct

GreenPower Providers must ensure that they do not undertake, in the opinion of the Program Manager, misleading advertising or conduct in relation to GreenPower. Of particular importance is misleading advertising relating to the composition of GreenPower Products. GreenPower Providers must not deliberately or inadvertently mislead GreenPower Customers as to what generation types are used in their GreenPower Products or the proportion of GreenPower from different generation types. GreenPower Providers must:

- Agree to use only factually based and objectively verifiable environmental marketing claims in all advertising relating to their GreenPower Products;
- Be sufficiently clear and prominent in all advertising and marketing materials and other correspondence to potential and actual GreenPower Customers to prevent deception, in particular in regard to the GreenPower Customer's level of GreenPower purchase and in regard to the balance of the supply;
- Not represent that GreenPower Customers are actually delivered 'green' electrons from specific generation facilities;
- Not overstate environmental attributes or benefits, expressly or implicitly; and
- Present comparative claims in a manner that makes the basis for comparison clear to avoid GreenPower Customer deception.

5. GreenPower Generator Eligibility Requirements

All LGCs used for compliance against GreenPower sales must be from an approved GreenPower Generator. This section defines the eligibility criteria to which all generators must comply to gain and maintain approval from the Program Manager as a GreenPower Generator.

5.1 General Definition

To be eligible for GreenPower approval, an electricity generator must result in greenhouse gas emission reduction (within the electricity sector), result in Net Environmental Benefits, be based primarily on a Renewable Energy source, and meet the eligibility requirements below.

GreenPower Generators must be accredited by CER under the LRET and thus be able to create LGCs.

All projects are individually assessed and considered for approval against the above general definition and the eligibility criteria below, in addition to other more specific considerations outlined in Appendix A, including stakeholder consultation and acceptability for the project. Details on the application and approval process are given in Appendix B.

5.2 Eligibility Criteria

5.2.1 Minimum Renewable Energy Input

The electricity generator must be based primarily on a Renewable Energy resource. As such the proportion of eligible Renewable Energy input must exceed 50 per cent averaged over the Settlement Period. With the exception of minor contaminants, all renewable fuels used must be eligible under GreenPower.

5.2.2 Eligible Generation

Eligible generators can only create LGCs for electricity generated above their CER baseline. Generation below the baseline does not create LGCs and therefore is not eligible for GreenPower accreditation. For further information on CER baselines please refer to www.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au

Only the portion of the energy generated that is based on Renewable Energy resources (i.e. >50 per cent) is eligible for GreenPower approval. The annual generation of a generator shall be pro-rated on the proportion of renewable vs. non-Renewable Energy (i.e. fossil fuel) input, as detailed in the letter of approval.

5.2.3 Approval Conditions

A generator is only eligible for GreenPower approval as long as it complies with the approval conditions defined in the approval letter, and the eligibility requirements for GreenPower Generators in these Program Rules (as modified over time).

5.2.4 Changes to the GreenPower Generator

The generator owner must notify the Program Manager in writing of any changes made, or any intention to make changes to the operation of the GreenPower Generator e.g. change in fuel sources or upgrade in capacity. It is recommended that the proponents consult the Program Manager as early as possible to confirm

acceptability of these changes under the Program (e.g. eligibility of fuel sources), for an upgrade of the project's approval status.

5.2.5 Specific Exclusions and Inclusions

Generators must comply with specific eligibility criteria detailed below in Section 5.3 and Section 5.4.

5.3 Specific Exclusions

The following fuels/technologies are not acceptable for the purposes of the definition of a GreenPower Generator.

1) Utilisation of any materials (including wastes, primary or secondary) derived from forests other than sustainably harvested plantation forests. Plantation-derived wastes must not be sourced from plantations that clear, or have cleared after 1990, existing old growth or native forests.
2) Generators that involve the incineration of industrial, commercial or municipal solid wastes.
3) Hydro-electric projects, which require new dam construction that results in large-scale flooding of ecosystems.
4) Hydro-electric projects, which involve major diversion of rivers and do not adequately allow for environmental flows.

5.4 Specific Inclusions

The following fuels are acceptable Renewable Energy sources for the purposes of the definition of a GreenPower Generator.

1) Wood waste from clearing specified noxious weeds; sustainably managed plantations; Municipal Green Waste.
2) Industrial, commercial and municipal solid wastes (excluding incineration). Where a fossil fuel component is mixed in with the waste stream and cannot be reasonably removed from the fuel mix, the fossil fuel component will be netted out on a pro-rated basis (according to calorific value of fossil fuel component).

5.5 Treatment of Small Generation Units (SGUs)

From 1 January 2011 STCs created by SGUs under SRES will not be eligible for GreenPower accreditation.

CER's transitional arrangements for RECs mean that any RECs created by an SGU till the end of 2010 will be classified as LGCs. For further information please refer to www.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au.

Any LGC from an SGU to which a multiplier has been applied under the Commonwealth Solar Credits Scheme will not be eligible for accreditation under the GreenPower Program. The existing GreenPower Rules for SGUs will continue to apply under LRET.

5.6 Review Process for Accreditation

5.6.1 Special Approvals

In situations where generators do not fully meet the above criteria or assessment considerations in Appendix A, but where the generator owner or GreenPower Provider believes there is significant merit in the operation of the project or the utilisation of the fuels, the Program Manager may consider granting a special approval for the generator (subject to NGPSG endorsement). Consideration of approval will be subject to provision of project details, as well as evidence of relevant stakeholder consultation and acceptance of the project.

5.6.2 Changes to Accreditation Program

The NGPSG reserves the right to amend the operation and conditions of the National GreenPower Accreditation Program and these Program Rules. The Program Manager will notify the GreenPower Generator owner of any proposed amendments to the operation and conditions of the National GreenPower Accreditation Program and these Program Rules. Modifications will apply to all GreenPower Generators and GreenPower Products, where relevant. The GreenPower Generator owner will be given reasonable time to provide feedback in the review process prior to such amendments taking effect. Where such amendments require the GreenPower Generator owner to make alterations to the operation of the GreenPower Generator, the GreenPower Generator owner will be given reasonable time to adapt to meet any amendments.

5.6.3 Breach of Generator Approval

A GreenPower Generator owner must notify the Program Manager - Accreditation as soon as practically possible if the GreenPower Generator is in breach of, or is anticipated to be in breach of: any of the above eligibility requirements, conditions of GreenPower Generator accreditation specified by the Program Manager, or any other related development or environmental legislation which may impact its GreenPower compliance. The approval status of the GreenPower Generator will be reviewed. The owner will have the opportunity to provide evidence and respond to any issues raised in the review process. The Program Manager, after agreement with the NGPSG, may suspend or withdraw the approval of a GreenPower Generator if the breach is considered to conflict with the National GreenPower Accreditation Program, including these Program Rules.

