

Renewable Gas Certification Pilot Rules

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Published by Office of Energy and Climate Change, NSW Treasury

Title Renewable Gas Certification Pilot Rules

First Published August 2023

ISBN 978-1-923076-09-9

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Definitions

The meanings of the terms used in these Pilot Rules are set out below:

Term	Meaning
Accreditation Criteria	the criteria for accreditation of Producers and Renewable Gas Projects as detailed in Section 5 and Appendix 1 of these Pilot Rules.
ACCU	an Australian carbon credit unit issued in accordance with the CFI Act.
Affiliate	in relation to a Participant, a 'related body corporate' (as defined in the <i>Corporations Act 2001</i> (Cth)) of that person.
Annual Report	has the meaning given in Section 6.3.
ANREU Account	a 'Registry account' as defined in the <i>Australian National Registry of Emissions Units Act 2011</i> (Cth).
Auditor	an independent auditor appointed by the Program Manager in accordance with Section 6.2.
Beneficiary	a Customer to whom RGGOs are allocated and who is entitled to claim the benefit of the Renewable Gas represented by the RGGOs nominated in accordance with Section 7.4(a).
Biogas	<p>a mixed gas output from a gas production process using solid or liquid biomass feedstock. It predominantly consists of methane, carbon dioxide and smaller amounts of other gases such as hydrogen sulphide and water vapour.</p> <p>Biogas is considered a Renewable Gas because the contained carbon comes from biogenic sources and equivalent carbon dioxide will be captured from the atmosphere when the biomass is regrown.</p>
Biomethane	purified Biogas that can be used in existing Fossil Natural Gas appliances due to its low level of impurities, and is therefore considered a 'Fossil Natural Gas-equivalent' when compliant with

AS 4564:2020. Compliant biomethane is generally considered suitable for injection into Fossil Natural Gas pipelines and networks, however this is subject to the requirements and assessment of the respective Gas Network Operator and regulator.

Brand Guidelines	guidelines relating to use of the Pilot's Logos and brands, and advertising and marketing of RGGOs.
Breach Event	has the meaning given to that term in Section 9.1.
BTM	behind the meter, meaning production and use of Renewable Gas occur without transport through a distribution pipeline, transmission pipeline, or a 'virtual pipeline' (transport by rail, truck or ship).
CFI Act	<i>Carbon Credits (Carbon Farming Initiative) Act 2011 (Cth).</i>
Customer	a person who may benefit from RGGOs as further described in Section 4.3.
Dispose	any sale, transfer or disposal of RGGOs, but not a retirement of RGGOs under Section 7.4.
Energy Crops	crops grown exclusively for energy generation purposes.
Equivalentt ACCUs	has the meaning given to that term in Section 7.5.
Final Retirement Date	has the meaning given to that term in Section 10.
Force Majeure	in relation to a Participant, means any cause outside the affected Participant's reasonable 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, industrial disputes of any kind, government action, or compliance in good faith with any law, regulation or direction by any Federal, State or Local Government or authorities, or any failure of any Gas Network or on the part of a Gas Network Operator.
Fossil Natural Gas	non-Renewable Gas consisting of predominately methane and a smaller amount of other fossil gaseous hydrocarbons, formed underground from the decay of organic material, which can be used for heating, cooking and electricity generation among other uses.

Gas Network	a 'distribution pipeline' or a 'transmission pipeline' (each as defined in the <i>National Gas Law</i> or the <i>Gas Industry Act 2001</i> (VIC), as relevant) located in Australia.
Gas Network Operator	the operator of a Gas Network.
GHG	greenhouse gas.
GJ	gigajoule.
Government Authority	any Commonwealth, State, Territory, local or foreign government or semi-governmental authority, court, administrative or other judicial body or tribunal, department, commission, public authority, agency, minister, statutory corporation or instrumentality or any other person having jurisdiction in connection with the Renewable Gas Project.
GreenPower Corporate Direct	GreenPower Corporate Direct products accredited by the Program Manager that allow large energy users to directly retire LGCs through GreenPower and obtain independent verification of their renewable electricity use.
GreenPower Generator	an electricity generator approved by the Program Manager as a 'GreenPower Generator' under the GreenPower Program Rules.
GreenPower Program Rules	the <i>National GreenPower Accreditation Program: Program Rules</i> .
Guidelines	any guidelines or fact sheets relating to the Pilot published by the Program Manager on the GreenPower website, as amended from time to time.
kWh	kilowatt hour.
LCA	a life cycle assessment for a Renewable Gas Project complying with the requirements set out in Appendix 1.
LGC	a 'large-scale generation certificate' as defined in the <i>Renewable Energy (Electricity) Act 2000</i> (Cth).

Logo	the GreenPower logo or logos described in Section 8.3.
National Energy Retail Law	the <i>National Energy Retail Law (South Australia) Act 2011 (SA)</i> , as amended from time to time.
National Gas Law	the <i>National Gas Law</i> as set out in the Schedule to the <i>National Gas (South Australia) Act 2008 (SA)</i> , as amended from time to time.
NGPSG	the National GreenPower Steering Group.
Participant	a Producer or a Trader.
Off-Grid Gas Consumer	means either: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 a BTM project which is directly supplied Renewable Gas and is not connected to a Gas Network; or2 a consumer which is directly supplied Renewable Gas by ship, rail or road and is not connected to a Gas Network.
Participant Agreement	the document entitled ['Renewable Gas Certification Pilot Participant Agreement'] in a form published by the Program Manager from time to time, that is to be entered into by the Program Manager and any person wishing to participate as a Participant in the Pilot.
Pilot	the voluntary scheme for the creation, sale, purchase and retirement of RGGOs established and governed by these Pilot Rules.
Pilot Rules	the rules for the Pilot set out in this document, as amended from time to time.
Producer	a person who may create and transfer RGGOs from a Renewable Gas Project as further described in Section 4.1.
Program Manager	NSW Treasury as the Program Manager of the National GreenPower Accreditation Program.
Production Declaration	a declaration by a Producer regarding the amount of Renewable Gas that the Producer, or an entity on behalf of the Producer, has injected into a Gas Network, delivered to a consumer's premises by road, rail or ship for direct use at those premises or supplied for

direct use by a BTM project based on the calorific value of Renewable Gas in respect of a Production Period.

