

Renewables Obligation

FAQ

www.ofgem.gov.uk

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This document is a brief overview of what the Renewables Obligation (RO) scheme is, how to submit an application and information about Renewables Obligations Certificates (ROCs).

What is the Renewables Obligation (RO)?

The Renewables Obligation is one of the main government support mechanisms for large-scale renewable electricity generating stations in the UK. It puts an obligation on licensed electricity suppliers to source more of the electricity they supply from renewable generation.

This obligation can be met by presenting ROCs by paying into a buy-out fund or a combination of the two. Operators of renewable generating stations can be issued with ROCs for the electricity they generate by getting their generating station accredited and submitting generation data to us. See our [guidance](#) for more information.

What is Ofgem's role?

We administer the scheme, which involves performing several statutory duties. These include granting accreditation to eligible generating stations, issuing and revoking ROCs and publishing an annual report.

Applicants must meet certain eligibility criteria to be granted accreditation and to be issued with ROCs. It is not our role to interpret legislation on your behalf, but we have published a number of guidance documents and have an enquiry email and phone line to help you through the process. If you are in doubt over whether your station is eligible, we encourage you to seek independent advice to help understand how the legislation applies to you. We are also unable to comment on future policy amendments or on speculative enquiries.

Note that the policy underpinning the RO scheme is set by the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC), Scottish government and, for Northern Ireland, by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (DETI). We do not have any remit over the policy aspects of the scheme.

Accounts

Before you can complete an accreditation application and submit it to us, you will need to create an account on the [Renewables and CHP Register](#) (the Register).

What sort of account do I need?

Account type	Description
Agent	This account is for an agent appointed to act on behalf of an operator/s of a generating station/s with a declared net capacity (DNC) of 50kW or less. ROCs are issued to the agent and all of our contact will be directly with them. Only agents should use this type of account. If you wish to apply through an agent, please contact them directly as you will not need to create an account.
Generator	This account is for the operator of a renewable generating station to use. This account will let the user apply for/manage accreditation, submit/manage electricity generation data and receive/transfer renewable certificates. It will also require the authorised signatory of the account – the “super user” – to make legal declarations.
Participant	This account is for someone involved in the scheme that needs access to the Register. This account lets the user transfer certificates but does not allow them to apply for accreditation under the scheme or submit data to us.
Supplier	This account is for licensed electricity suppliers in the UK. RO legislation puts an obligation on these suppliers to supply a proportion of their electricity from renewable sources. This account will enable users to transfer ROCs and meet their compliance obligations.

How do I set up an account?

- > Go to the [Renewables and CHP Register](#) homepage.
- > Select "Register". You will be asked questions about your organisation. Please keep a note of the user and account names as you will need this information later.
- > If you are registering as a company, we will require an approved letter of authorisation in order to activate your account. This must be on company headed paper and must be signed by the appropriate senior member of your organisation (CEO, director, company secretary etc). All references to the 'Name of Organisation/Name of Participant' should refer to the name of the organisation as registered during the account registration process. The template is available on our [website](#).
- > We will issue a password as soon as the account has been approved – this normally takes one working day, providing the letter is correct.

If you need any further information, please use the [account user guide](#).

How do I change the super user?

To change the super user of an account, we will need a new letter of authorisation appointing a new super user, emailed to renewable@ofgem.gov.uk. Please note that all references to the name of the participant/organisation will need to refer to the new super user. Once we have changed the super user, we will update the username on the account.

If the company name has changed, you will need to provide us with a 'change of company name' certificate and follow the same steps.

How do I add another user to my account?

Anyone accessing the Register must do so using their own login details. Using another person's login details contravenes the terms and conditions of the Register. The account super user (whoever registered the account initially) can add as many named users (or "normal" users) as they wish.

To add a user to your account:

- > Click on the "My Account" tab.
- > Click "Add New Contact"
- > Insert the details of the new user
- > Click "Submit"
- > Select which permissions the new user should have
- > Click "Save"
- > The new user will then receive email confirmation of their login details

How do I receive email notifications from the Register?