An appeal may be made to the Program Manager, who will subsequently advise and make a decision with the NGPSG.

5.7 Generator Reports

The majority of GreenPower generators will not be required to submit annual generator reports.

Where a generator has received accreditation for an upgrade to an existing facility, a generator report will be required so as to determine the amount of eligible generation and LGCs from that facility.

Generators will also be required to submit a return in their first year of accreditation to account for part-year GreenPower eligibility. Only generation from the date of accreditation is eligible to be claimed as GreenPower accredited renewable energy.

5.8 Selling GreenPower Generation

All generation sold and branded as 'GreenPower' to an end consumer must be sold as a GreenPower Product, which has been accredited under the National GreenPower Accreditation Program and subject to the Accreditation Criteria. This rule is applicable to GreenPower Generators, where the GreenPower Generator owner is selling electricity directly to a GreenPower Customer. GreenPower Generator owners will need to submit a product application for assessment and undergo the necessary compliance reporting procedures (see Section 3).

If a GreenPower Generator owner fails to comply with these standard procedures and sells 'GreenPower' to customers outside of the scope of an accredited GreenPower Product, it will be considered a breach of accreditation by the GreenPower Generator, and approval may be withdrawn.

6. GreenPower Provider Reporting

The public release of information about the operation of GreenPower Providers helps to ensure the consumer confidence required to gain acceptance of GreenPower Products. Ongoing accreditation of GreenPower Products requires the GreenPower Provider to provide regular reports, parts of which the Program Manager will collate and publicly release. These reports also include information required to assess whether a GreenPower Product continues to meet the Accreditation Criteria.

The required reports are described below.

6.1 Quarterly Status Reports

Each quarterly status report provides a summary of each GreenPower Provider including sales and customer numbers for the quarter.

GreenPower Providers must provide the reports to the Program Manager within four weeks of the end of each quarter, for quarters ending 31 March, 30 June, 30 September and 31 December, each year. The report format will be provided by the Program Manager.

The quarterly status report should include the following information, in the format requested by the Program Manager.

Information intended for public release by the Program Manager:

- A breakdown of total GreenPower sales made in the quarter, between residential GreenPower Customers and commercial GreenPower Customers, and according to each state in which GreenPower Customers are based (NOTE: Only total residential and commercial figures for the GreenPower Product will be released. Sales figures by state will be released as aggregated program totals only).

- GreenPower Customer numbers, broken down between residential and commercial GreenPower Customers, and according to the location of these GreenPower Customers signed onto the GreenPower Product (state-based) (NOTE: Only total residential and commercial numbers for the GreenPower Products will be released. GreenPower Customer numbers by state will be released as aggregated program totals only.)

6.2 Annual Audit Report

The annual technical report is to be provided to the Program Manager within 3 months of end of each Settlement Period (on or before 31 March). The Program Manager or its appointed auditor will provide the report formats and details of requirements. These reports will be used in the annual audit.

Information as to which other parts of these reports remain confidential and which parts are required to be made public will be contained within the report pro-formas, which are available from the Program Manager or its appointed auditor.

Information should include the following (as required and in the format requested by the Program Manager):

- Technical reports and supporting documentation for the GreenPower Product. It is incumbent upon the GreenPower Provider to ensure that the information provided in the technical reports in accordance with Section 3 to be submitted to the Program Manager have been independently audited within this timeframe;

- Report providing details of the LGCs transferred to GreenPower Designated Accounts and subsequently surrendered. The Program Manager will independently obtain records from all LGC Registries of LGC transfers into the Designated Accounts and subsequent surrender for verification with GreenPower Provider reports. The total number of LGCs held, transferred and surrendered across all GreenPower Designated Accounts and the source of these LGCs specified by GreenPower Generators will be reported in the compliance audit report;

- All relevant marketing and consumer information materials as required, to check compliance in accordance with marketing Accreditation Criteria detailed in Section 4.

- Any additional information requested by the Program Manager's independent auditor which is required to ensure the GreenPower Product's compliance with the National GreenPower Accreditation Program;

Any breaches of GreenPower accreditation will be reported in the Annual Audit Report.

Appendix A: Assessment Guidelines for GreenPower Generators

1. General Considerations

1.1 Clean Energy Regulator Accreditation

GreenPower Generators must be accredited by the Clean Energy Regulator (CER) under the LRET and thus be able to create LGCs. For further information please refer to www.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au

1.2 Consumer Perceptions

The National GreenPower Accreditation Program is a voluntary market-based program mechanism for stimulating investment in new Renewable Energy generation. It is wholly dependent on GreenPower Customers generally choosing to pay more for a GreenPower Product. As such, GreenPower Customers generally wish to see their contributions leading to overall environmental improvements, i.e. they may not approve of projects which, although they produce no emissions, cause damage to the environment in some other way.

As contribution to GreenPower Products is entirely voluntary, customer perceptions of what is acceptable must, by necessity, be given careful consideration alongside any 'objective' view of the environmental merit of a particular electricity generator. The views of the local community (particularly those impacted by the project), consumer and environmental advocacy groups should therefore be taken into account by the GreenPower Provider, and will be considered by the Program Manager in assessing approval of individual generators.

1.3 Environmental Issues

Individual electricity generation projects may have adverse environmental impacts that will outweigh the benefits and would therefore not be considered acceptable for inclusion within this program. Negative environmental and/or cultural impacts of each project should be minimised to maintain consumer satisfaction. GreenPower Generator owners are responsible for ensuring that all generation projects meet any relevant statutory and licensing requirements, including, but not limited to, any environmental and planning approvals, as modified from time to time. Generator owners must also ensure that relevant environmental guidelines are met.

The environmental criteria for generator eligibility are related to the generation process only, and not the sustainability of the host resource industry (with the exception of energy crops). Whilst the sustainability of the host resource industry is not assessed, the impact of the individual generation project on that host industry will be taken into account. In cases where issues are raised regarding the expansion of the host industry due to electricity generation from that project, the associated impacts in the context of ecologically sustainable development will be considered.

For example, whilst concerns may be raised over the long-term sustainability of some biomass resource industries, as long as the biomass is sustainably harvested, results in greenhouse gas reduction, and demonstrates a Net Environmental Benefit, it may be eligible for use under the National GreenPower Accreditation Program.

All submissions seeking GreenPower approval for generators must include a full, independently prepared Statement of Environmental Effects, Environmental Impact Assessment (or similar), to the satisfaction of the Program Manager. Refer to the *GreenPower Generator Approval Application* in Appendix B and Table 1 Key ESD Considerations for further information.