Production Period	means the period during which Renewable Gas is injected into a Gas Network, delivered to a consumer's premises by road, rail or ship or supplied for direct use by a BTM project. Each production period must be no shorter than one calendar month and no longer than one calendar quarter, or any other period approved by the Program Manager.
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Prohibited Feedstock	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 any materials, including primary or secondary wastes, sourced from a forest that is not a sustainably harvested plantation forest; 2 any materials, including primary or secondary wastes, sourced from a sustainably harvested plantation forest that is located on land from which old growth forest or native forest was cleared after 1 January 1990; 3 Energy Crops grown on land from which old growth forest or native forest was cleared after 1 January 1990; and 4 fossil-derived fuels, including but not limited to Fossil Natural Gas, liquid hydrocarbons and coal.
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REE Act	the <i>Renewable Energy (Electricity) Act 2000</i> (Cth).
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Registry	the electronic registry system operated by the Registry Operator that is used to record the creation, transfer, and retirement of RGGOs.
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Registry Account	means an account held by a Participant in the Registry for the purposes of holding RGGOs for the purposes of the Pilot.
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Registry Operator	means Renewable Energy Assurance Limited registered in England under company number 05720606 and any replacement operator of the Registry from time to time.
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Renewable Electricity Source	<p>electricity generated:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 by a GreenPower Generator; or 2 from an alternative renewable energy source approved by the Program Manager.
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Renewable Gas	<p>a gaseous fuel that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 is produced from a renewable energy source and feedstock that meets the requirements defined in the eligibility criteria (Appendix 1);
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- 2 has lower GHG emissions than an equivalent fossil fuel product; and
 - 3 meets the quality requirements of the Gas Network into which it is being injected, or of the directly supplied gas user in projects that are BTM or supplied by road, ship or rail,
- including, by way of example, Biogas, Biomethane or Renewable Hydrogen meeting the criteria in paragraphs 1 to 3 above.

Renewable Gas Project	a project that produces or may produce Renewable Gas, which is approved by the Program Manager as a Renewable Gas Project in accordance with Section 5.
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Renewable Hydrogen	renewable hydrogen, or 'green hydrogen', is hydrogen that is produced using renewable energy sources and feedstocks.
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Reporting Period	1 January through to 31 December each year unless otherwise agreed with the Program Manager.
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Residential Customer	has the meaning in the National Energy Retail Law, being a customer who purchases energy principally for personal, household or domestic use at premises.
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Retirement Request	a request by a Participant to the Registry Operator to retire one or more specified RGGOs and generate a Retirement Statement.
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Retirement Statement	an electronic file generated by the Registry on receipt of a Retirement Request as described in Section 7.4.
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RGGO	Renewable Gas guarantee of origin certificates created through the Registry in accordance with these Pilot Rules.
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Trader	a person who may purchase, sell, transfer and retire RGGOs in accordance with these Pilot Rules as further described in Section 4.2(a).
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Transfer Request	has the meaning given to that term in Section 7.3.
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1 Introduction

1.1 About GreenPower

GreenPower is a national renewable energy accreditation program, administered by the NSW Government on behalf of the NGPSG made up of the New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia governments, with the Australian Capital Territory, Northern Territory, Tasmania and Queensland governments as observing members.

GreenPower accredits renewable electricity products as GreenPower Products and renewable electricity generators as GreenPower Generators under the terms of the *National GreenPower Accreditation Program: Program Rules*, enabling business and household customers to match their electricity use with renewable electricity, which is added to the electricity grid on their behalf.

GreenPower has made a significant contribution to the Australian renewable energy industry including facilitating over \$900 million of investment into the renewable energy sector, 16 Mt CO₂-e emissions reduction, and building consumer trust in renewable electricity products.

GreenPower is now leveraging its 25 years of experience in voluntary markets and certification to support emerging Renewable Gases in Australia.

1.2 Renewable Gas Certification Pilot

GreenPower is establishing a Pilot, which will provide independent verification of the attributes of Renewable Gas. The Pilot aims to help establish a voluntary market for Renewable Gases across Australia and will initially focus on Biogas, Biomethane and Renewable Hydrogen injected into a Gas Network or directly supplied to a consumer BTM or by road, ship or rail. By creating and tracking the ownership of RGGOs, the Pilot will enable commercial and industrial gas customers to match or displace their gas use with Renewable Gas, directly supporting Renewable Gas projects.

The Pilot was initiated by GreenPower in collaboration with Jemena Gas Networks and Energy Networks Australia and will be delivered by GreenPower.

In February of 2022 GreenPower released a consultation paper on the Pilot and received 40 submissions from interested parties. The submissions have informed the design of the Pilot as set out in these Pilot Rules.

1.3 Governance

National GreenPower Steering Group (NGPSG)

The National GreenPower Steering Group, which oversees management of the GreenPower program, will also oversee the management of the Pilot. The NGPSG is currently comprised of representatives from government agencies from New South Wales, South Australia and Victoria.

Program Manager

NSW Treasury has been appointed as Program Manager of the National GreenPower Accreditation Program and administers the Pilot on behalf of the NGPSG.

Renewable Gas Certification Pilot Steering Committee

The Program Manager is establishing a steering committee to advise on the delivery of the Pilot. This steering committee will include broad consumer, industry and government representation. Recommendations from the steering committee will be considered by the NGPSG for implementation.

Participation in the steering committee is open to all relevant stakeholders subject to alignment with the steering committee's terms of reference and approval by the NGPSG.

2 Purpose of this document

The purpose of these Pilot Rules is to set out terms and conditions of participation in the Pilot for Producers and Traders.

