

Glossary

Plain-English translations of the terms used around renewable energy projects

Power and energy

MW / GW — megawatt / gigawatt, units of capacity (rate of generation); a large data centre draws tens to hundreds of MW. **MWh / GWh** — energy delivered over time; a battery's storage is quoted this way. **Capacity factor** — the share of maximum possible output a generator actually produces over a year (wind and solar are typically 25–45%). **Curtailement** — deliberately reducing a generator's output when the grid can't take it. **VRE** — variable renewable energy: wind and solar, whose output follows weather.

Keeping the lights on

Firming — backing variable generation with storage or flexible plant so supply is dependable. **Dispatchable** — generation or storage (or flexible demand) that can be scheduled on command. **BESS** — battery energy storage system (sheet 07). **Pumped hydro** — storing energy by pumping water uphill (sheet 06). **Grid-forming inverter** — battery/solar electronics that provide the stability services older grids got from spinning generators. **System strength / inertia** — the grid's resistance to sudden disturbance.

Plans, schemes and zones

ISP — AEMO's Integrated System Plan, the whole-of-system roadmap (sheet 02). **CIS** — the Capacity Investment Scheme, federal underwriting tenders (sheet 03). **REZ** — Renewable Energy Zone, a declared region for coordinated development (sheet 09). **AEMO / AEMC / AER** — the operator, rule-maker and regulator of the electricity system (sheet 01). **PPA** — power purchase agreement, a long-term contract to buy a project's output; how data centres buy clean energy.

Project language decoded

'Underwriting' — a government revenue floor that makes a project financeable; not a grant and not an approval. **'Financial close / FID'** — the moment money is committed; before it, everything is provisional. **'Benefit sharing'** — payments and programs for hosting communities (sheet 11); check binding, sized, governed, durable. **'Repowering'** — replacing equipment at end of life with newer technology on the same site; needs fresh approval. **'Behind the meter'** — generation or batteries on the customer's side of the connection, e.g. inside a data centre site.

Want to know more? See also the connectivity series glossary (sheet 13) for transmission and easement terms and the data-centre series glossary (sheet 26) for computing terms. This sheet is general information, not legal or planning advice; a specific proposal is confirmed by qualified assessment.