GreenPower approved projects must also be consistent with other federal and state government sustainability and environmental objectives, including but not limited to:

- The National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development
- State and Local Government waste management policies
- National Waste Minimisation and Recycling Strategy
- Water management objectives and use of tertiary treated waste water
- Management of soil contamination issues.

1.4 Public Consultation

The Accreditation Criteria reflect the current environmental data, consumer and expert opinions of what constitutes 'green environmentally friendly' and 'sustainable energy' generation. Over time it is possible that a changing environment or technology will mean that the accreditation guidelines will change. All stakeholders will be consulted accordingly of any proposed amendments to the operation and conditions of the National GreenPower Accreditation Program and the Program Rules, and be given reasonable time to provide feedback in the review process prior to such amendments taking effect.

2. Acceptability of Generation

Eligibility criteria for generator approval are outlined in Section 5. The following section provides a guide as to the acceptability of generation projects. Clearly, these views are general and cannot take account of particular local factors that may concern potential participants. In addition to this information, the following will be taken into account in the assessment process:

1. Consumer perception of the generation process;
2. The overall impact of the generation process on greenhouse emissions;
3. Whether the process is based primarily on Renewable Energy sources;
4. The nature of the environmental impacts associated with the construction and operation of the generation facility, including the extent, intensity and duration of those impacts;
5. The level of mitigation, either planned or in place;
6. Details relating to planning approvals and environmental management procedures related to the generation process;
7. Other matters as deemed relevant by the Program Manager including the specific considerations detailed below.

If generator developers or GreenPower Providers require clarification, they can seek pre-approval of the Program Manager for individual projects (see Section 2.3.3). GreenPower Providers should avoid projects that are likely to be contentious in any way.

These guidelines will change as the program evolves and as perceptions change over time, and will be made available in the Program Rules from the Program Manager.

2.1 Types of Generation – Specific Considerations

The following types of Renewable Energy generation are generally acceptable under GreenPower.

- Solar Photovoltaic and Solar Thermal Electric Systems
- Wind Turbines and Wind Farms
- Hydro-Electric Power Stations
- Biomass-Fuelled Power Stations
- Geothermal Power Stations
- Wave and Tidal Power Stations

Specific considerations are discussed below.

Co-firing with fossil fuels

Co-firing biomass resources with fossil fuels in generators can be classified as green electricity generation for the Renewable Energy component. It should be noted that, under the definition used in the National GreenPower Accreditation Program, generators must be primarily based on Renewable Energy resources and therefore the co-firing level would by necessity be greater than 50 per cent. Each Renewable Energy component must be eligible according to GreenPower requirements. Where there are two plants feeding into one system, then the renewable component can be prorated.

Landfill Gas Generation

Methane emissions result from the decomposition of putrescible and green waste (both biomass resources) in landfill sites. The use of methane emissions from landfill sites to generate electricity has considerable

greenhouse benefits. However, the disposal of general municipal waste in landfill sites requires large quantities of land that will remain contaminated by undecomposed matter.

It is not the intention of the National GreenPower Accreditation Program to promote the development of new landfill sites, at the expense of waste minimisation. However, landfill gas generation projects are considered generally suitable for inclusion in the National GreenPower Accreditation Program. Any measures undertaken to reduce their environmental impact (such as best practice NO_x control) would assist the Program Manager in approving their use under the National GreenPower Accreditation Program.

Industrial/Commercial/Municipal Solid Wastes – Incineration

Electricity generation produced through the incineration of solid wastes is not currently accepted in the GreenPower Program. 'Green' waste incineration, where plant matter is separated from other wastes, is covered in the paragraphs below on "Wood Wastes".

Industrial/Commercial/Municipal Solid Wastes – Direct Gasification/Pyrolysis

There is significant benefit in the Gasification or Pyrolysis of mixed solid wastes that would otherwise be diverted to landfill. Aside from recovery of energy, destruction of these wastes significantly reduces the volume of waste going to landfill (approx. 95 per cent reduction), and in addition removes many problems associated with leachates and gas and odour emissions. The use of materials recovery technology also assists in reclaiming recyclable material that is mixed in with the waste stream, and would otherwise end up in landfill.

Generation plants based on these technologies are generally eligible for inclusion in GreenPower Products if the process has been approved under all relevant environmental legislation and demonstrate compliance with relevant emissions standards. Generator owners are responsible for applying the principles of the Waste Management Hierarchy, such that wherever possible, all materials able to be recycled, re-used or processed, are extracted from the waste stream. Where it is demonstrated that a fossil fuel component is mixed in with the waste stream and cannot be reasonably removed from the fuel mix, the fossil fuel component will be netted out on a pro-rated basis (according to calorific value of fossil fuel component).

Wood Wastes

Utilisation of any materials (including wastes, primary or secondary) from high conservation value forests, such as old growth forests, other native forests, and ecologically sensitive sites (for example, areas of remnant native vegetation) are not acceptable under the National GreenPower Accreditation Program.

Utilisation of waste derived from sustainably harvested plantation forests – where there are insufficient market opportunities for reuse or reprocessing of this waste – is generally acceptable under the National GreenPower Accreditation Program. These wastes must not be sourced from plantations that clear, or have cleared after 1990, existing old growth or native forests. Plantations that allow for and specify wildlife corridors and set aside areas of native forest are preferable. Demonstration of best-practice saw-milling technologies and the like would assist in the approval of generators based on forestry resources. Wood waste from clearing specified noxious weeds, where clearing activities are managed properly (e.g. to control seed spread), are acceptable, as long as commercial aims do not override the environmental management priority of weed control or elimination.

Municipal Green Waste, and wood wastes from suburban development, building and construction projects, where there are insufficient market opportunities for reuse and reprocessing, are acceptable fuel sources (as long as they are not sourced from high conservation value forests, such as old growth and other native forests, and ecologically sensitive sites). Generator owners are responsible for demonstrating that all areas from which fuels are sourced have been assessed and approved, according to any relevant statutory environmental, planning, and licensing requirements. Manufactured wood products and by-products (e.g. packing cases, furniture, crates, pallets, recycled timber) destined for disposal that are not contaminated and have not been chemically treated (e.g. toxic glues, solvents, finishes etc.), are also likely to be acceptable.

For projects using wood wastes (including Municipal Green Waste), **all** wood waste sources must meet the above eligibility requirements for the project to be granted GreenPower approval. Verification conditions for approval are given below.

It is the generator owner's responsibility to implement appropriate quality control systems and procedures (including auditing) to ensure all reasonable effort is made to keep contamination with ineligible wood sources to a minimum.