3 Pilot term

3.1 Term

The Pilot will commence in 2023 on the date of its announcement by the NSW Minister for Energy. The Program Manager will announce the closure of the Pilot in due course in accordance with Section 3.2.

3.2 Duration of the Pilot and transition to an ongoing scheme

The Pilot is intended as an interim measure to enable the development of voluntary Renewable Gas markets until a permanent scheme for certification for Renewable Gases commences. The Pilot aims for a seamless transition to a permanent national scheme when it becomes available. Should no permanent scheme be developed, GreenPower will consult with industry to enable the Pilot to be extended or converted into an ongoing scheme.

The Program Manager may announce the closure or conversion of the Pilot to an ongoing scheme, and prescribe any ancillary closure or conversion arrangements in respect of the Pilot, by written notice to all Participants.

4 Participation in the Renewable Gas Certification Pilot

This section sets out the persons who can participate in, or benefit from, the Pilot.

4.1 Producers

(a) What is a Producer

A Producer is any person who has entered into a Participant Agreement with the Program Manager under which the person may create RGGOs from a Renewable Gas Project approved by the Program Manager. A Producer may also sell and transfer RGGOs in the Registry. A Producer may also be a Trader and/or a Customer.

(b) What is a Renewable Gas Project

A Renewable Gas Project is a project that produces Renewable Gas, which has been approved as a Renewable Gas Project by the Program Manager in accordance with the Accreditation Criteria.

4.2 Traders

(a) What is a Trader

A Trader is any person that has entered into a Participant Agreement with the Program Manager under which the person may purchase, sell, transfer and retire RGGOs in the Registry. A Trader may also be a Producer and/or a Customer.

(b) Renewable Gas Products

A Trader may purchase and sell RGGOs from and to other Participants, and offer to retire RGGOs on behalf of a Customer as a product that is purchased separately to any gas retail or supply contract, or as a 'coupled' product where each unit of gas purchased by the Customer is matched with equivalent RGGOs.

4.3 Customers

(a) What is a Customer

A Customer is any person who wishes to buy RGGOs to wholly or partly match or displace their Fossil Natural Gas use with Renewable Gas that is accredited under the Pilot. The consumption point of the Customer must be within the Commonwealth of Australia. Customers are not required to sign a Participant Agreement, but may benefit from RGGOs when a Participant nominates the Customer in a Retirement Statement as the Beneficiary of RGGOs. A Participant may also be a Customer when it nominates itself as a Beneficiary of RGGOs in a Retirement Statement. A Customer may claim the benefit and attributes of any RGGOs that are retired on the Customer's behalf.

Residential Customers are not currently eligible to participate in the Pilot, and hence Participants must not retire RGGOs on behalf of Residential Customers. Periodic reviews of Customer eligibility will be undertaken throughout the duration of the Pilot.

(b) Customers wishing to manage their own purchases

If a Customer wishes to purchase and retire RGGOs itself, they can apply to become a Trader.

4.4 Fees

(a) Annual fees

Participants must pay to the Program Manager, as a contribution to the cost of administering the Pilot (including the Registry Account fees), the annual accreditation fee determined by the NGPSG as detailed in Appendix 3.

Additional setup fee's will be charged to Producers which have multiple Renewable Gas Projects which will require individual Registry Accounts.

(b) Changes to fees

The NGPSG may at its sole discretion:

- (1) review, and increase or decrease, fees;
- (2) set different annual fees for different categories of Participants; and
- (3) impose new or additional fees such as an application fee,

provided that NGPSG consults with Participants prior to any change to fees.

Enquiries in relation to the current fee schedule should be directed to the Program Manager.

4.5 Dispute resolution

The Program Manager acts on behalf of the NGPSG.

As such, a Participant has the right to appeal to the NGPSG if there is a dispute over the Program Manager's decision regarding any aspect of the Pilot and the application of these Pilot Rules or any Guidelines.

The decision of NGPSG is final and cannot be contested.

5 Approval of Renewable Gas Projects

5.1 Eligibility

RGGOs can only be created by an approved Renewable Gas Project. The Accreditation Criteria, and the application and assessment process, for approval of a project as a Renewable Gas Project are set out in Appendix 1.

5.2 Conditions

The Program Manager may approve a project as a Renewable Gas Project subject to conditions specified by the Program Manager.

5.3 Ongoing compliance

A Producer must ensure that the Renewable Gas Project complies with the Accreditation Criteria and any conditions on approval specified under Section 5.2 in all material respects at all times during the term of the project's accreditation under the Pilot. A Producer must notify the Program Manager of any breach or failure to comply with the Accreditation Criteria or any condition on approval in a material respect promptly and no later than 14 days after becoming aware of the breach or failure.

5.4 Changes to a Renewable Gas Project

Producers must notify the Program Manager in writing of any changes made, or any intention to make changes to, the infrastructure or operation of a Renewable Gas Project that will, or are likely to:

- (a) change the basis on which the project was approved as a Renewable Gas Project in any material respect (e.g. changes to feedstocks or water and electricity supply arrangements); or
- (b) affect the Renewable Gas Project's compliance with the Accreditation Criteria or quality of the gas produced by the Renewable Gas Project in any material respect.

It is recommended that a Producer consults with the Program Manager as early as possible to confirm acceptability of any such changes under the Pilot.

If changes made to a Renewable Gas Project result in the Renewable Gas Project no longer meeting the Accreditation Criteria, the Program Manager may withdraw accreditation of the Renewable Gas Project in accordance with Section 9.

5.5 Production Declarations

- (a) Producers are required, on a regular basis, to make a Production Declaration regarding the amount of Renewable Gas it has injected into a Gas Network, directly delivered to a consumer for use at its premises by road, ship or rail or provided to a consumer for direct use by a BTM project. Production Declarations must include or be accompanied by any evidence or information specified in any Guidelines.
- (b) A Producer may submit a Production Declaration in respect of any period selected by the Producer that is no shorter than one calendar month and no longer than one calendar quarter, or any other period approved by the Program Manager.
- (c) A Producer is to complete Production Declarations within 12 months of the end of the relevant Production Period, or any other period as agreed between the Program Manager and the Producer from time to time.
- (d) Production Declarations must be completed and lodged in the Registry in accordance with any Guidelines issued by the Program Manager.

