

Green Choice Program (GCP) Participant Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Updated 03/04/2024

*Newly published FAQs are highlighted in **Green**.*

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Post Webinar Questions - March 4, 2024

| Question | Answer |
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| <p>In the excel sheet there are fields for meter usage, demand usage and fixed usage. Is it okay to use the meter usage cell as a place for fixed energy consumption. Also, clarify the difference between meter usage and fixed usage and does it matter where this data goes?</p> | <p>The 'demand usage' and 'fixed usage' aren't needed to determine energy consumption, but if you're pulling information directly from your own bills they may show up as separate line items on your bill based on your rate class. NSPI does not need this info to verify your account and consumption data.</p> |
| <p>With regards to the three-year electricity average – “total electricity usage can be calculated by using the average total annual consumption of the previous three (3) calendar years (i.e. 2021, 2022, and 2023) or annual energy consumption in the year directly proceeding the year in which application was made (i.e. 2023 calendar year).” 2021, 2022, and 2023 to a lesser extent were impacted by COVID. Can pre-COVID years be used instead?</p> | <p>It is program policy to ensure that all applicants are using the same timeframe in their application for consumption verification. Program policy states the calendar years of 2021-2023 must be used to establish the average. Applicants can use either the average consumption, or a single years' worth of consumption data (whichever is greater) to establish a subscription baseline accounting for any COVID related impacts to your electricity consumption.</p> |
| <p>A company X have one department taking over property of another department next year. Do they include this to be in their existing baseline where it is not a new facility?</p> | <p>If this property/building/facility is intended to be captured within the scope of your application for future use, then yes include that building and account information (where possible) into your existing total. It's helpful to provide documentation of this in your application to ensure it is considered in your application and the total subscription volume requested.</p> |

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| <p>In the excel spreadsheet, where do you want the new facilities added (built between 2024-2028)?</p> | <p>The new facilities do not have to be added on the excel spreadsheet if they do not have account information or the consumption data of that facility. In this case, we'd request an energy model estimating the annual consumption. However, if the new facilities are currently operational, and are being acquired by the applicants, and you have access to their consumption data then please include that in your application. NSPI will require authorization to access the account data if the authorized account holder is different from what is on the application form. You may need to provide proof that you are acquiring the facility or have permission to access account information at that facility.</p> |
| <p>Company X is also wondering if they could add additional accounts/ consumption to the GCP between now and when the renewable energy projects come online (relatively small annual electricity consumption)? (They currently have a few other offices in long term leases, where they are hoping to change the lease terms to receive and pay the NSP bill directly, as opposed to be bundled with other tenant services provided in the lease.)</p> | <p>This could only occur where electricity has not been allocated otherwise (i.e. there is availability within the program) and would occur on a first-come, first-served basis through a process yet to be established. If the total cannot be included in the application, essentially, we cannot guarantee that it can be "held" for a Participant later. Requests to reduce overall subscription are easier to accommodate (within reason) than requests for an increase in total electricity if the program is at capacity since it relies on other Participants to "release" subscribed electricity and to reallocate it. If you are anticipating usage to be added to your load, you can add it to your application as new load and provide documentation.</p> |
| <p>If I own multiple buildings and there are currently tenants in those spaces, can I include them in my application?</p> | <p>The easiest way to assess this is who pays the electricity bills at those leased locations? As the applicant, if it is yourself, then yes please include them in your application.</p> <p>However, please note that private and public institution partnership aggregations are not permitted for the purpose of this program. E.g. Company A is a public institution according to the eligibility criteria of the program. Company A owns some facilities but leases some spaces to private companies. The private companies pay their own electricity bills, not Company A. The electricity at these locations is not eligible to be part of an application for the Company A.</p> |