We recommend that you set up email notifications on your account so you are made aware of important updates relating to certificates, declarations, output data and accreditation applications. This will also ensure you are alerted if we raise a query via the Register.

To set up email notifications:

- > Click on the "My Account" tab.
- > At the bottom of "Edit Details", click the "Email Notifications" button
- > Select the area that you wish to set up email notifications for
- > Tick the notifications you wish to receive
- > Click "Update" once you have finished in that area
- > Now you can repeat steps 3 – 5 for other areas

Applications

What type of application should I make?

A full accreditation application should be made for generating stations which have either been commissioned or are due to be commissioned within the next two months. Preliminary accreditation applications are for proposed generating stations that are more than two months away from commissioning, but that have the necessary planning permission in place. Preliminary accreditation is not a prerequisite for applying for full accreditation.

How do I create an application?

- > Go to the "Accreditation" tab
- > Click "Apply for New Accreditation" and fill in each answer
- > Upload any necessary documentation and click "Submit your Application" once all the answers have been filled in
- > The super user must then agree the declarations for the application
- > You will receive an email to say the application has been received and is in review

If the declarations are not agreed we will not receive the application and it will remain 'unsubmitted' in your account.

We will raise queries via the Register if something is unclear or if we need more information. Please ensure you provide as much information as possible to help us progress the application as quickly as we can. Note that you may amend your answers at any time until the application is approved, provided the application is 'With applicant'. If it is 'In review', you will need to contact us and ask us to raise a query on the application.

How do I amend my answers?

Answering the queries we raise on an application will not update the application itself. Once you have responded to the queries you will have to edit and resubmit the application:

- > A new button "Edit My Applications" will appear below the queries. Click this and you will be taken through to the application itself.
- > Navigate through the application by clicking "Next" or "Previous" and amend the questions by clicking "Edit".
- > Once finished, click "Next" all the way through the application until a "Resubmit your Application" button appears. Click this.
- > A review screen will then show you the changes you've made. Scroll to the bottom and then click "Submit Response".
- > Please check to see if there are any declarations that need agreeing under the "Declarations" tab. If there are, these need to be agreed before the application will come back into review with us.

What is meant by "commissioned"?

In order to be accredited under the scheme, a station must be commissioned. This is defined in legislation as: "Commissioned", in relation to a generating station, means the completion of such procedures and tests in relation to that station as constitute, at the time they are undertaken, the usual industry standards and practices for commissioning that type of generating station in order to demonstrate that the generating station is capable of commercial operation.

During the accreditation process, we will ask you to give us evidence that your station has been commissioned. You can find out more about this in [Essential guide to commissioning](#).

How do I submit multiple documents?

You can only submit single documents via the Register, so you may wish to email the documents to us. Email renewable@ofgem.gov.uk, stating the name of the generating station they relate to.

Our email system can only receive messages up to 20MB. If the information you need to send is larger than this please contact the team to discuss how to submit it.

ROCs

When will I receive my ROCs?

You can find our ROC issue schedule [here](#). If the data is not submitted before two months after the month of generation, it will be considered late and, if issued, these certificates will fall outside of the issue schedule.

How many ROCs will I get?

This depends on a number of factors. Once accreditation has been granted, the support level that applies to accredited stations will generally remain unchanged for 20 years. The number of ROCs you receive will depend on the technology used, where your station is located, its installed capacity, when it was commissioned and the amount of electricity it generates.

How much are ROCs worth and what will be the value of the ROCs I receive?

Ofgem has no role in setting the value of a ROC. ROCs are tradable and have no fixed price. The amount paid for a ROC is a matter for negotiation between you and whoever buys them from you.

More information

Please ensure you read our [guidance](#) and the information on our [website](#) before applying. You can email any queries to renewable@ofgem.gov.uk or phone 020 7901 7310 (option 2).