6 Audit and Reporting

6.1 Audit

The Program Manager is responsible for arranging an annual audit of the Pilot in respect of each Reporting Period to ensure compliance with these Pilot Rules and related Guidelines, and to enhance the integrity of the Pilot. The scope of the annual audit for each Reporting Period will be determined by the Program Manager in consultation with the steering committee. The annual audit may examine:

- (a) accreditation of Renewable Gas Projects;
- (b) any activity on the Registry including the creation, transfer and retirement of RGGOs;
- (c) compliance with the Pilot Rules and any relevant Guidelines, including but not limited to accuracy of metering and emissions calculations;
- (d) sales and marketing activity of Participants in relation to RGGOs; or
- (e) details of any breaches, notices and withdrawal of accreditation.

6.2 Auditor

The Program Manager may:

- (a) appoint an Auditor to carry out any audit activity required in connection with the Pilot;
- (b) delegate certain audit functions and activities to the Registry Operator.

6.3 Annual Audit Report

The Program Manager will publish an annual audit report (**Annual Report**) in respect of each Reporting Period outlining:

- (a) a summary of the audit activities undertaken by or on behalf of the Program Manager in respect of the Reporting Period;
- (b) key statistics from the operation of the Pilot during the Reporting Period;
- (c) any findings and recommendations of the Program Manager or Auditor arising from the audit of that Reporting Period; and
- (d) any other information the Program Manager considers relevant to Participants and other stakeholders.

The Annual Report is intended to be published by 30 August each year in respect of the most recent Reporting Period.

6.4 Request for information

A Participant must provide any records or information to support the Participant's compliance with the Pilot Rules requested by the Program Manager, any Auditor, or the Registry Operator in connection with the Pilot or its compliance with the Pilot Rules as soon as reasonably practicable following a written request.

7 Renewable Gas Certificates and Registry

7.1 Use of Registry

A Participant must open and maintain a Registry Account with the Registry Operator in accordance with the Participant Agreement.

7.2 Creation of RGGOs

- (a) A Renewable Gas Producer may create one RGGO for each whole kWh (using a conversion factor of 1 GJ per 277.77778 kWh) of Renewable Gas:
 - (1) injected from a Renewable Gas Project into a Gas Network;
 - (2) used directly by a BTM project; or
 - (3) directly delivered to a consumer for use at its premises by road, ship or rail,

that displaces the use of an equivalent amount of Fossil Natural Gas during a Reporting Period.

- (b) The amount of Renewable Gas injected into a Gas Network, directly delivered to a consumer for use at its premises by road, ship or rail or used by a BTM project is to be calculated in accordance with any Guidelines.
- (c) Each RGGO will be represented by an electronic record including a unique serial number in the Registry.
- (d) A Producer may request that the Program Manager records RGGOs created under these Pilot Rules in the Producer's Registry Account by submitting a Production Declaration in accordance with Section 5.5. The Program Manager will only credit the requested RGGOs if:
 - (1) the Producer has submitted in the Registry all documentation and evidence required under these Pilot Rules and any Guidelines for the issuance of RGGOs;

- (2) the Program Manager is satisfied the Production Declaration complies with the requirements of these Pilot Rules and any Guidelines; and
 - (3) the Producer has complied with all relevant laws.
- (e) When a Producer submits a Production Declaration that is accepted by the Program Manager, the RGGOs created as a result of the Production Declaration will appear as “RGGOs available to Transfer or Retire” in the Producer’s Registry Account. The Registry Operator will issue a statement to the Producer setting out the below details:
- 1) The quarter ending in which the gas was injected into a Gas Network or directly delivered to a consumer for use at its premises by road, ship or rail or used by a BTM project
 - 2) Injection Date (from - to)
 - 3) Producer
 - 4) Biomass Information (feedstock)
 - 5) Production Support (received or not) (Production Support means a financial reward or grant from the Australian Government).
 - 6) Sustainability Criteria (being GreenPower Renewable Gas Certification)
 - 7) RGGO Expiry Date
 - 8) Transferred from
 - 9) RGGOs issued (kWh)
 - 10) RGGOs available for transfer or retirement (kWh).

7.3 Transfer of RGGOs

- (a) A Participant may transfer one or more RGGOs to another Participant by submitting a transfer request in the format and with the details specified by the Registry Operator including details of the proposed recipient (**Transfer Request**).
- (b) A Transfer Request can be accepted or rejected by the nominated recipient by notifying the Registry Operator in the format specified by the Registry Operator.
- (c) If the nominated recipient accepts a Transfer Request, the Registry Operator is to debit the relevant number of RGGOs from the transferring Participant’s Registry Account and credit the same number of RGGOs to the recipient’s Registry Account.
- (d) The Registry Operator may only reverse a processed transfer if the transferring and recipient Participants both agree, or if directed to by the Program Manager.

7.4 Retirement of RGGOs

- (a) Subject to section 7.4(b), a Trader may retire one or more RGGOs by submitting a Retirement Request in the format and including the details specified by the Registry Operator, including the name of the Beneficiary to whom the RGGOs are allocated and who is entitled to claim the benefit of the Renewable Gas represented by the RGGO.