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| | <p>Private partnership aggregations across separate corporate structures are not eligible participants for the Green Choice Program. E.g. Private Company A and Private Company B do not share common ownership, and therefore could not submit a joint application.</p> <p>Franchises may participate so long as it is the corporate office applying on behalf of all franchisees and locations across the province with the appropriate authority to do so.</p> |
| <p>How is the portfolio of projects allocated to me as a customer? And how does that work with my RECs?</p> | <p>Participants receive a share of the variable GCP portfolio output based on the energy they subscribe vs. the total contracted energy production value of the combined portfolio.</p> <p>Example: Customer A subscribes 10,000 MWh/year and the GCP portfolio is contracted for 1,100,000 MWh/year, then Customer A is entitled to the value of 1% of all variable output from the portfolio up to 10,000 MWh/year.</p> <p>If customers want to ensure they can make a 100% RE claim while allowing for underperformance of the portfolio or over-consumption of their facilities, they can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - oversubscribe their electricity consumption as per section 7 of the GCP regulations. - make up the difference by procuring RECs from other markets - use some GCP RECs from the first quarter of the following year to make up or 'backfill' the difference, adjusting on a production window that meets their own reporting requirements. <p>If the GCP portfolio overperforms, the energy will be used for the benefit of all ratepayers.</p> |
| <p>What if my electricity consumption doesn't meet the minimum eligibility requirements?</p> | <p>If after your information has been verified by NSPI and it demonstrates that the average or the highest consumption in the last three years does not meet the 10,000 MWh minimum, it may still be possible to apply since the eligibility criteria is based on the amount subscribed to the program, not the baseline consumption information.</p> <p>The total aggregate across multiple meters or locations or partners must meet the 10,000 MWh subscription to participate. If your request is above 105% you must meet all the required submission criteria to be considered.</p> <p>Partners in an aggregated partnership must each consume 1,000 MWh per year as a base line to be part of the partnership. No exceptions apply.</p> |

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| | <p><i>E.g., Company C has 6 plants across multiple locations in Nova Scotia all owned by the same corporate structure. The electricity bills are paid by the corporation and their current electricity consumption is 8,500 MWh; however, they are building a new fish processing plant to be operational by 2025 and the electricity consumption modelled for this facility is anticipated to be 1,700 MWh per year. This means their application would meet the eligibility criteria of subscribing 10,000 MWh per year across one or more meters.</i></p> |
| <p>How will the cost of up to \$1/MWh for a total of \$100,000 and credit of avoidance of carbon tax be applied if I am accepted as a Participant?</p> | <p>A participant is defined in the Green Choice Program Regulations as an entity that participates in the Program, including each partner in an aggregate. The Participants may represent multiple NSPI electricity customers, customer accounts, and customer meters. The cost and credit will be applied per bill; however, the represented customers and customer accounts are currently billed of those customers in the Participant Agreements. A draft Participant Agreement will be shared with applicants for feedback. The terms and conditions are not yet finalized and may be subject to case-by-case refinement to capture unique customer structures or circumstances.</p> <p>Further specific details on the GCP administration fee (cost) and carbon cost exemption (credit) have yet to be determined; however, neither the fee nor credit will involve a change to the customer's existing tariff or rate structure. More information will be known following an application to the Regulator to establish the mechanism for collecting administrative fees and crediting carbon cost exemptions.</p> <p><i>E.g., Company A has subscribed 100% of its electricity consumption to the Program. They currently have 97 facilities, 68 meters and accounts. One bill includes 6 accounts. The per MWh cost and credit will show up on that bill applied to the total MWh consumed and the avoided cost of carbon as a credit as two separate line items. A cost/credit example can be found on the Participant Resources tab of the GCP website.</i></p> |
| <p>What is the process to finalize the cost and credit for the GCP?</p> | <p>The Green Choice Program cost and credit mechanism will be determined following NSPI's application with the Regulator. The GCP Regulations provide the framework and upper limits for the administration fee, and what components of the administrative processes can be considered in the fee. There is no current anticipated timeline for submission to the Regulator; however, an application to establish a GCP credit and cost mechanism will</p> |