Where there is a degree of contamination of the wood source with ineligible wood sources, then the proportion of wood source not acceptable under these guidelines would be netted out from GreenPower on a fuel input basis.

Contamination in this case is defined as traces of unacceptable wood sources which have entered into the fuel stream for a project against all reasonable endeavours of the generator owner, and which cannot reasonably be removed.

If this is the case, the generator owner must demonstrate to the Program Manager that the ineligible wood source component due to contamination cannot be satisfactorily extracted from the fuel mix, and provide verification on the amount of generation attributable to the contamination component.

Verification conditions for approval

The Program Manager must approve any sources of wood products prior to their inclusion in a generation project based on detailed information (fuel type and origin of supply) provided by the generator owner.

Further to this, it is the generator owner's responsibility to provide verification that the wood materials supplied on an on-going basis comply with the eligibility requirements. Generator owners will be required to: -

- Provide evidence for implementing and maintaining a rigorous tracking system (e.g. detailed inventory, delivery records) to monitor all received wood sources, in terms of both source type, waste composition (by mass and energy/calorific value) and origins of supply;

- Make these records available for spot auditing by the Program Manager or other appointed independent third party, at any point in time. The generator owner must also make the site available for random on-site spot checks, which may be undertaken by the Program Manager or other appointed independent third party.

- Provide these records on a quarterly and annual basis to the purchasing GreenPower Provider and Program Manager. The Program Manager may require that these records be independently audited;

- Notify the Program Manager and request approval of any new sources in the future prior to their utilisation.

Failure to meet approval conditions and compliance requirements outlined above and, more specifically in the official letter of approval, will lead to revocation of GreenPower approval for the generator.

Refer to Table 1, Key ESD Considerations, for further information on other issues to consider and address towards receiving GreenPower approval for projects.

Agricultural and Other Biomass Wastes

Waste materials from sugar cane, winery and cotton industries, amongst others, as well as methane captured from sewerage treatment works or large scale organic composting offer considerable potential for electricity generation. Generation projects based on these resources will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Energy Crops

There are a wide variety of crops which could be grown specifically for energy generation purposes ("energy crops"), including crops such as timber, vegetable oils, fibre crops or complex sugars. Many of these crops have benefits in addition to the production of Renewable Energy, such as the production of timber and oils, provision of habitat corridors, alleviation of salination problems etc; and projects that have multi-use purpose may be more likely to be accepted by the community. The acceptability of various energy crops will depend upon the agricultural and harvesting practices used, and whether these are considered sustainable. Energy crops sourced from crop activities that clear, or have cleared after 1990, existing old growth or native forests, will not be accepted.

Hydro-Electric

The environmental impact and perceptions of consumers towards hydro-electric generators varies depending upon the size of the system, its location, the conservation and community value of the impacted area and the hydrology management.

Consumers may be critical of hydro-electric projects which: -

- Result in the large scale flooding of ecosystems;
- Reduce conservation values, particularly in highly sensitive areas;
- Involve major diversions of rivers;
- Provide inadequate environmental flows;
- Involve the construction of major new dams and roads in sensitive areas.

Consumers are more likely to accept projects that: -

- Have had broad stakeholder consultation and acceptance;
- Have adequate environmental flows;
- Are retrofitted dams that have been built for other purposes.

Hydro-electric projects which require new dam construction resulting in the flooding of ecosystems can have considerable impact on the environment. As a result consumer perceptions are likely to be critical and as such, projects of this nature will not be accepted for inclusion in GreenPower Products.

In addition, hydro-electric projects which divert water from rivers, or from one river to another, and do not adequately allow for environmental flows, can severely alter eco-systems associated with the river. Such projects are not accepted for inclusion in GreenPower Products.

Hydro-electric projects which involve the installation of generation facilities alongside dams which have already been built for other purposes are likely to be acceptable. In this case the production of electricity has not led directly to construction of the dam. The precise environmental impacts of any proposal need to be examined to ensure that these are minimised.

In situations where hydro-electric generators are used in pumped storage mode, only the net export of the system can be classified as 'green' electricity generation.

Wind Power and Windfarms

Wind turbines and windfarms have the ability to impact the local environment, particularly in relation to visual amenity, noise and bird-strike. Sufficient consultation with local stakeholders and efforts to minimise the impact on local amenity should be undertaken to ensure their acceptability under the National GreenPower Accreditation Program.

Solar Thermal Electric

Solar thermal electric generation plants may use a non renewable fuel such as natural gas to support the generator when sufficient solar energy is not available. In such cases, only that contribution which can be directly attributed to the Renewable Energy component would be considered to be 'green' (at a level greater than 50 per cent as per the definition of a GreenPower Generator).

Coal Mine Waste Gas and Coal Seam Methane

Coal mine waste gas generation based on vent or drainage gas from mines, where the methane must be drained for safety reasons, has the capacity to reduce greenhouse gas emissions substantially. However, coal mine waste gas is a fossil fuel, and therefore does not pass the test of being renewable. Non-waste coal seam methane is a fossil fuel equivalent to natural gas.

Coal mine waste gas and coal seam methane generation therefore cannot be considered as a Renewable Energy source under the definition of the National GreenPower Accreditation Program.

Small Generation Units (SGUs)

From 1 January 2011 STCs created by SGUs under SRES will not be eligible for GreenPower accreditation.

CER's transitional arrangements for RECs mean that any RECs created by an SGU till the end of 2010 will be classified as LGCs. For further information please refer to www.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au

Any LGC from an SGU to which a multiplier has been applied under the Commonwealth Solar Credits Scheme will not be eligible for accreditation under the GreenPower Program. The existing GreenPower Rules for SGUs will continue to apply under LRET.

Geothermal, Wave and Tidal Power Stations

Geothermal, wave and tidal technologies are relatively new to the Australian Renewable Energy market, and have only reached demonstration phase to date. Applications for approval for these types of projects will be accepted under the National GreenPower Accreditation Program. Generation projects based on these resources will be assessed on a case-by-case basis, and general project, community and environmental eligibility criteria will apply.

Appendix B: GreenPower Generator Approval Application

All LGCs used for compliance against GreenPower sales must be from an approved GreenPower Generator, as defined in Section 2.3.