- (b) If the RGGOs are the subject of a Retirement Request attributable to Renewable Gas that is supplied to an Off-Grid Gas Consumer, then the Beneficiary to whom those RGGOs are allocated must be the Off-Grid Gas Consumer.
- (c) Upon the Trader making a Retirement Request, the Registry Operator will issue an electronic Retirement Statement that lists:
 - (1) the Beneficiary to whom the retired RGGOs are allocated;
 - (2) the statement date;
 - (3) a unique identifying code for the statement;
 - (4) the period covered by the statement during which Renewable Gas was injected into a Gas Network, directly delivered to a consumer for use at its premises by road, ship or rail or used by a BTM project;
 - (5) the name of the Producer and the Renewable Gas Project to which the statement relates;
 - (6) feedstock type and type of gas produced;
 - (7) the GHG emissions value associated with the Renewable Gas;
 - (8) the volume in kWh and GJ of Renewable Gas covered by the Retirement Statement; and
 - (9) the unique serial number of each RGGO covered by the statement.
- (d) Once a Retirement Statement is issued, the retirement of the relevant RGGOs cannot be reversed.
- (e) A Retirement Statement evidences the authenticity and origin of the equivalent amount of Renewable Gas injected into a Gas Network, directly delivered to a consumer for use at its premises by road, ship or rail or used by a BTM project as represented by the retired RGGOs, and may be used to support any claims concerning the purchase of RGGOs for regulatory or commercial purposes.
- (f) A Participant who wishes to submit Retirement Requests must register as a Trader. Participants who are registered only as Producers will not have the ability to submit Retirement Requests.

7.5 ACCU Staple Option

- (a) Section 7.5 only applies to RGGOs created from a Renewable Gas Project in respect of which ACCUs are issued in respect of carbon abatement resulting from the Renewable Gas Project displacing, or avoiding the use of, Fossil Natural Gas, which is known as 'displacement abatement'. These ACCUs represent environmental attributes that are also allocated to RGGOs. Allowing both to be retired separately would lead to double counting of the environmental benefits. This Section is intended to avoid this issue.

The 'displacement abatement' is the main environmental attribute of RGGOs, meaning a 'displacement ACCU' represents the same activity as the RGGO. To avoid double counting of the environmental benefit, 'displacement ACCUs' and RGGOs from the same activity must only lead to one environmental claim.

This section is intended to primarily address the 2022 biomethane method package variations under the Emissions Reduction Fund that came into effect

on 2 January 2022 and enable Renewable Gas Projects to be awarded ACCUs for Fossil Natural Gas 'displacement abatement'.

- (b) In this Section:
 - (1) **"Equivalent ACCUs"** means, in respect of any quantity of Stapled RGGOs, the number of ACCUs representing displacement or avoided use of Fossil Natural Gas represented by the Stapled RGGOs; and
 - (2) **"Stapled RGGOs"** means RGGOs to which this Section 7.5 applies.
- (c) If this Section applies, the Producer must ensure that:
 - (1) for all Stapled RGGOs standing to the credit of the Producer's Registry Account, the Producer [or its Affiliate] or Trader holds and retains Equivalent ACCUs in an ANREU Account, subject to any Disposal in accordance with Section 7.5(c)(2) or retirement in accordance with Section 7.5(e); and
 - (2) the Producer does not Dispose of any Stapled RGGOs from the Renewable Gas Project unless:
 - (A) it also Disposes of the Equivalent ACCUs to the same Participant on the same date; and
 - (B) the terms of the Disposal includes a condition requiring the Participant to whom the Disposal is made to comply with the restrictions on Disposal in Section 7.5(c)(2) as if that Participant were the 'Producer' for the purposes of Section 7.5(c)(2).
- (d) A Participant must not Dispose of any Stapled RGGOs in a manner contrary to Section 7.5(c)(2).
- (e) A Participant must not retire any Stapled RGGOs under Section 7.4 unless it has also retired Equivalent ACCUs for cancellation in accordance with the CFI Act prior to submitting the Retirement Request.
- (f) A Participant must promptly provide any information requested by the Program Manager or its auditor to demonstrate compliance with this Section 7.5.
- (g) ACCUs may be voluntarily retired at the creation stage of RGGOs in which case, subsequent stapling of ACCUs to those RGGOs is not required. To give effect to this option the relevant Participant must at the time the RGGOs are created provide evidence that it has voluntarily retired the requisite volume of Equivalent ACCUs. Selection and compliance with this option will be noted in the Registry.

7.6 Relinquishment for Renewable Hydrogen production

- (a) This Section 7.6 applies if a Producer of Biogas or Biomethane uses the Producer's own Biogas or Biomethane to produce Renewable Hydrogen from a Renewable Gas Project, and that Producer has created or is entitled to create RGGOs for the Biogas or Biomethane production as well as RGGOs for the Renewable Hydrogen production.
- (b) If this Section applies:
 - (1) the Producer may not create and hold both (A) RGGOs for a volume of Biogas or Biomethane used in the production of Renewable Hydrogen, and (B) RGGOs for the volume of Renewable Hydrogen

produced from that volume of Biogas or Biomethane, at the same time; and

- (2) the Producer may only create RGGOs resulting from a volume of Renewable Hydrogen if it has first relinquished the relevant number of RGGOs arising from the volume of Biogas or Biomethane used in producing the volume of Renewable Hydrogen.
- (c) The Producer may relinquish RGGOs under this Section 7.6 by voluntarily retiring the RGGOs created for the volume of Biogas or Biomethane used in the production of Renewable Hydrogen. The Producer must voluntarily retire those Biogas or Biomethane RGGOs prior to submitting a Production Declaration in respect of the RGGOs for the Renewable Hydrogen production.

7.7 Expiry of RGGOs

A RGGO will expire 1185 days (three years and three months) from the first day of the last month of the Production Period covered by the relevant Production Declaration, as determined in accordance with the Guidelines. Once a RGGO held by a Participant expires, it can no longer be transferred or retired and will be cancelled in the Participant's Registry Account.

7.8 Invalid RGGOs

- (a) The Program Manager has adopted a robust process for verifying gas production data used for issuing RGGOs. However, if the Program Manager deems any RGGOs to be invalid, the Program Manager may:
 - (1) cause the affected RGGOs to be relinquished to the Program Manager from the relevant Participant's Registry Account; or
 - (2) where the affected RGGOs have been retired on behalf of a Customer, contact the Customer and determine the appropriate action, and if required, work with the relevant Trader to relinquish, retire or issue RGGOs.
- (b) RGGOs may be deemed to be invalid due to the following, or similar, reasons:
 - (1) errors in the quantity of Renewable Gas injected or delivered (as applicable);
 - (2) non-compliance with the Pilot Rules; or
 - (3) information that may otherwise challenge the validity of information recorded in the RGGOs or their value.