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| | <p>occur before commercial operation of suppliers. Additional information will be communicated to Participants as this application moves forward.</p> <p>The output-based pricing system for carbon in Nova Scotia is yet to be finalized and the regulations published. These will need to be finalized and passed, before NSPI will submit an application to the Regulator.</p> |
| <p>In the webinar, you referred to a 90% accuracy level for future electricity consumption needs. What does this mean?</p> | <p>The request for a 90% probability of your future electricity needs as an organization as applied for within the program. The application, in its essence, is a snapshot in time. We understand that you're not going to get your electricity consumption over the next 10-25 years exactly right, and that is fine, we just ask that applicants ensure they've thought out the future electricity needs and are applying for what they predict the needs to be with a high level of accuracy.</p> <p>The Participant Agreement may include terms or conditions that apply in situations where a participant's consumption over time is significantly different than their requested subscription.</p> |
| <p>Is all of the information included in the GCP spreadsheet required and do we have to use the GCP spreadsheet? Or can we use our own spreadsheet?</p> | <p>The spreadsheet sample provided is for information purposes only and a guide to help all applicants collect and verify their energy consumption data with NSPI. An applicant can use the exact same template or any format they are comfortable with so far as it has the relevant information such as account numbers, meter numbers, service address etc.</p> <p>Please refer to Sections 2.3.1 and 2.3.2 of the Application Guide for detailed minimum requirements for Nova Scotia Power to conduct the data verification process of the application.</p> |
| <p>Will there be support provided by NSPI staff to determine all existing NSP accounts and consumption for a particular customer?</p> | <p>Yes, the Customer Solutions team at Nova Scotia Power are prepared to assist with the data verification work for all applicants. Applicants can initiate this work by contacting Nova Scotia Power at greenchoice@nspower.ca. To conduct the data verification work, applicants may either provide their consumption data to Nova Scotia Power for each of the three years (i.e. 2021, 2022, 2023) or request that Nova Scotia Power pull the consumption data. In both instances, your request to Nova Scotia Power must include the following information for each facility:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all NSPI account numbers; • all NSPI meter numbers; |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • full service address; • name of company/customer name, and; • all account holders/or names of authorized contacts. <p>Requests for data verification as part of the application must be made to Nova Scotia Power by 16 February 2024. Please also refer to Sections 2.3.1 and 2.3.2 of the Application Guide for more details.</p> |
| <p>Is 120% for the aggregate partnership as a whole or by individual partner in the aggregation?</p> | <p>Each partner within the aggregate partnership might have different consumption needs and therefore all do not have to subscribe to 120%.</p> |
| <p>If you are part of a joint/aggregate submission, do all participants have to submit their data for NSP for verification at the same time?</p> | <p>No, NSPI will work with each entity on an individual basis, or as a group. If you are working with NSPI on an individual basis, the final consumption sign off will be individual as well. Data will only be consolidated with proper legal documentation or authorization in place.</p> <p>Please refer to Sections 2.3.1 and 2.3.2 of the Application Guide for more details.</p> |
| <p>Can you speak to why the forecast carbon cost range is low prior to 2030, when coal is still expected to be generating almost 2 TWh, as well as why the forecast shows higher amounts post-2030, when coal is expected to be retired in the scenario you referenced from the evergreen IRP?</p> | <p>As we approach 2030, there are a few factors impacting the carbon cost.</p> <p>First, the performance standards for coal and other fuel types (gas, oil) become more stringent as we approach 2030, meaning that more of our generation from these sources will be subject to carbon tax.</p> <p>Second, the carbon tax increases annually by \$15/MWh (starting at \$65/MWh in 2023 and increasing to \$170/MWh in 2030) and NSPI has assumed that this price increases 2% annually beyond 2030.</p> <p>Third, we're seeing significant electricity load growth to 2030 and beyond. So, although we're phasing out coal and reducing our generation from oil and gas generating resources, we are paying more carbon tax to support the generation required to meet load growth.</p> |
| <p>If we are submitting one application as an aggregate partnership should our name reflect this?</p> | <p>Yes, if the aggregate partnership has named itself within its partnership agreement documents that name may be used in your application to refer to the aggregate partnership. Include the legal names of all partners in the aggregate in your application as well. Please refer to section 5e of the GCP regulations and section 5 of the application guide for further guidance as needed.</p> |