1. Process of Application

The application and assessment process for gaining approval for a GreenPower Generator involves the following steps:

1. The generator owner or GreenPower Provider submits the GreenPower Generator Application form and any supplementary documentation to the Program Manager, allowing at least two weeks for initial assessment.
2. Where the application does not meet the requirements and guidelines in the National GreenPower Program Rules, or where insufficient details are provided, the applicant is advised accordingly. Where required by the NGPSG, a formal public consultation process will be undertaken and coordinated by the Program Manager prior to the assessment of the project for approval (see Appendix A for details). The NGPSG will accept written submissions within a specified time-frame for each round.
3. In cases where a formal consultation process is not required, the Program Manager may undertake an ad-hoc informal consultation process with stakeholders.
4. The Program Manager assesses application for approval, having regard to the fundamental objectives of the National GreenPower Accreditation Program, the generator eligibility criteria and where applicable, submissions received in the formal and informal consultation processes. Proponents will be given the opportunity to respond to issues raised.
5. If the application meets all guidelines, the Program Manager advises the applicant of this by way of an official letter of approval for the generator, and invoices the applicant for the associated fee (see Section 3 of this Appendix). The date of accreditation for a generator will be the date the application is received by the Program Manager, provided all accreditation criteria were met by the generator at that time. Subject to receiving approval the GreenPower Generator can be used in an accredited GreenPower Product and the generator owner confirming in writing acceptance of the terms of accreditation.

Required Information

The following information must be submitted such that the Program Manager can assess and approve a generator:

- Name, location (include postcode), owner of station, key contact (name and contact details), connection point;
- Commissioning date, date of first operation of each unit (where available) and date of first sale of electricity; *
- Electrical capacity of each unit (MW)*;
- Expected annual energy production of station (MWh);
- Detailed description of site, including maps, schematics where available, in particular showing any water diversions for hydro projects;
- Description of operation of the generator, to clarify whether the operation may impose any environmental impacts that need consideration;
- Description of fuel sourcing, particularly for projects using biomass fuels;
- Details of any proportion of non-eligible fuel components (e.g. fossil fuels) that would need to be netted out, outlining how the Renewable Energy component would be quantified*;
- Details of auxiliary loads[3];
- Details of community and stakeholder consultation relating to the project;

[3] Auxiliary loads and electric parasitics associated with the process of electricity generation are netted out of the total output for determining eligible 'green' generation, unless they are considered to be insignificant (i.e. less than 1 per cent). The generator owners will need to provide verification of the magnitude of these losses.

- Evidence that relevant statutory and licensing requirements have been met, including, but not limited to, environmental and planning approvals;
- Statement of Environmental Effects (see below);
- CER accreditation details, including accreditation code (when available);
- Confidentiality of information**; and
- Other details required by the Program Manager

** Please note that applicants are welcome to submit a copy of the CER Application for Accreditation with the additional details marked with *, or evidence that the CER has deemed it ineligible for RET Accreditation.*

*** Please note that where generators are approved and used in a GreenPower Product, certain details provided above are released publicly under GreenPower reporting requirements (e.g. description of generator, name, location, owner and commissioning date).*

Submissions may be forwarded to the Program Manager via fax, email or post.

It is important that all information provided in an application is correct and not misleading. The Program Manager is within its rights to withdraw approval of any generators, which are subsequently found to have environmental concerns that were not advised at the time of application. Proponents who disagree with a decision of the Program Manager may appeal against the decision to the NGPSG. A decision of the NGPSG is final and cannot be contested.

2. Statement of Environmental Effects or Environmental Impact Statement

A full, independent Statement of Environmental Effects, Environmental Impact Statement (or similar) should address key environmental issues including potential impacts of the project and proposed mitigation, and how the project fits in with the principles of Ecological Sustainable Development[4] (ESD). In summary, these principles would include: -

(a) **The precautionary principle** namely, that if there are threats of serious or irreversible environmental damage, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to prevent environmental degradation.

(b) **Inter-generational equity** namely, that the present generation should ensure that the health, diversity and productivity of the environment are maintained or enhanced for the benefit of future generations.

(c) **Conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity** namely, that conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity should be a fundamental consideration.

(d) **Improved valuation, pricing and incentive mechanisms** namely, those environmental factors should be included in the valuation of assets and services.

Key environmental considerations for a generator can be broadly categorised into the following:

- Global warming
- Impact on natural and cultural heritage
- Land use
- Transport use and impacts
- Project impact on the host industry
- Impact on flora and fauna
- Water, soil and air quality
- Visual & noise impacts
- Use and disposal of waste or by-products

Potential impacts can differ for each generation project type and are often site-specific. Issues to consider are detailed below in Table 1 and while not comprehensive, provide a guide to address the key environmental and community concerns for each generation type.

[4] Refer to the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act, 1999.

Applicants will need to provide evidence of planning and environmental approvals as well as community and local stakeholder consultation and support for each project (e.g. local residents, interest groups, environmental advocacy groups).

Where possible, supporting documentation (e.g. development approvals) should also be submitted with the application.

Where an Environmental Impact Statement or Environmental Impact Assessment has been undertaken for the project as required by relevant planning legislation, the Program Manager will accept a copy as appropriate documentation, provided they contain all required details.

Table 1 – Key ESD Considerations

Generator Type	Key ESD Considerations
SOLAR Solar Farm	Potential land-use impacts – interference with cultural heritage, archaeological sites, recreational use. Biodiversity impacts – vegetation clearance, loss of wildlife habitat. Visual impacts. Plans for decommissioning stage e.g. rehabilitation of site to its original state, disposal/reuse of materials.
WIND FARM	Noise, and visual amenity – assessment of impacts and minimisation efforts for local residents (e.g. proximity to domestic dwellings). Potential land-use impacts – interference with cultural heritage and archaeological sites, high conservation value area, recreational use. Biodiversity impacts – vegetation clearance, loss of wildlife habitat, interference with bird migratory routes. Eco-tourism considerations – increased traffic issues, road access, visitor facilities and parking etc. Plans for decommissioning stage – rehabilitation of site to its original state, disposal/reuse of turbines and blades.
HYDRO	Locational considerations including cultural, wilderness, scientific, recreational and conservation values. Construction impacts e.g. noise and dust, downstream nutrient and sediment effects, barriers to fish migration, disturbance to breeding habitat for birds and fish. Biodiversity impacts – changes to terrestrial/riverine habitats, soil erosion, effects on migratory fish species, and reductions in in-stream fisheries (fish barrier). Changes to water quality and groundwater recharge e.g. nutrient concentration levels, O_2 concentrations, temperature, and pH. Transmission lines and road access considerations e.g. visual intrusion, habitat fragmentation, and disturbance of historical sites, land-use changes. Consideration of mitigation measures or offset, restorative and compensatory opportunities to address potential adverse affects outlined above (contamination and physical, ecological etc.) Management measures for adequate environmental flows. Impact of variations in downstream water flows. Plans for decommissioning stage e.g. rehabilitation of site to its original state, disposal/reuse of materials. Approved water management plan for the sustainable management of the hydro catchment (where applicable).
BIOMASS General	Compliance of generator with relevant 'best-practice' environmental pollution requirements (i.e. noise, air emissions) e.g. EPA requirements. Air quality impacts/improvements – assessment of air emissions levels (e.g. NOx, SOx, dioxins, particulates, ash).