7.9 Responsibilities of parties

- (a) Participants are responsible for:
 - (1) keeping confidential the details they use to access the secure area of Registry Account where Production Declarations are made, RGGOs are issued and held, transfer requests are initiated, accepted or rejected and retirement requests are initiated; and
 - (2) the consequences of such acceptances, rejections, and requests; and

- (3) the accuracy of the content of Production Declarations, transfer requests initiated, accepted or rejected or any retirement requests initiated that are made via access to the Registry Account.
- (b) The Program Manager is not responsible for or liable in respect of any arrangements for the purchase, sale, transfer/trade and retirement of RGGOs between Producers, Traders and Customers, including dispute resolution.

8 Marketing

8.1 Introduction

Participants provide Customers with the choice to make a positive contribution to the environment by supporting the development of Renewable Gas technologies and projects, and displacing fossil fuel use.

To realise this market potential and maintain Customer confidence, Customers must be provided with clear and concise information about the attributes of the RGGOs and respective consumer claims that can be made.

8.2 Compliance Review

Participants must submit all advertising and marketing materials, including all print, broadcast and online material, in relation to RGGOs and the Pilot to the Program Manager for approval prior to publication. The Program Manager will verify compliance with the Guidelines within 10 business days.

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

8.3 Use of Logo

Logos will be developed by the Program Manager to build recognition of the Pilot and support the development of Renewable Gas products and markets, including the following example:



Participants must use Logos in compliance with the conditions of use that are available in the Brand Guidelines available from the Program Manager.

Customers are entitled to use the Logo if they receive written permission from the Program Manager.

Additional requirements are contained in the Brand Guidelines. The Brand Guidelines also describe how and where the Logos can be used, and are available from the Program Manager.

8.4 Misleading Conduct

Participants must ensure that they do not undertake, in the opinion of the Program Manager, misleading advertising, marketing or other conduct in relation to RGGOs and the Pilot. Of particular importance is misleading advertising and marketing relating to the environmental attributes of RGGOs. Participants must:

- ensure all information provided to Customers relating to the Pilot and RGGOs and their attributes is fair and accurate in all material respects;
- use only factually based and objectively verifiable environmental marketing claims in all advertising relating to RGGOs and the Pilot;
- be sufficiently clear and prominent in all advertising and marketing materials and other correspondence to potential and existing Customers to prevent misleading or deceiving Customers;
- not represent that Customers are delivered 'renewable' molecules from specific gas projects unless this is approved by the Program Manager based on the project design and commercial arrangements;
- not overstate environmental attributes or benefits, expressly or implicitly; and
- comply with all applicable consumer protection and trade practices laws in all material respects.

9 Breaches and Withdrawal of Accreditation

9.1 Breach of Rules

A “**Breach Event**” will occur with respect to a Participant if, in the opinion of the Program Manager, the Participant has breached, or failed to comply with, in a material respect any provision of:

- (a) these Pilot Rules;
- (b) the Accreditation Criteria;
- (c) its Participant Agreement;
- (d) any Guidelines; or
- (e) an applicable law that the Program Manager considers relevant to the Participant’s participation in, or the integrity of, the Pilot.

9.2 Show Cause and Probation

- (a) The Program Manager will advise the Participant of any apparent Breach Event by way of a “show cause” notice of the apparent Breach Event. Where the Participant does not rectify the breach or provide evidence to the contrary to the satisfaction of the Program Manager within the required time period as specified by the Program Manager, the Program Manager will either:
 - (1) if the Program Manager considers the Breach Event can be rectified, put the Participant on probation and advise the NGPSG accordingly; or
 - (2) if the Program Manager considers the Breach Event cannot be rectified or represents serious misconduct, take any of the actions set out in Section 9.3.
- (b) A Participant put on probation will be given a set period determined by the Program Manager during which to rectify the Breach Event. The Program Manager may, but is not obliged to, extend this probation period any number of times.

9.3 Consequences of Breach

If the Program Manager considers that a Breach Event has not been rectified during a probation period set by the Program Manager or that the Breach Event cannot be rectified or represents serious misconduct, the Program Manager may by written notice to the Participant take any or all of the following actions:

- (a) withdraw the accreditation of any of the Participant's Renewable Gas Projects;
- (b) revoke the Participant's status as a Trader and/or Producer under these Rules; or
- (c) order the Participant to relinquish any RGGOs affected by the Breach Event.

If accreditation of a Renewable Gas Project is withdrawn or a Participant's status as a Trader or Producer is revoked, the Participant will be required to cease creation of RGGOs, and Disposing of and retiring RGGOs. Disposal of any remaining RGGO holdings by the defaulted Participant will be at the discretion of the Program Manager.

Details of any breaches, notices and withdrawal of accreditation will be listed in the Annual Report.

9.4 Force Majeure

If a Breach Event occurs due to Force Majeure circumstances, the Participant must provide the Program Manager with sufficient details of the circumstances. 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), the Program Manager may take any of the actions set out in Section 9.3.

9.5 Mandatory Relinquishment

- (a) The Program Manager may, by written notice to a Participant, require the Participant to relinquish one or more specified RGGOs:
 - (1) in accordance with Section 9.3(c); or
 - (2) if the Program Manager determines that:
 - (A) the specified RGGOs have been issued to a Participant in relation to a Renewable Gas Project; and
 - (B) information given by the person to the Program Manager in connection with the Renewable Gas Project was false or misleading in a material particular; and
 - (C) the issue of the specified RGGOs was directly or indirectly attributable to the false or misleading information.
- (b) The Participant must comply with the requirement by making a Transfer Request to the Registry Operator to transfer the specified RGGOs to the Program Manager's Registry Account and notifying the Program Manager of the transfer within 30 days after the notice was given.
- (c) If the Participant has Disposed of or retired the relevant RGGOs prior to receiving the notice to relinquish, the Program Manager may approve an alternative solution. This could include, but is not limited to, the Participant purchasing and retiring RGGOs from other Participants as compensation.