Program Mechanics

| Question | Answer |
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| <p>Can you confirm that pricing for a specific amount of electricity would be fixed over the term of our commitment (5, 10, up to 25 yrs) and that would be designated to green energy that the Province will implement in partnership of contract bidders for projects?</p> | <p>The \$1 / MWh program cost capped at a total of \$100,000 per participant per year is intended to be fixed for the program duration; however, the Minister may review the program within 5 years of the program launch. Engagement with current and interested participants would occur before any regulatory changes were enacted.</p> |
| <p>Is there a requirement to make up front investments, capital, or other in kind value?</p> | <p>Participants will not be required to invest upfront capital, or any costs associated with participation in the program. The only cost to participants is the administrative fee, which comes into effect once the subscribed projects achieve commercial operation.</p> |
| <p>Can participants increase enrollment after their initial subscription?</p> | <p>Participants may request to increase enrollment, but there is no guarantee the request will be accepted given program capacity limits.</p> |
| <p>How will the program administration fee of \$1/ MWh, to a cap of \$100,000 per participant, be applied to the GoC as an entity, keeping in mind that each participating department, agency and Crown Corp will need to sign its own participant agreement?</p> | <p>The fees will be applied per participant agreement signed with NSP. If each separate department, agency, crown corporation or authority signs separate agreements then the fees will apply to each organization as they are billed.</p> <p>Aggregations of separate or different public institutions will operate the same under the same terms and conditions, including subscription term.</p> |
| <p>Will there be a cap on the volume adjustments (up and down) available to participants each year?</p> | <p>Participants can request to adjust their subscription size once a year, if needed; however, there is no guarantee that capacity will be available for increases in subscription size. Availability is subject to other participants reducing their own subscription size, cancelling their subscription, or not extending their subscription.</p> |
| <p>Would real-time production of renewable assets impact delivery of electricity to our facility?</p> | <p>Real-time generation of renewable assets will not impact the reliability of service to customers.</p> |

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| <p>Are there advantages of longer term lengths?</p> | <p>Longer term lengths secure renewable capacity for participants, enabling them to meet their goals. Signing up now for the full term of 25 years will enable participants to meet their goals over that time period. There are no guarantees that an additional intake round of Green Choice will be conducted should program capacity be reached in the first round, and participants enrolled are not guaranteed any additional subscription volume outside of the original request.</p> |
| <p>Will the general rate base be subsidizing GCP participants?</p> | <p>No, all ratepayers, not just GCP participants, will benefit from the cost savings anticipated by the addition of renewable energy on the grid. Program costs and benefits will be netted in the background to participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - \$1 / MWh administration fee for participants captures administrative and system costs to run the program - The avoided upward rate pressure from carbon compliance also benefits all rate payers. - Only participants pay the administrative fee and are exempt from paying the direct carbon compliance costs for the delivered energy. |
| <p>Is the fee capped or the production volume also, ie. can a party use 120,000 MWh and the fee is only \$100,000?</p> | <p>The administrative fee is capped at \$100,000 per participant per year, but production is not. A participant with 120,000 MWh of delivered energy over the course of the year would cap its administration fee at \$100,000 but continue to receive green electricity. The fee is meant to capture the administrative costs associated with the utility in delivering the program.</p> |
| <p>Can you share the reasoning behind the \$100,000? Is this just because administrative costs aren't expected to exceed this amount?</p> | <p>Administrative costs are not expected to exceed this amount.</p> |
| <p>Is the GCP credit able to exceed the GCP cost?</p> | <p>Yes, the carbon credit is able to exceed the administration fee.</p> |

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| <p>Why do only participants in the program get to avoid carbon tax payments?</p> | <p>For the subscribed, delivered energy from GCP projects, Participants are not receiving electricity service from fossil fuel sources, and the credit applied is based on the avoidance of payment for compliance costs. The program participation is capped at 350 MW. Participants in the program are drivers behind new renewable energy projects being built to supply them with renewable electricity. The Program cap helps to limit and mitigate any potential impacts to non-participating ratepayers. All ratepayers benefit from the transition of the system from fossil fuels to lower cost renewable energy and helps to mitigate upwards rate pressures from carbon pricing as more renewable energy is built to generate electricity replacing fossil fuel sources.</p> |
| <p>It looks like participants will be getting a greater discount on their electricity bills than they are paying in costs. Is this true?</p> | <p>As mentioned, the pricing will vary greatly from participant-to-participant year to year. The aim of the program is for participant electricity bills to be cost-neutral with existing bills (no additional cost or discount); however, participants may receive a small discount based on the projected carbon compliance costs that Participants are exempt from paying. The Minister must review the Program, including any costs or credits, by August 29, 2028.</p> |
| <p>It is possible for Participants to purchase any excess RECs to meet climate change commitments?</p> | <p>Nova Scotia Power will register and immediately retire all renewable energy certificates (RECs) on behalf of subscribed GCP Participants. By immediately retiring RECs, they are no longer available for any future transactions. However, should there be excess generation, that is unsubscribed, resulting in a higher number of renewable attributes generated than Participants are subscribed to, Nova Scotia Power will continue to count this generation toward its Renewable Electricity Standard for the benefit of all customers. No purchase or sale transactions for RECs generated as part of the GCP will occur, other than the registration and retirement of RECs on behalf of the subscribed Participant(s).</p> |
| <p>How likely is it for a participant to get all of the subscription they ask for?</p> | <p>NRR will do it's best to accommodate as many applicants as possible for their full request submitted in their applications; however, in the instance where the program is oversubscribed, some modifications may need to be made to accommodate as many applicants as possible. NRR would engage with those applicants to determine any suggested modifications to ensure it remains in line with the needs of the organization. Some adjustment may consider 100% match for all applicants instead of any requests above 100%; if participants have phased emissions reductions over a long period of time, the program may accept the near-terms portions and defer later term portions of their request (e.g., 80% reduction by 2030; net-zero by 2050). The guide includes some information on how these decisions are likely to be considered by the Minister. NRR will engage with applicants if adjustments are needed to reach a compromise</p> |

