

CROWBERRY CONSULTING
Environment, Ethics and Corporate Responsibility Management

CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme FAQs



Image from Instant Energy.

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What Is It?

The [CRC](#) is a mandatory scheme aimed at improving energy efficiency and cutting emissions in large public and private sector organisations, introduced in April 2010 and amended in 2014. Participants include supermarkets, water companies, banks and local authorities. It has been estimated that the scheme will reduce carbon emissions by 1.2 million tonnes of carbon per year by 2020.

The decision has been made to close this scheme in the compliance year 2018/19.

The [CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme](#) was published in the summer of 2012 and is set to be closed by the year 2019. The Government aims are to: reduce the number of fuels covered by the scheme, move to fixed price allowance sales, simplify the organisational rules and make qualification processes easier.

How Does it Affect my Organisation?

Your organisation will qualify if during the 2008 calendar year it had:

1. At least one half-hourly electricity meter (HHM) settled on the half-hourly market across the whole organisation.
2. A total half-hourly electricity consumption over 6,000 megawatt-hours (MWh) once electricity used for transport and domestic accommodation has been excluded.

(NOTE: if your organisation has no half-hourly meters settled on the half-hourly market, it does not qualify for full participation in the scheme. Under the new proposals, this two-step process would be abolished in favour of participants just having to prove they use a certain amount of electricity from the qualifying meter)

Time periods corresponding to qualification, registration and footprinting for the introductory and second phases:

- Phase 1 (introductory phase):
 - Qualification period: 1 January 2008 - 31 December 2008
 - Registration period: 1 April 2010 - 30 September 2010
 - Footprint year: 1 April 2010 - 31 March 2011
 - Annual reporting years: 1 April 2010 - 31 March 2011; 1 April 2011 - 31 March 2012; 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013
- Phase 2:
 - Qualification period: 1 April 2012 - 31 March 2013
 - Registration period: 1 April 2013 - 30 September 2013
 - Footprint year: 1 April 2013 - 31 March 2014
 - Annual reporting years: 1 April 2013 - 31 March 2014; 1 April 2014 - 31 March 2015; 1 April 2015 - 31 March 2016; 1 April 2016 - 31 March 2017; 1 April 2017 - 31 March 2018; 1 April 2018 - 31 March 2019. After this date the scheme will be closed.

If, during the qualification period, your organisation had at least one half-hourly meter settled on the half-hourly market, but the total annual electricity consumption through all half-hourly meters is less than 6,000MWh, the organisation had to make an Information Disclosure via the online CRC Registry.

Flowchart of the Qualification Process for the CRC Scheme.