10 End of Renewable Gas Certification Pilot

Following the announcement of the closure of the Pilot, Participants will have the ability to create RGGOs until the closure date of 31 December of the Reporting Period during which the closure was announced. Participants will continue to be able to transfer and retire RGGOs for the following 6 months until 30 June (**Final Retirement Date**) of the year following the closure date. Any RGGOs that have not been retired by the Final Retirement Date will be retired by the Registry Operator noting the Participant holding the RGGO as the Beneficiary. If a suitable scheme is in place to succeed the Pilot, the Program Manager will communicate transfer options and processes to convert RGGOs into certificates in the successor scheme.

11 Changes to Rules

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

12 Interpretation

In these Pilot Rules, unless the contrary intention appears:

- (a) the singular includes the plural and the plural includes the singular;
- (b) words that refer to any gender include all genders;
- (c) words used to refer to persons generally or to refer to a natural person include a body corporate, body politic, partnership, joint venture, association, board, group or other body (whether or not the body is incorporated);
- (d) a reference to a person includes that person's successors and legal personal representatives;
- (e) a reference to a statute, regulation or rule, or a provision of any of them includes all statutes, regulations, rules or provisions amending, consolidating or replacing them, and a reference to a statute includes all regulations, proclamations, ordinances and by laws issued under that statute;
- (f) where a word or phrase is given a particular meaning, other parts of speech and grammatical forms of that word or phrase have corresponding meanings;
- (g) specifying anything in these Pilot Rules after the words 'including', 'includes' or 'for example' or similar expressions does not limit what else is included unless there is express wording to the contrary; and
- (h) headings and bold type are only for convenience and do not affect the meaning of the Pilot Rules.

Appendix 1

Accreditation Criteria for Producers and Renewable Gas Projects

Overview

This appendix provides the assessment guidelines for accreditation of Producers and Renewable Gas Projects to participate in the Pilot. These guidelines outline information regarding the eligibility criteria, the required application documentation, and considerations relevant for the Program Manager's assessment process.

The eligibility of potential Producers wishing to participate in the Pilot will be individually assessed against the criteria listed below. The eligibility criteria provide the requirements regarding:

- gas types and production technologies
- feedstocks, energy and water use
- environment, community and safety.

Eligibility Criteria: Producers

An applicant wishing to become a Producer must demonstrate to the Program Manager's satisfaction that it is:

- a company or a registered body under the *Corporations Act 2001 (Cth)*, or a government owned corporation;
- is recognised as a fit and proper person for the purposes of the Pilot at the discretion of the Program Manager. The fit and proper test involves declarations about any convictions or insolvency, and whether a person has the capabilities needed to run a project; and
- owns, operates, or controls a Renewable Gas Project.

Eligibility Criteria: Renewable Gas Projects

The Program Manager may only approve a project as a Renewable Gas Project if the Program Manager is satisfied it meets all the following criteria:

Topic	Applicable Criteria
Eligible Gas	The project must produce a Renewable Gas.
Fossil Natural Gas displacement	<p>The project must displace the use of Fossil Natural Gas by either:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 injecting the Renewable Gas into a Gas Network; or 2 supplying Renewable Gas directly to a BTM project or by road, ship or rail to a consumer subject to Section 7.4 (b).
Feedstock requirements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Feedstocks must be listed as an eligible renewable energy source under Section 17 of REE Act; 2 The project must not use any Prohibited Feedstock other than as specifically permitted in these Feedstock requirements; 3 The project may only use Energy Crops as a feedstock where the Producer demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Program Manager that this is necessary to ensure feedstock certainty or consistency, and Energy Crops do not make up more than 10% of the total feedstock energy content over the course of a Reporting Period; and 4 If the project produces hydrogen through steam methane reforming, the Producer must either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - use Biomethane or Biogas from the Producer's own Renewable Gas Project as feedstock, in which case, the Producer must voluntarily retire RGGOs created from such Biomethane or Biogas in accordance with clause 7.6(c); - use Biomethane or Biogas directly supplied by a third party as feedstock, in which case the Producer must purchase and retire on its own behalf RGGOs created for the volume of Biomethane or Biogas used by the project; or - purchase and retire on its own behalf RGGOs from Biomethane or Biogas Renewable Gas Projects connected to the same Gas Network to which the project is connected, to match and displace the Fossil Natural Gas used by the project for each Reporting Period. 5 Feedstocks not included in the REE Act can be considered on a case-by-case basis where they are not fossil fuels or materials or waste products

derived from fossil fuels. Industrial, commercial, or municipal solid wastes as part of the feedstock mix will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Electricity and other energy use requirements

All electricity consumption used by the project to produce Renewable Gas must be matched with Renewable Electricity Sources and evidenced for each Reporting Period. This requirement may be satisfied by a Producer demonstrating to the Program Manager's satisfaction that the project's total metered electricity consumption for a Reporting Period (in MWh) is sourced from:

- 1 on-site behind-the-meter renewable electricity generation that does not receive LGCs under the Renewable Energy Target;
- 2 GreenPower purchases as part of an accredited GreenPower Product;
- 3 an electricity retail contract that is not a GreenPower Product, which is matched with an equivalent number of LGCs acquired and retired by or on behalf of the Producer through a certificate-only GreenPower Product or in accordance with GreenPower Corporate Direct; or
- 4 any combination of the products and services described in paragraphs 1 to 3, for the Reporting Period.

A project may use other energy sources, including fossil fuels. The use of any energy sources, including fossil fuel energy, must be included in the project's LCA and emissions intensity calculation. The Program Manager may, at its discretion, not provide accreditation to a project if the emissions from such other energy sources are considered disproportionate or not in line with the objectives of the Pilot.