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| <p>After I've been accepted into the program by the Minister, what happens then?</p> | <p>Participants will receive a letter from the Minister confirming your application acceptance, deferral or rejection currently anticipated for May 8, 2024. Following this, Participants will continue to be engaged in the development of the participant agreement terms and conditions and can execute the agreement with NSPI.</p> <p>The renewable electricity projects RFP are currently open for bids and close in June 2024. Awards to selected projects are anticipated to be announced in September 2024 with execution of the contracts anticipated by no later than December 2024. Updates will be provided through likely email, media release and on the website.</p> |
| <p>Is it possible to include buildings that are likely to be retired or decommissioned later in the term of the agreement and replace them with new buildings?</p> | <p>Yes, these kinds of adjustments are permitted within the amendments allowed in the Participant Agreements. Where the new buildings may have similar electricity consumption needs to the retired facilities this can be relatively easily accommodated, where additional capacity may be required, this will be reliant on available electricity to reallocate to these new buildings.</p> |

Participant Application

| Question | Answer |
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| <p>Would a Hydrogen producing company be able to claim energy purchased through the GCP?</p> | <p>Hydrogen production companies are not eligible to participate in the GCP.</p> |
| <p>The total percentage capacity for application – how do I calculate this? What should I consider? And what are the limits?</p> | <p>Applicants may apply for up to 120% of their verified electricity consumption. This is calculated by the greater of annual, or three-year average annual, electricity consumption verified by NSPI. There are instances where the Minister may consider a request above this amount, but those will be determined on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p>Example: The greater of your verified electricity consumption was in 2023 at 75,000 MWh/year and this is the baseline amount you could subscribe to the program at 100%. If your estimated growth over the term of your subscription is in excess of that 100% baseline, then you can apply for up to 120% of your baseline consumption.</p> <p>$75,000 \times 120\% = 90,000 \text{ MWh}$.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applicants may apply for up to 105% of their current verified electricity consumption without providing any additional details. This allows for any variation year to year between the current consumption and future seasonal variation. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any requests for applicants above 105% of their current annual electricity consumption based on their verified electricity account information provided, must also be accompanied with documentation that supports the request above 105%. This may include project plans for expansion, increased electricity consumption through electrifying heating, installing electric vehicle chargers, or new buildings, or expansions to existing buildings. A completed energy model must be included for all requests above 105% capacity to demonstrate detailed analysis of projected electricity consumption for the term of your subscription. • Only new buildings or expansions planned to be built and consuming the increased amount of electricity by December 31, 2028 are permitted to be included. December 31, 2028 is commercial operation date for the renewable energy projects being procured for the Green Choice Program portfolio, and is intended to align consumption and generation. • It's up to each applicant(s) to conduct some analysis to discover the future electricity needs of their organization(s) by thinking ahead to understand organizational needs and plans as it relates to electricity consumption. |
| <p>How do I forecast or consider what quantity of electricity to apply for under the program?</p> | <p>Questions to guide your plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do we plan to implement any energy conservation measures through retrofits or energy efficiency measures? If yes, be sure to anticipate those impacts on future consumption. • Do you plan to switch your source of heating from oil/gas to electric? If yes, include those plans in future forecasts. • Do you have plans to install on-site electric vehicle chargers or any other equipment that would increase your on-site electricity consumption? • Any new buildings or expansions planned by 2028? Are you contemplating building to passive house or net-zero standards? If so, include this info in your modeling. • Do you plan to install any direct renewable energy on site or participate in any other direct renewable energy programs or contracts? If so, then the energy consumption met by those direct renewable energy projects should be excluded from your projected consumption in the future. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you are applying to one or more programs (i.e. GCP, Community Solar, etc.) you should be clear in your application that X amount of electricity is being applied for under another program and has not been included in the application. An applicant to GCP cannot apply for the same building or meter under both programs. Decisions on how to divide facilities and meters between multiple programs should be made in advance of your application to GCP. Only include those buildings or meters which are planned to be subscribed to for GCP. • In the instance one or more buildings are already supplied by direct renewable electricity contracts or installs, that amount of energy that is met by that generation asset should not be included in your application. • We understand that a lot of these kinds of projections may not be known exactly for the next 25 years. The best applicants can do is make an educated guess and examine the future electricity needs and model them to the best of their ability. |
| <p>For the energy model information there are no stipulations so we assume we can use standard commercial products such as RET screens.</p> | <p>Yes, you are permitted to RET Screen or any other product familiar to you, but it must provide estimated annual electricity consumption. Benchmarking or other methods do not qualify as modeling. Advanced projected electricity growth and decline over the period of the subscription should be contemplated and modelled in advance of application to understand the amount required.</p> |
| <p>If the primary contact used for the GCP application is an authorized contact for the organization's NSPI accounts, is any further documentation required with the application?</p> | <p>If the person requesting NSPI data verification is an authorized contact (either primary or secondary) on all of the accounts for which data verification is requested there is no need to include this letter. If they are not, the letter should include, at a minimum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The list of all facilities and account numbers for which data verification is being requested. • The name of the person leading the application for the Green Choice Program on behalf of the organization applying to the program • Written authorization for the person leading the application process (named as part of the bullet above) to access NSPI account information for the purposes of the Green Choice Program application intake processes on behalf of the organization and all facilities for which it is applying. • Must be signed by duly authorized officer(s) or authorized contact(s) of the account(s) or organization. |