Generator Type	Key ESD Considerations
These issues should be considered for all types of biomass (below). Biomass (cont.)	Water quality impacts – surface and groundwater pollution. On-going monitoring and treatment/control measures proposed. Use or disposal of by-products (e.g. ash recycling, landfilling). Diversion of material from other disposal mechanisms e.g. pit-burning, landfill. Noise, visual amenity, odour and health impacts during construction and operational stages. Effect on existing industries or activities (e.g. will the project support marginal activity or encourage expansion?). Transmission lines and road access considerations e.g. visual intrusion, habitat fragmentation, and disturbance of historical sites, land-use changes. Consideration of production of biomass in a landscape context, with farm management practices linked to regional targets for sustainable environmental and natural resource management. Fuel transport - energy used and distance travelled to site. Plans for decommissioning stage e.g. rehabilitation of site to its original state, disposal/reuse of materials. Appropriate and transparent community consultation process from siting stage throughout project development.
Landfill Gas	On-going monitoring and treatment/control measures proposed e.g. cleaning of landfill gas prior to burning, scrubbers, and catalytic converters. Land-use impacts – potential interference of gas extraction with landfill site rehabilitation and intended use.
Municipal Solid and Green Wastes	Application of the Waste Management Hierarchy Diversion from existing use and consideration of alternative uses, avoidance/reuse/reprocess mechanisms (e.g. composting, horticultural) Diversion from other disposal mechanisms e.g. pit-burning, landfill Quantity of non-renewable materials converted to energy (e.g. plastics).
Wood Wastes	Compliance of fuel source with GreenPower wood waste requirements and guidelines, and ability to meet verification conditions (Appendix A). Diversion from existing use and consideration of alternative uses, avoidance/reuse/reprocess mechanisms (e.g. composting, horticultural) Influences of generation project on future operational viability of agricultural site (i.e. host industry).
Agricultural Wastes	Influences of generation project on future operational viability of agricultural site (i.e. host industry). Diversion from existing residue utilisation (e.g. field retention, composting, stockfeed, animal bedding). Impact of storage.
Wet Wastes	Use or disposal of post-digested waste (e.g. fertiliser). Impact of transport and storage of pre- or post-digested wastes (e.g. odour). Avoidance of toxic and noxious emissions.
Energy Crops	Sustainability of agricultural practices (e.g. use of fertiliser, irrigation, herbicides, pesticides). Biodiversity impacts - vegetation clearance, loss of wildlife habitat. Salination and nutrient cycling considerations. Additional uses and benefits of product produced.

The Program Manager will provide examples of the above criteria upon request.

3. Generator Fees

As from 1 January 2003 a generator assessment fee applies to all GreenPower accreditation applications for projects greater than or equal to 1MW. An annual accreditation fee was applied to all New GreenPower Generators (≥1MW) from 1 January 2004.

The fee structure is detailed in the following table.

Type	Description	Fee
Generator Assessment Fees		
Small Projects	Small projects of less than 1MW.	No charge
Pre–approval Assessment of projects (or upgrades)	The generator is seeking board approval (either own or GreenPower Provider) for a development or upgrade and GreenPower pre-approval will add weight to the proposal; A submission has been received prior to development permits being granted, or to community consultation having been undertaken. In these situations, a pre-approval may be granted.	$500 (ex-GST) (non-refundable)
Projects (or upgrades) greater than or equal to 1MW	Full GreenPower approval process, including stakeholder consultation.	$1500 (ex-GST); or $1000 (ex-GST) if pre-approved (i.e. Total: $1500)
Annual Accreditation Fees for GreenPower Generators		
Applicable only to projects greater than or equal to 1 MW	Maintain accreditation and benefits thereof, including use of GreenPower Generator Logo; administration of ongoing generator concerns/appeals etc	$1500 (ex-GST) per year

Generator Assessment Fees are applied to both successful and unsuccessful applications. All applicants will be invoiced the associated fee on completion of the assessment process.

A maximum of $5,000 (ex-GST) per annum is charged to owners of multiple GreenPower Generators as an annual accreditation fee.

The annual accreditation fee must be settled by the GreenPower Generator owner on an annual basis.

The Program Manager reserves the right to change Annual Accreditation and Generator Assessment Fees without notice.

Appendix C: Special Waiver Process

The Special Waiver application process, under Section 2.2.4 of the Program Rules, involves four major steps:

1. Special Waiver applications should be submitted to the GreenPower Program Manager - Accreditation, NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, GPO Box 5341, Sydney NSW 2001. Special Waiver applications relating to Section 3: GreenPower Product Technical Criteria should be submitted by 31 January each year for the previous calendar year reporting period.

2. The Program Manager will assess the Special Waiver application within one month of receiving it. If necessary, further information will be requested from the proponent.

3. Complete applications are forwarded to the NGPSG for their decision. In reaching a decision the NGPSG may need to request further information from the proponent. The NGPSG decision will be made by 31 May.

4. If the NGPSG decision is in the affirmative, final approval will be granted by the Program Manager, NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment within one month of the NGPSG decision being made.