Water requirements

The Producer must demonstrate that the project is conducting responsible water usage for Renewable Gas production and will be assessed by the Program Manager on a case-by-case basis.

The Program Manager may require the Producer to provide any of the following documents and information, as applicable, for the purposes of its assessment:

- 1 Contracts with water suppliers (either for the water source itself, or for the water corporation if applicable);
 - 2 Details of desalination technologies;
 - 3 Details of onsite water recycling process;
-

- 4 Recycled water agreement issued by water corporations;
- 5 Water extraction licence details;
- 6 Consideration for the impact of the Renewable Gas Project water usage on community and agricultural needs; or
- 7 Location and proximity to rural, drought affected areas.

Environment, Community and Safety

The Producer must demonstrate that the project:

- 1 produces a Renewable Gas that has lower emissions than the equivalent emissions of Fossil Natural Gas as specified in the most recent update to National Greenhouse Accounts Factors available at the time of application;
- 2 meets the principles of ecologically sustainable development (ESD) described in the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) and have a net environmental benefit;
- 3 has considered community impacts and concerns, including on Aboriginal communities, and implemented appropriate consultation, mitigations and benefit sharing; and
- 4 has local or territory/state planning approval and comply with the respective environmental management and safety licencing and procedures.

To demonstrate the above requirements have been met, a proof of concept LCA findings report must be provided as part of the application.

The LCA must be carried out in accordance with ISO 14040 (2006), ISO 14044 (2006), ISO TS 14067 (2013) and ISO 13065:2015. The Program Manager may, at its sole discretion, approve reducing the scope of the LCA for projects with a low gas production volume where the financial burden would be prohibitive to the project progressing. The exemption may be granted or refused by the Program Manager on any grounds it considers appropriate.

Other requirements

The Pilot is technology agnostic, subject to Renewable Gas Producers meeting the general objectives of the Pilot and the National GreenPower Accreditation Program.

The Program Manager may publish Guidelines that provide further information about how the eligibility criteria are assessed, including for different project types.

Documentation required to support the application

Unless otherwise agreed, a person who wishes to participate in the Pilot as a Producer or obtain accreditation of a project as a Renewable Gas Project must provide the following documents to the Program Manager to determine eligibility:

- 1 A duly completed Producer application form available at www.greenpower.gov.au.
- 2 ABN and ACN details.
- 3 Details of a local agent for giving of notice and service of process (for foreign bodies).
- 4 A duly completed Fit and Proper Person Declaration form available at www.greenpower.gov.au and any supporting documents requested by the Program Manager.
- 5 A report outlining the facility and project details, findings of the proof of concept LCA, and emissions calculations.
- 6 The proof of concept LCA report.
- 7 A plan for renewable electricity purchase (including onsite renewables).
- 8 If applicable, details of onsite renewable electricity capacity and estimated generation.
- 9 If applicable, a plan for how any displacement ACCUs received under the CFI Act or, in the case of hydrogen production from Biogas or Biomethane, any RGGOs received for the Biogas or Biomethane will be treated and stapled or retired in accordance with Section 7.5 of these Pilot Rules.
- 10 Gas meter identifier, if applicable.
- 11 Evidence of meeting the Gas Network Operator requirements for injection into the Gas Network, if applicable.
- 12 Evidence of responsible water usage.
- 13 Community engagement plans and outcome reports, as applicable.
- 14 Evidence of compliance with local or state planning approvals - projects must demonstrate compliance with local or territory/state planning approvals (including by providing a copy of a development application, development approval and planning notice (or equivalent) and environmental management procedures related to construction, gas production, transport, injection, and other associated activities.
- 15 A copy of an Environmental Impact Statement (or similar) report undertaken for the project as required by the relevant planning legislation.
- 16 A Major Hazard Facility licence, or equivalent licence requirement in the jurisdiction where the project is located, if applicable.
- 17 Any additional supporting documentation or information set out in the Guidelines from time to time.

Appendix 2

Accreditation criteria for Traders

Overview

This appendix provides the assessment guidelines for accreditation of Traders to participate in the Pilot. These guidelines outline information regarding the eligibility criteria, the required application documentation, and considerations relevant for the Program Manager's assessment process.

The eligibility of potential Traders wishing to participate in the Pilot will be individually assessed against the criteria listed below.

Eligibility Criteria: Traders

An applicant wishing to become a Trader must demonstrate to the Program Manager's satisfaction that it is:

- a company or a registered body under the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth), or a government owned corporation; and
- is recognised as a fit and proper person for the purposes of the Pilot at the discretion of the Program Manager. The fit and proper test involves declarations about any convictions or insolvency, and whether a person has the capabilities needed to dispose and retire RGGOs.

Documentation required to support the application

A person who wishes to participate in the Pilot as a Trader must provide the following documents to the Program Manager to determine eligibility:

- a duly completed Trader Approval Application form downloaded from www.greenpower.gov.au;
- any supporting documentation requested by the Program Manager.

Appendix 3

Participant fees

The Pilot is designed to be simple and low cost to operate. The Program Manager operates on a cost recovery basis and does not aim to produce a surplus of income over running costs. Fees are calculated to cover the costs of administering the Pilot and Registry Platform.

Participants are required to pay an annual participation fee of AUD \$5,000 excl. GST. This amount is invoiced to Participants at the start of each calendar year, or charged at a pro rata basis for Participants that join throughout a given year. Participants have 30 days to settle the invoice. For clarity, additional participation fees are not payable where the Participant is registered into multiple categories (i.e. Producer and Trader).

For a Producer that has more than one Renewable Gas Project participating in the Pilot, a setup fee of AUD \$1,500 excl. GST for each additional Renewable Gas Project will be invoiced upon accreditation of the Renewable Gas Project. The annual participation fee of AUD \$5,000 excl. GST will remain regardless of the number of Renewable Gas Projects a Producer has participating in the Pilot.

Participant fees include all charges by the Registry Operator. Fees will be raised by the Program Manager. The Registry Operator will not directly invoice Participants.