



ICRC
INDEPENDENT COMPETITION AND REGULATORY COMMISSION

**GUIDELINES FOR GREENHOUSE GAS
DISCLOSURE ON CUSTOMER ACCOUNTS**

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1. PURPOSE AND APPLICATION

1.1. Application

These Guidelines apply to all **electricity and gas suppliers** licensed under the ACT *Utilities Act 2000*.

1.2. Purpose

The purpose of these Guidelines is to provide more detailed implementation requirements to **electricity and gas suppliers** in order that they can meet their obligations under Clause 13.3 (1)(q) of the Consumer Protection Code. This Clause deals with the disclosure on **customers' accounts** of the greenhouse gas emissions associated with the consumption of electricity and gas.

1.3. Variations to Guidelines

- (1) The **ICRC** may vary these Guidelines:
 - (a) on application by a **supplier**; or
 - (b) on its own initiative, by written notice to **suppliers**.
- (2) The **ICRC** may vary these Guidelines on its own initiative only if the **ICRC**:
 - (a) has given the **supplier** reasonable notice of the proposed variation and its reasons for the variation; and
 - (b) has allowed the **supplier** a reasonable opportunity to make representations to the **ICRC** about the proposal; and
 - (c) has considered any representation; and
 - (d) is satisfied that the variation is appropriate.
- (3) The **ICRC** may vary these Guidelines on its own initiative without complying with clause 1.3 (2) if it is satisfied that:
 - (a) the variation is necessary or convenient because of an amendment to an Act or a **subordinate law**; or
 - (b) the variation is unlikely adversely to affect a **person** and would not materially alter these Guidelines.

- (4) A variation takes effect:
- (a) on the day the **ICRC** gives written notice of the variation to the **supplier**; or
 - (b) if the notice specifies a later date of effect, on that day.

1.4. Dictionary

A Dictionary of meanings of terms used in these Guidelines is located at clause 4.

2. ELECTRICITY SUPPLY

2.1. Commencement of Disclosure Requirements

An **account** of an electricity **customer** issued after 30 September 2003 must disclose information about the customer's greenhouse gas emissions.

2.2. Required Information

Subject to clause 2.1, the following information about greenhouse gas emissions must be disclosed:

- (1) an estimate of the greenhouse gas emissions associated with electricity consumption in the most recent **billing period**; and
- (2) a graphical representation of greenhouse gas emissions associated with electricity consumption for all previous **billing periods** over the last twelve months, to the extent that this information is available; and
- (3) a reference to the website address "www.greenhousegases.gov.au".¹

2.3. Method for Estimating Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Estimates of greenhouse gas emissions associated with electricity consumption, measured in tonnes of Carbon Dioxide Equivalent (t CO₂-e), must be calculated as follows:

$$\text{Estimate of Emissions} = (\text{Emissions Coefficient} \times (\text{Quantity of Electricity Consumed} - \text{Quantity of Green Power Consumed})) \div 1000$$

¹ This website is run jointly by the New South Wales and Victorian governments and provides information on greenhouse gases and how to reduce emissions.

where:

- (1) ‘Emissions Coefficient’ is an estimate of the greenhouse gas emissions associated with the consumption of one kilowatt hour of non-**Green Power** electricity, as notified in writing to **suppliers** by the **ICRC** from time to time;² and
- (2) ‘Quantity of Electricity Consumed’ is the quantity of electricity consumed in the **billing period** for which the **account** is issued, in kilowatt hours; and
- (3) ‘Quantity of **Green Power** Consumed’ is the quantity of electricity consumed in the **billing period** for which the **account** is issued, in kilowatt hours, that is subject to an arrangement with the **customer** to purchase electricity under an accredited **Green Power** tariff.

3. GAS SUPPLY

3.1. Commencement of Disclosure Requirements

A commencement date for disclosure of information about greenhouse gas emissions on the **account** of gas **customer** will be advised to a **gas supplier** in writing.

4. DICTIONARY

Account	See customer account
The Act	The <i>Utilities Act 2000</i> (ACT)
Billing Period	The period of consumption of gas or electricity covered by a customer account
Customer	A person for whom gas or electricity is provided under a customer contract
Customer Account	An account for payment sent by a gas or electricity supplier to a customer

² The **ICRC** intends to use an emissions coefficient published by the Australian Greenhouse Office that estimates greenhouse gas emissions associated with the end use of electricity in New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory.

Customer Contract	A contract that is a Standard Customer Contract or a Negotiated Customer Contract for the purposes of Part 6 of the Act
Electricity Supplier	See supplier
Gas Supplier	See supplier
Green Power	Electricity which is accredited as Green Power under the National Green Power Accreditation Program conducted by the Sustainable Development Authority of New South Wales and other authorities
ICRC	The ACT Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission
Person	Includes a natural person, a firm, an unincorporated association or a body corporate
Subordinate Law	A subordinate law is a regulation, rule or by-law (whether or not legislative in nature) made under: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) an Act; or (b) another subordinate law; or (c) power given by an Act or subordinate law and also power given otherwise by law.
Supplier	A person licensed to supply electricity and/or gas to premises under Part 3 of the Act