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| | Please also refer to Sections 2.3.1 and 2.3.2 of the Application Guide for more details. |
| <p>My organization is exploring options through other programs such as Community Solar, etc. How should we consider and capture this information in our application to GCP?</p> | <p>That’s great! One of the key policies within the Clean Energy Branch at NRR is to ensure all electricity customers in Nova Scotia can choose clean, green electricity. GCP provides one such opportunity, but there are many more which may be better or complimentary fit for your organization. Please apply to those programs and plan to participate in them where it makes sense to you.</p> <p>For the Green Choice Program, you will need to decide in advance of your application which facilities, meters and overall total portion of your total electricity consumption will be applied for with GCP, and which ones will be “set-aside” for other programs. Please be sure to mention this in your application or email to us to let us know this is your plan. For example, if your organization has 6 facilities located throughout Nova Scotia, and you decide that 2/6 facilities will participate in Renewable to Retail, those same facilities, accounts or meters cannot also participate in GCP.</p> <p>Your electricity consumption at one facility under one single account or meter cannot be split across multiple programs. Example – Account 123456-0; meter number 123456 for facility located at 555 Water Street, New Minas consumes 12,000 MWh per year. You cannot request that 7,000 MWh be served by GCP and 5,000 MWh be served by Renewable to Retail for that account.</p> |
| <p>What if I don’t have exact, detailed plans for the facilities I know are likely to be built before 2028? How should I include that information in my application?</p> | <p>The application does require energy modelling details for any known electricity consumption requests for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - for new buildings or expansions to existing buildings, or - any requests above 105% of your current electricity consumption. <p>Benchmarking, or other forms of forecasting will not be sufficient to demonstrate forecasted electricity consumption within a range that is probable for the term of participation. Some adjustments may be possible once applicants are subscribed to the program, but increases in electricity consumption are likely limited.</p> <p>There are many other options and tools available to interested participants to help them achieve their emissions reductions targets over the next 25 years. Some plans for expansion, decommissioning of buildings, electricity growth etc. cannot be known today. As those plans are solidified, we at NRR can help you to explore what options are best for you at that time.</p> |