Appendix D: Definition of Terms

Accreditation Criteria	The criteria for GreenPower Products as detailed in Section 3, 4 and 5 of this document.
GreenPower Customer	A domestic or commercial entity for which the GreenPower Provider has established a contract for the provision of a GreenPower Product. In the event that several contracts have been established for a single agency or commercial entity (e.g. for separate retail outlets or government agency departments) then each contract should be considered a separate customer.
Force Majeure	In relation to a party, means any cause outside the affected party's control including, but not limited to, an act of God, fire, lightning, explosion, flood, subsistence, insurrection or civil disorder, war or military operation, sabotage, vandalism, embargo, government action, or compliance in good faith with any law, regulation or direction by any Federal, State or Local Government or authorities, any network failure, or any failure on the part of the Network Operator or a generator, industrial disputes of any kind.
Gasification	The efficient conversion of solid fuel to gaseous fuel. The gas made can produce heat and electricity using gas engine generators.
GreenPower Designated Account	A separate 'account' created by a GreenPower Provider on the LGC Registry website for the purpose of surrendering LGCs which have been transferred into this account for compliance with the Accreditation Criteria.
GreenPower Generation	Electricity generated by a GreenPower Generator.
GreenPower Generator	For the purposes of this Program, a GreenPower Generator is defined as an electricity generator approved by the Program Manager that results in greenhouse gas emission reduction (within the electricity sector) and Net environmental benefits, and is based primarily on a Renewable Energy resource.
GreenPower Generator Eligibility Requirements	The requirements to which generators must comply in order to gain and maintain GreenPower Generator approval, as detailed in Section 5 and Appendix A and B of this document.
GreenPower Product	Any product or service that enables customers to voluntarily contribute financially to Renewable Energy generation from GreenPower Generators, and has been accredited under the National GreenPower Accreditation Program. A GreenPower Product consists of one or more GreenPower Product Options.
GreenPower Product Option	Content of a GreenPower Product which may include discrete GreenPower percentages that are based on either a GreenPower Customer's electricity consumption ("consumption-based GreenPower Product Option"), or on the average household electricity consumption level of 6,470 kWh/year ("block-based GreenPower Product Option") which is sourced from 2003-2004 ESAA data.
GreenPower Provider	Any person or organisation that operates a GreenPower Product.
Incineration	The burning of solid or liquid residues or wastes to produce heat and electricity using steam turbine generators.
Industrial/Commercial/Municipal Solid Wastes	Mixed waste stream sourced from domestic garbage collections and council operations (e.g. sweeping and litter bins), commercial and industrial collections, which can include food waste, organic matter, plastics, paper and other materials.
Large-scale Generation Certificates	As defined in the Renewable Energy (Electricity) Act 2000, as amended from time to time. Large-scale Generation Certificates (LGCs) are an electronic form of currency created in the REC-Registry by eligible entities under Subdivision A of Division 4 of Part 2 of the Renewable Energy (Electricity) Act 2000
Large-scale Renewable Energy Target	As defined in the Renewable Energy (Electricity) Act 2000, as amended from time to time. The Large-scale Renewable Energy Target (LRET), covering large-scale renewable energy projects is a subset of the RET.
Municipal Green Waste	Trimmings, prunings and clippings from domestic and council vegetation management and gardening activities including grass, leaves, mulch, branches/twigs, tree boles, stumps and loppings.
National GreenPower Accreditation Program	The framework established for GreenPower Products, as described in this document.

Net Environmental Benefit	The environmental benefits associated with a project outweigh the adverse environmental impacts. Impacts are considered within an Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) framework and include: greenhouse gas reduction; water and air quality; land use; impact on flora and fauna; impact on cultural/natural heritage; visual and noise impacts; use and disposal of waste products; transport etc.
Product Development Plan	GreenPower Providers will need to provide a Product Development Plan in any product application for GreenPower accreditation. This includes details of GreenPower Generators to be used in the proposed GreenPower Product, including description, type of unit, location, ownership details and capacity (where known). Where details of a specific generator have not yet been identified, the plan would include a general description of the development direction of the product.
Program Manager	The Program Manager nominated by the NGPSG, the contact details for whom are set out after the contents pages of these Program Rules.
Program Rules	This document and its appendices as may be amended from time to time.
Pyrolysis	The production of a carbon rich solid fuel and a hydrocarbon rich gas by heating a biomass feedstock in the absence of oxygen.
Renewable Energy	Energy which is naturally occurring and which is theoretically inexhaustible, such as energy from the sun or the wind, and which by definition excludes energy derived from fossil fuels or nuclear fuels. (*Source:* The Macquarie Concise Dictionary)
Renewable Energy Target	The Renewable Energy Target (RET) scheme has been established to encourage additional generation of electricity from renewable energy sources to meet the Government's commitment to achieving a 20% share of renewables in Australia's electricity supply in 2020. The RET legislation places a legal liability on wholesale purchasers of electricity to proportionally contribute to an additional 33,000 gigawatt hours (GWh) of renewable energy per year by 2020.
Settlement Period	1 January through to 31 December each year unless otherwise agreed with the Program Manager.
Small Generation Units	As defined in the Renewable Energy (Electricity) Act 2000, as amended from time to time. A device that generates electricity that is specified by the Commonwealth Government regulations to be a small generation unit.
Small-scale Technology Certificates	As defined in the Renewable Energy (Electricity) Act 2000, as amended from time to time. Small-scale Technology Certificates are an electronic form of currency created in the REC-Registry by eligible entities under Subdivision B or BA of Division 4 of Part 2 or under section 30P of the Renewable Energy (Electricity) Act 2000.
Sustainably harvested	Harvesting operations undertaken in a manner as to maintain the area's ecological viability and productive capacity*, and minimise any adverse environmental impacts in accordance with the principles of ecologically sustainable development e.g. to prevent soil erosion and contamination, protect water resources, provide for biodiversity conservation and protect culturally significant sites and threatened species habitat. Operations are approved under, or comply with, relevant Commonwealth, State or Territory planning and assessment processes. *Where applicable i.e. for agriculture, plantation forests, energy crops.
Waste Management Hierarchy	A system of prioritising ecologically sustainable waste solutions, based on the maximum conservation of resources (listed in order of preference): 1. Cleaner production 2. Waste avoidance 3. Waste minimisation 4. Re-use or recycle 5. Waste to energy 6. Landfill

Appendix E: National GreenPower Steering Group Charter

The National GreenPower Accreditation Program in Australia is governed by a national body known as the National GreenPower Steering Group (NGPSG). The NGPSG is responsible for the overall management of the affairs of the Program.

Representatives

The NGPSG is currently comprised of representatives from participating state and territory government agencies in the ACT, NSW, South Australia and Victoria, in correspondence with "observer" member organisations in Tasmania and Queensland. Agencies include:

- Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate — ACT
- Department of Planning, Industry and Environment — NSW
- Department for Energy and Mining — South Australia
- Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning — Victoria

Mission

Delivering effective strategic management of the National GreenPower Accreditation Program through widespread collaboration with all relevant stakeholders on accreditation and policy issues to guarantee program integrity, consistency and credibility.

The Role of the NGPSG

- To facilitate the operation of the National GreenPower Accreditation Program in keeping with its aim to drive investment in the Renewable Energy industry in Australia;
- To ensure the rules of the program evolve and develop over time to maintain the program's relevance according to the changing market environment, consumer behaviour and industry conditions;
- Address and resolve strategic and policy issues as they arise;
- To ensure that the accreditation and verification of GreenPower Products and GreenPower Generators is handled in a credible, timely and effective manner;
- To determine and implement modifications to the GreenPower Logos;
- To determine the removal of accreditation of GreenPower Products;
- To resolve any disputes that arise through the appeal process;
- To agree the annual program budget and to review the appointment of the Program Manager at the end of each three year term; and
- To carry out any other such activities as are necessary for the successful operation of the National GreenPower Accreditation Program.