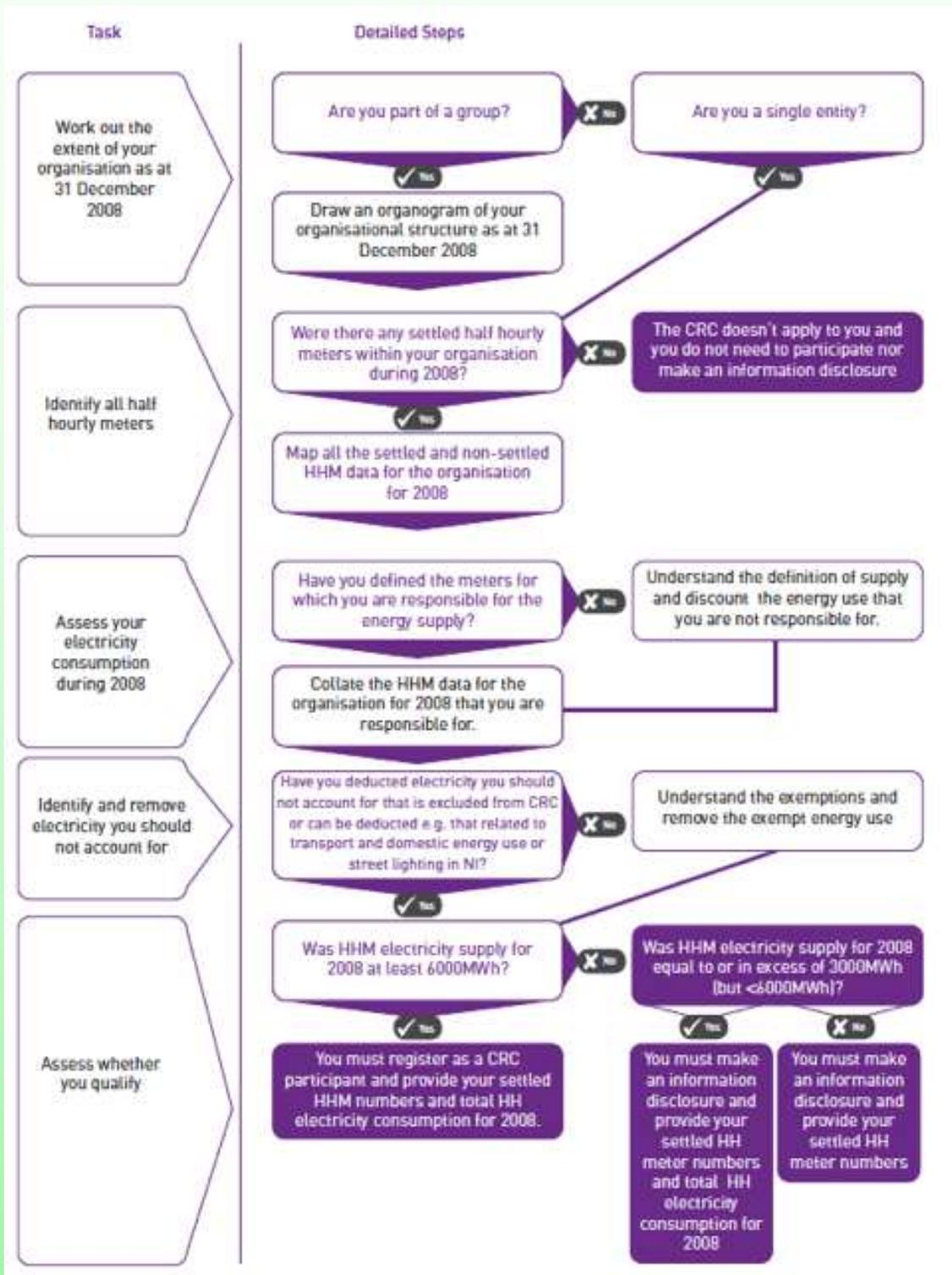


Image from RS Renewables Ltd.

How can I best comply with the [CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme Order 2010](#)?

During a typical year in the CRC scheme your organisation will need to:

- Collate your applicable energy supplies.
- Report your CRC supplies to us between April and the last working day in July each year.
- Purchase and surrender allowances equivalent to your CRC emissions.
- Keep records of your supplies and other relevant information in your evidence pack.
- Review your performance against other CRC participants in the performance tables.
- Keep the Environment Agency up to date with any changes affecting your organisation.

Your organisation may be able to claim for exemption from the CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme if it has a sufficient amount of its emissions covered by a Climate Change Agreement (CCA).

Your organisation can implement a simple standard to take action to reduce the energy you use, lower your carbon footprint and save money – these are:

- The Carbon Action Standard.
- The Carbon Action Standard Plus.

The Carbon Action Standard Plus is approved by The Environment Agency as acceptable to demonstrate 'Early Action Metrics' for the CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme (formerly known as the Carbon Reduction Scheme). So what are the advantages to adopting a Carbon Action standard? Those organisations achieving Carbon Action reported a reduction in energy consumption and positive direction of travel towards achieving targets for cost reduction. Also, for those who are interested in or required to achieve ISO 14001, Carbon Action is an ideal starting point.

How Can Crowberry Consulting Help You?

We can:

- Calculate your carbon footprint to scopes required.
- Implement a Carbon Management Strategy – such as Carbon Action.
- Provide quotes for third party assessment of Greenhouse Gas Reporting.
- Provide resource efficiency surveys and action plans to cut costs and carbon.
- Implement the Energy Management Standard ISO50001.

Compiled by Ellie Digby – Legal Executive.
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