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| Is there a cap on what capacity can be included in the application? | The subscription is capped at 120% but it's advisable not to over or underestimate subscription consumption. There is no MWh cap per application. |
| What are the benefits and harms to subscribing for 25 years or re-subscribing every 5 years? | None that are meant as incentives or penalties. However, if this is a long-term commitment, we'd recommend participants sign up for the full 25-years. The agreements allow for termination. The Minister will review the program by August 2028, this may include any cost/credit structure set in Regulation should there be evidence of the need for substantial adjustments. |
| Who gets selected for subscription first when projects come online? | Participants will be prioritized based on near-term emissions reduction targets that are publicly stated as part of their corporate climate change plan or environmental, sustainable and governance goals for the organization. As an example, if your organization has a requirement for 100% of your electricity to come from emissions free sources by 2025 then you will receive pro-rata priority with any other participants on the same timelines. As projects become operational over the development period the first electrons will be allocated to you based on your priority status. All others will continue to benefit based on their priority status until the full portfolio of renewable energy projects is operating. |

Participant Agreement Terms

| Question | Answer |
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| What's the flexibility in changing intended subscribed load after application or after Participant Agreement execution? | <p>Applicants are responsible for submitting quality applications that consider future electricity consumption needs. Applicants may request to withdraw your application or reduce your requested subscription amount by no later than April 17th. No requests will be considered following this date.</p> <p>Participant Agreements will allow for amendments and adjustment over time; however, it may also include penalties for significant adjustments to electricity consumption either through reduction or increase. An increase is only possible where program capacity may allow.</p> |

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| <p>Is there a penalty for changing load?</p> | <p>Not for reasonable adjustments over time. There are several check points throughout the term of your subscription and amendments are permitted within the terms and conditions in the agreement; however, the agreements may include a penalty for any significant adjustments that deviate from the original request to accommodate administrative burden to reallocate that electricity to other participants or open another application process. Termination and deciding not to renew your terms are permitted within the contract with sufficient notice in writing. Requesting more capacity to be allocated to you over the term of your subscription is subject to capacity being available within the program to reallocate to existing participants.</p> |
| <p>Under what circumstances would additional program capacity be available to reallocate to participants who are requesting additional subscription amounts?</p> | <p>As participants either terminate their subscription, or make reductions to their subscription volume over time, or choose not to renew their subscription for additional term some capacity may free up that can be reallocated to other participants in the program. How this reallocation process will work is yet to be determined, but it is done on a firstcome, first-served basis.</p> |

RECs

| Question | Answer |
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| <p>RECs will be new wind generation retired by NSPI who has PPA agreements with each developer, is there any possibility that NSPI commits arbitrage with the RECs?</p> | <p>NSPI is regulated to provide the GCP RECs to subscribed customers within the program and may not replace them with renewable energy that was not selected outside of the program's portfolio.</p> |
| <p>Will the RECs be from the correct year?</p> | <p>Yes, NSPI is required to report annually, in September, on the RECs registered and retired through GCP. NSPI intends to register and retire RECs on an annual, or more frequent, basis to ensure that all RECs have clear and traceable origination. Further, NSPI intends to immediately retire RECs upon upload of generation, on an annual or more frequent basis, and follow best practice principles as set out through the internationally recognized organization for which NSPI will conduct REC processes. More detailed information on this process will be provided in the Participant Agreements.</p> |

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| <p>What REC tracking system do you plan to use and do participants need to subscribe to it to see the RECs on their account?</p> | <p>As program administrator, NSPI will be registering and retiring RECs on behalf of customers. No subscription or account to the internationally recognized organization is required for customers. NSPI will ensure that customers receive confirmation of their registered and retired RECs on an annual, or more frequent, basis. NSPI is currently implementing an internationally recognized REC tracking system that has been adopted in several markets in North America. The organization, like others in the REC market, publishes public reports of REC transactions and follows best practice protocols. As soon as the contract execution with NSPI's internationally recognized organization is complete, NSPI will share more details and information on the organization.</p> |
| <p>Is this REC registry audited by a third party to guarantee there is no double counting of RECs?</p> | <p>Yes, they are. More details will come out when the specific vendor details are finalized and public. NSPI intends to register and then immediately retire the RECs and follow best practice protocols. None of the RECs will be eligible for certification so immediate retirement is an important practice to provide clear and traceable origination.</p> |

