

Clean Energy Credit Registry

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the purpose of Ontario's Clean Energy Credit (CEC) registry?

The registry is used to track the creation, transfer, and retirement of Clean Energy Credits (CECs) in Ontario.

The commercial purchase and sale of CECs takes place outside of the registry, usually through bilateral agreements, request for proposals or third-party brokers.

2. Are Ontario loads (electricity consumers) required to purchase CECs within Ontario?

The purchase of CECs by Ontario-based loads is completely voluntary. Ontario loads that elect to purchase CECs may choose to purchase CECs from electricity generated in Ontario or similar certificates from electricity generated in other jurisdictions. However, if Ontario-based loads purchase CECs from Ontario generators, they are required to register with and be eligible for the Ontario program. The rules of the Ontario program can be found here: [M-RETS Registry Documents](#).

3. Do I need to register with the Ontario Program within the M-RETS? I am currently participating in another registry.

If you own a generator asset in Ontario ("transferor") or an Ontario load ("transferee") you will need to register with the Ontario Program via the M-RETS [website](#), in accordance with the Ontario Program Rules posted on [M-RETS Registry Documents](#), and you will need to discontinue participation in the other non-Ontario Program CEC registry in respect of your activities in or relating to Ontario.

A transferor is an organization who intends to make environmental attributes from biofuel, biogas, biomass, nuclear, hydro, wind or solar energy sources available for transfer. A "transferee" is an Ontario load who intends to purchase or acquire a CEC.

For more information, please refer to Part II.1 of the [Electricity Act, 1998, S.O. 1998, c. 15 Sched. A \(Ontario\)](#), [O. Reg. 39/23 \(Clean Electricity Credits\)](#) and [O. Reg. 160/99 \(Definitions and Exemptions\)](#).

4. Do I need to be an IESO Market Participant to participate in the Ontario Program within the M-RETS?

No, you do not need to be an IESO Market Participant to participate. For more information related to eligibility, please see the requirements listed in the Ontario Program Rules posted on [M-RETS Registry Documents](#).

5. How can I see the list of generators participating in the Ontario Program?

To see the list of generators participating in the Ontario Program, please visit the [M-RETS Generators public reports](#) page and filter the "Eligibility" column for "Ontario".

6. What are the fees related to registration and transaction?

To participate in the Ontario Program, a person or entity must register for a General Subscription on the M-RETS platform and pay the relevant Subscription Fee set by the M-RETS in US dollars.

All fees, including renewal and volumetric and transaction fees, are set by the M-RETS.

More information about M-RETS fees can be found [here](#).

7. I would like to participate in the Ontario Program. How do I receive an invitation?

An Ontario Organization wishing to participate in the Ontario Program must register with the M-RETS in accordance with the Ontario Program Rules and indicate their desire to participate in the Ontario Program as an Ontario participant in the Organization registration. The M-RETS System Administrator will review the registration request and determine if the party is eligible to participate in the Ontario Program.

If a party is determined to be eligible to participate in the Ontario Program, once the party has paid its Subscription Fee, the IESO, as the Ontario Program Administrator, will issue an invitation to participate in the Ontario Program. A step-by-step instructional video related to registration and eligibility is posted [here](#). For further detail, please refer to the Ontario Program Rules posted on the [M-RETS Registry Documents](#) website.

8. I am an organization with a generator asset and I am interested in selling CECs that I own. Can the IESO or my local distribution system upload meter data on my behalf as a Qualified Reporting Entity?

At this time, neither the IESO nor LDCs are providing data upload services for generators as Qualified Reporting Entities. Generators must report their own generation data as a Self-Reporting Generator within the M-RETS. For more details on what is required and permitted by the M-RETS for the Self-Reporting Generator, please refer to the M-RETS Operating Procedures posted on the [M-RETS Registry Documents](#) website.

9. Can a third-party organization/broker register my generator within the M-RETS for the Ontario Program?

The M-RETS may permit a third-party to register on behalf of a generator, if the third-party and the generator complete and submit to the M-RETS a Schedule A Designation of Responsible Party form which is posted on the [M-RETS Registry Documents](#) website.