In each state, NGPSG participants are responsible for building relationships with local GreenPower Providers and other stakeholders, and providing support for any general policy and generator accreditation issues. Specifically, each participant agrees to:

- Help to undertake marketing activities;
- Liaise with stakeholders to identify and address local issues associated with particular generators, generator proposals, or GreenPower Products; and with the press on local issues;
- Advise the Program Manager of specific or potential local issues arising which may have an impact on the National GreenPower Accreditation Program; and
- Inform relevant local community and industry members via the GreenPower progress reports (quarterly and annual) and other related materials.

These agencies may also co-ordinate information and education activities within their jurisdiction to support the efforts of GreenPower Providers. Such campaigns may include advertising, joint promotional events, seminars or provision of information in hard copy or on-line.

The NGPSG encourages all stakeholders to participate in the growth and evolution of the National GreenPower Accreditation Program.

Role of the Program Manager - Accreditation

Day-to-day management of the Program rests with the Program Manager, currently Trade and Investment NSW. In brief, Trade and Investment NSW is responsible for:

- initial and ongoing accreditation of GreenPower Products and GreenPower Generators;
- reporting – quarterly and annual audits;
- provision of information to participating agencies, GreenPower Providers, GreenPower Generators, potential and actual GreenPower Customers and consumer groups;
- coordinating consultation and central contact point for stakeholders (i.e. environmental and consumer organisations, GreenPower Providers and GreenPower Generators) with regard to changes to the program or issues as they arise; and
- other projects and activities as they arise.

Role of the Program Manager - Marketing

- development of marketing guidelines;
- processing licence applications to use the GreenPower Customer logo;
- maintaining the national website at www.greenpower.gov.au; and
- other projects and activities as they arise.

Further information

The NGPSG meets at least twice a year, and new representatives may join as the National GreenPower Accreditation Program expands into new states or regions.

For contact details of the NGPSG, visit www.greenpower.gov.au.

Appendix F: GreenPower Provider Fees

An annual accreditation fee is charged to each GreenPower Provider based on its proportion of the Program's aggregate GreenPower sales volume in the latest audited Settlement Period (at the time of invoicing), subject to a minimum fee of $5,000 (ex-GST).

Any new GreenPower Provider that first sells GreenPower to customers within the fourth quarter of the calendar year will be charged half of the minimum fee for that calendar year.

The Program Manager – Accreditation will aim to notify GreenPower Providers of their indicative annual accreditation fees (for the following year) by 1 October each year to enable the fees to be incorporated into pricing and contracts.

The NGPSG reserves the right to amend these fees, for any Provider, should the annual Final Audit Report show a discrepancy in GreenPower sales compared to the data used to calculate the indicative Provider fees. The NGPSG also reserves the right to amend the fees in instances relating to other extraordinary circumstances, such as the withdrawal of a GreenPower Provider from the Program prior to 1 January of the year for which the fees will be charged.

Where the NGPSG enacts its right to amend fees, the adjustment will be made proportionate to sales for all GreenPower Providers and notice will be given within two weeks of the decision being made.

Should the NGPSG, or its representative, be at fault in the miscalculation of Providers' annual accreditation fees in any single year, then the amount of fees paid by any Provider in that same year will not be more than the indicative fees, but may be less.

GreenPower-Connect Product Fees

Sales under a GreenPower-Connect product are counted as GreenPower sales for auditing purposes but are partitioned from the volumetric fee structure for fee purposes. Annual fees for GreenPower-Connect products will be charged to Providers as follows:

- A $5,000 flat fee for eligible LGCs associated with every contractual agreement between a GreenPower Customer (or GreenPower Customer Group – see Appendix G) and a GreenPower Generator (or as facilitated through an agent).
- Where a GreenPower Customer or GreenPower Customer Group has multiple contractual agreements (either with the same GreenPower Generator or multiple GreenPower Generators), a cap of $15,000 (ex-GST) applies where such arrangements are with the same GreenPower Provider.
- The pool of funding that is recovered from annual Provider accreditation fees will be reduced by the total fees charged to GreenPower-Connect products.

Appendix G: Specialised GreenPower Products

GreenPower-Connect GreenPower Product

The GreenPower-Connect Product is aimed at commercial entities and government agencies that support the construction and operation of new large-scale renewable energy generators via a contractual funding agreement with the generator and, as part of that contractual agreement, retain ownership of the associated Large-scale Generation Certificates (LGCs).

The intent of this new product type is to provide a cost effective opportunity for direct funders of renewable energy projects to use the GreenPower Program as a means of ensuring additionality to the RET via a robust and independent compliance audit framework.

A flat fee will be charged to Providers for each contractual agreement under their GreenPower-Connect Product. Further details around fees are outlined in Appendix F.

A GreenPower-Connect product must meet the following conditions to qualify for the flat fee:

- A GreenPower Customer, or group of GreenPower customers, such as a group buy scenario ("GreenPower Customer Group"), must have entered into a contractual agreement (such as a Power Purchase Agreement) with a GreenPower Generator for a minimum period of five years which resulted in the GreenPower Customer (or GreenPower Customer Group collectively) taking ownership of LGCs created by that GreenPower Generator during the term of the agreement.
- This contractual agreement can be directly between the GreenPower Customer and GreenPower Generator or it can be facilitated through an agent such as a GreenPower Provider.
- The GreenPower Generator must be constructed within three years following the contractual agreement being made and must not have been constructed prior to the contractual agreement being made.
- These LGCs must not be on-sold or transferred to any party other than from the GreenPower Generator to the GreenPower Customer or GreenPower Customer Group and then on to the GreenPower Provider, or directly from the GreenPower Generator to the GreenPower Provider on behalf of the GreenPower Customer or GreenPower Customer Group. Any other variations to this process must be approved by the Program Manager – Accreditation.
- Sales under a GreenPower-Connect Product are excluded from the calculation of the 5 per cent shortfall provision outlined in 1(a) of section 3.6 of the Program Rules.
- The Product must comply with the same technical and marketing criteria that other GreenPower Products are subject to, unless otherwise specified by the Program Manager – Accreditation.
- GreenPower Providers are not permitted to use percentage based GreenPower Product Disclosure Labels in any marketing or collateral of a GreenPower-Connect Product unless prior approval is granted by the Program Manager – Marketing. The GreenPower master logo may be used if approval of the Program Manager is sought.
- It is incumbent upon the GreenPower Provider to ensure that the Program Manager and/or its appointed auditor is provided with the required information and evidence to determine the product's eligibility as a GreenPower Connect Product.