Aggregate Partnerships

| Question | Answer |
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| <p>If applying as an aggregate partnership or as the lead for one or more segments of a public institution, who should be the primary and secondary contacts? How would this work for accessing electricity account information across a large organization or collective?</p> | <p>As an aggregate, the partnership should designate a lead and identify the primary contacts for the purpose of this application. They should be authorized to communicate decisions as it relates to the partnership's participation in the program. The contact may be internal to the organization(s), or an external consultant hired to support your application.</p> <p>Regarding access to Nova Scotia Power customer account information, please include any known authorized contacts on the accounts, which may vary by facility. Due to protection of privacy laws, NSPI will only provide the requested account information to authorized contacts or the electricity account holder for the accounts and/or meters the data is requested. This includes the verification of account information for the purpose of applying to the Green Choice Program.</p> <p>Existing authorized contacts may add you as an authorized contact on the account for access purposes; however, it is encouraged to reach out to Nova Scotia Power at greenchoice@nspower.ca as soon as possible in the application process to work through the details of customer account access and data verification. Details on authorization, including for aggregate applicants, are available in Sections 2.3.1 and 2.3.2 of the Application Guide.</p> |

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| <p>In an aggregate partnership, each partner may have differing climate change commitments or timelines. How should we provide this information in the application?</p> | <p>Each partner in the aggregate partnership must attach a copy of climate and/or emission reduction targets and timelines to the application. A summary of each partner's commitments and timelines should be provided in the relevant section in the application.</p> |
| <p>In an aggregate partnership, defining who has legal authority to act on behalf of others may be challenging.</p> | <p>Understandable that one entity or consultant may not have legal authority to act on behalf of others; however, it should be clear in any partnership agreements where the designated representative has authority to act and where it does not. It's helpful to state they have</p> |
| <p>What parameters should that include?</p> | <p>authority to apply and proceed with account verification, and to communicate with NRR and NSPI for the purposes of application and enrollment in the program.</p> <p>Each partner can execute a separate Participant Agreement; however, the term length must remain the same across all partners in the aggregate partnership.</p> <p>The purpose of including signatures in the application is to ensure that those with authority to bind the organization are aware of the application and prepared to execute the agreements should the applicant be selected as a participant.</p> |
| <p>Are there any exceptions to the Participant aggregate minimum numbers (e.g., 10,000 MWh or 1,000 MWh per aggregate partner)?</p> | <p>Unfortunately, no. The figures are captured in Regulation and cannot be modified. No exceptions are possible.</p> |

Regulations

| Question | Answer |
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| <p>Is there an anticipated amount of MW that will be sought after in the upcoming RFP that Coho will be soliciting bids for? Was this amount chosen based on anticipated participant consumption, or is it a set limit based on something else?</p> | <p>The Program capacity is 350 MW or approximately 1500 gigawatt hours (of wind). The RFP issued to support the Program is for a target of 1500 GWh or up to a maximum of 2,000 GWh. This assumes that some projects awarded may not proceed to get built, and some may be selected to provide electricity to all rate payers, not just participants in the Green Choice Program.</p> <p>The Program cap is set in Regulation and is based on preliminary program interest.</p> |

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| As I understand the Province has a goal of reaching an 80% clean grid by 2030, what percentage of the green choice will contribute to that goal? | The additional renewable energy sourced will contribute to approximately 10% of the 80% goal. |
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GCP Developer RFP

| Question | Answer |
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| When will energy become available/ what is the projected commercial operation? | Projects are expected to become operational between 2027 and 2028. The commercial operation date in the RFP and PPA are for December 31, 2028. |
| What is the projected renewable asset mix? | The RFP will solicit bids for both wind and solar projects; however, the final portfolio will depend on how proposals perform against criteria outlined in the RFP. |
| Is it anticipated that there will be future procurement rounds of the GCP? And when are those procurement rounds anticipated to take place? | Please see our website for procurement timeline. Only one GCP procurement is currently planned aligning with the maximum program capacity of 350 MW. However, should program capacity change in the future, additional rounds may be possible. |
| Where do the renewables come from? Do they come from private generation? | Renewables assets will be sourced from new projects built in Nova Scotia to meet your electricity consumption needs. The RFP for the procurement is posted on the GCP website and available to review. https://novascotiagcp.com/proponent-documents |
| How is the price between NSPI and the developer under the PPA determined? | Proponents will submit an Energy Rate in their RFP project proposal bid, this price will then be built into the PPA executed between successful proponents and NSPI. There is some adjustment permitted within the terms of the RFP and PPA that consider inflation and federal funding. |