10. Can a third-party organization/broker retire certificates on behalf of a load customer with the Ontario Program within the M-RETS?

The M-RETS, specific to the Ontario Program, may permit a third-party/broker to retire certificates on behalf of a load customer, if the load customer is an Ontario Transferee who is registered with the Ontario Program, and the Ontario Transferee grants access to the third-party/broker as a user of the M-RETS system.

11. What type of generation meter data does the IESO want to be submitted as part of the Program (raw or data that include losses and aggregation)?

Meter data must comply with [Chapter 6](#) of the IESO's Market Rules and associated appendices or the Ontario Energy Board's Distribution System Code. Please refer to Section 1.6 of the Ontario Program Rules.

12. I am an organization with a generator asset. Is there a way for me to separate my CECs into different categories for internal accounting within the M-RETS even though I have a single meter?

The M-RETS allows Organizations to create an unlimited number of Active and Retirement Accounts under the Organization registration. The account is a folder where CECs can be categorized. Active Accounts are where active CECs are held until the Organization is ready to transfer the CEC into a Retirement Account linked to the Ontario program. An Organization can link multiple Retirement Accounts to the Ontario Program if the Organization would like to categorize retired Ontario CECs. For more details please refer to the M-RETS Operating Procedures posted on the [M-RETS Registry Documents](#) website or refer to the M-RETS Ontario Program training [video](#).

13. I am an organization looking to acquire certificates to retire against my consumption but I am not an Ontario customer. Can I acquire CECs and retire them against consumption outside Ontario?

No. At this time, CECs associated with electricity generated in Ontario can only be transferred to and retired by an Ontario load customer against its electricity consumption in Ontario.

14. Is it possible to create Credits in the Ontario Program that are associated with Environmental Attributes generated before January 1, 2023?

No. Please refer to O. Reg. 39/23 (Clean Electricity Credits) and Section 1.3 of the Ontario Program Rules.

15. The Ontario Program Rules indicate the transfer and retirement deadline is defined as six months after the end of the calendar year in which a Credit was generated. Why was six months selected as the transfer and retirement deadline?

This deadline is to accommodate:

- The timing at which companies will need to report on CEC goals
- IESO reporting requirements to the Ministry of Energy on CEC activities.

16. I am interested in purchasing IESO's Clean Energy Credits. Who should I contact?

Please contact the IESO's selected broker [Karbonate Inc](#) via CEC@karbone.com or Karbone's phone line at +1 (646) 291 2900, as the IESO-owned CECs will be available for sale starting December 2023.

17. What are the plans for the proceeds of the IESO's CECs?

It is anticipated that the revenue will be directed into a new fund called the Future Clean Electricity Fund (FCEF). In a letter dated July 10, 2023 the Minister of Energy requested that the IESO provide advice and recommendations by December 2023 on options for the fund, including allocation of monies, offsetting costs for electricity ratepayers, Indigenous participation, and implementation options. The goal of the FCEF is to support the development of new clean electricity projects and/or programs.

18. I have questions about the M-RETS online tool. Who should I contact?

Please contact the M-RETS System Administrator by phone at 651 900 7891 or by email at systemadmin@mrets.org.

19. I have questions related to the Ontario Program. Who should I contact?

Please contact the IESO's customer relations at customer.relations@ieso.ca.

20. How and when will the IESO report on the CEC sales?

The legislation governing Ontario's CEC Program requires the IESO to report on CECs transactions by fuel type. The IESO intends to publish details of CEC creation and retirement on an annual basis so other parties may use this information in accordance with their own preferred reporting methodology.

For the legislation, please refer to Part II.1 of the [Electricity Act, 1998, S.O. 1998, c. 15 Sched. A \(Ontario\)](#), [O. Reg. 39/23 \(Clean Electricity Credits\)](#) and [O. Reg. 160/99 \(Definitions and Exemptions\)](#).