

Guidelines: Resilient Energy Centre program

Communities across Queensland are increasingly vulnerable to power disruptions caused by disasters and extreme weather events. Resilient Energy Centres address this risk by retrofitting community clubs and charities with solar, battery storage, smart load management and satellite phone and internet backup. These upgrades ensure facilities can remain operational during grid or telecommunications outages, allowing them to serve as vital energy hubs for the broader community.

The RACQ Resilient Energy Centre program supports communities to plan, develop and install these upgrades. Through funding assistance, mentoring and technical guidance, the program helps community organisations strengthen their energy resilience and improve their capacity to respond during times of power outages.

Funding of up to \$50,000 in renewable energy solutions is available per project, with the possibility of additional support in exceptional circumstances. Projects that include co-contributions or existing infrastructure (such as solar systems without batteries) may be given positive consideration as this helps reduce the overall funding required.

If you're part of a community organisation, including clubs, charities, sporting groups or First Nations councils, and want to keep the lights on for your community, apply now.

Program dates

- Friday 27 March 2026 – Applications open
- Wednesday 15 April 2026 – Introductory webinar for interested community organisations
- Tuesday 3 June 2026 - Applications close

Successful applicants are announced approximately 3 to 4 months after the application close date. Each applicant is notified in writing of their outcome. RACQ cannot provide any information until the approval process is finalised. We encourage you to wait until you hear from us.

Delivery partners

RACQ

RACQ funds and coordinates the Resilient Energy Centre program to support communities in building energy resilience.

RACQ is recognised as one of Australia's most trusted member-owned organisations, proudly serving more than 1.7 million Queenslanders. Guided by our purpose - to drive a positive future for all Queenslanders, we embed this commitment across our strategy, operations, and services. From roadside assistance to home, mobility, and solar energy solutions, our team delivers support that makes a meaningful difference every day.

Since 2011, the RACQ Foundation has provided over \$16 million in grants to assist more than 500 community groups, charities, sporting clubs, and First Nations Councils impacted by natural disasters.

In response to growing demand, RACQ is increasingly supporting energy resilience solutions to help communities prepare for and recover from extreme weather events. RACQ is committed to working with others to ensure no Queensland community is left behind in the transition to cleaner energy, because every community deserves to share the benefits.

Community Power Agency

Community Power Agency co-developed the program and will provide support to all successful applicants to engage their communities to plan and implement their Resilient Energy Centre.

Community Power Agency (CPA) is a not-for-profit organisation with a mission to put community benefit at the heart of Australia's renewable energy shift. Through collaboration, research, capacity-building and advocacy, they share knowledge and support community participation in energy policy and project development.

RACQ Solar

RACQ Solar will provide shortlisted applicants with system design, technical advice and quotations. Successful applicants may then choose to engage RACQ Solar for procurement and installation. RACQ Solar has been engaged to help ensure systems are designed and installed to a consistent quality standard.

RACQ Solar (GEM Energy) is a leading provider of solar and battery storage solutions for homes, small to medium businesses, and large-scale commercial and industrial clients across Australia. With over \$300 million in completed projects, they bring proven expertise in solar design, installation, and energy storage. Their in-house engineers and project managers deliver tailored systems built for performance, reliability, and long-term value.

RACQ is the majority shareholder in GEM Energy Australia Pty Ltd (ABN 25 164 579 382, Electrical Contractor Licence 78701) trading as RACQ Solar (GEM Energy). All goods and services are provided by GEM Energy.

Local solar and battery installers

Following completion of the system design by RACQ Solar, successful applicants may choose to engage a local solar and battery installer to procure and install their system. This option is available where the local installer can deliver the final installation at a lower cost than RACQ Solar.

All installations delivered by a local installer must comply with the RACQ Solar system design. Any proposed changes to products must be approved by RACQ prior to installation. Approval is subject to alternative products meeting RACQ's quality and performance requirements.

Developing Resilient Energy Centres in Queensland:

A how-to guide

The guidebook supports community organisations, groups and clubs across Queensland who are interested in energy resilience solutions for community facilities. It covers practical steps for understanding community needs, to finding suitable buildings, technology considerations, and managing implementation. The focus is on achievable, small-scale behind-the-meter systems that community organisations can realistically maintain over time.

All applicants are expected to read this guidebook prior to applying for funding.

[Download here](#)

Eligible items for funding

Funding for capital and installation may include:

- Solar panels and batteries
- Switchboard and phase upgrade
- Reasonable network connection or disconnection costs
- Communications equipment such as satellite internet
- Energy management and control systems
- Demand management and monitoring devices
- Installer labour

In addition to funding, targeted mentoring and technical guidance may be provided to support eligible projects to prepare for implementation, where required.

Ineligible expenditure includes project management, consultant feasibility work, retroactive activities, routine or ongoing maintenance or operating activities, land acquisition and related expenses.

Eligibility criteria

Applications will only be considered if the organisation meets the following criteria.

Organisation eligibility

Eligible organisations must be:

- A community organisation, charity or other organisation whose primary purpose is social, environmental or cultural activities; or
- A Queensland First Nations Shire as recognised by Local Government Authorities of Queensland.
- Registered with an Australian Business Number (ABN).

Large entities with revenue greater than \$3 million are expected to offer co-contributions to fund their project.

The following organisations are not eligible for funding:

- Government bodies (excluding Queensland First Nation Shires)
- Foundations that are grant making bodies

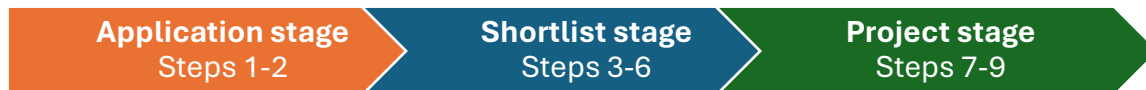
Project eligibility

- The Resilient Energy Centre must support energy resilience during outages and be accessible to the public during outages.
- Site location must be in a Queensland community with demonstrated vulnerability to outages during natural disasters.
- Sites must be structurally sound and able to withstand hazards such as heavy rain, flooding, high winds and fire, and must not be located in low-lying or flood/fire prone areas that are likely inaccessible during a disaster.
- Applicants must demonstrate tenure over the infrastructure and have the legal right to conduct works on the site.
- The site must be owned and/or managed by the applicant under a formal lease for at least 3 years after the date of application.
- The project must be fully installed, operational and complete with acquittal reports within 12 months of grant approval.
- Funding of up to \$50,000 per project is available, with the possibility of additional support in exceptional circumstances. Projects that include co-contributions or existing infrastructure (such as solar systems without batteries) may be given positive consideration as this helps reduce the overall funding required.
- RACQ may, in its absolute discretion, resolve to provide a grant to organisations that do not strictly meet the above criteria and may provide grants in addition to the cap.

Project selection preferences

- High disaster vulnerability.
 - Sites that are currently used as evacuation facilities (such as evacuation centres, public cyclone shelters, places of refuge and some neighbourhood safe places) or recovery/relief centres.
 - Primary services in under-represented or underserved cohort such as First Nations people, older people, and people living with disabilities.
 - Projects installed and operational within 12 months of funding approval.
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Application and funding process



APPLICATION STAGE



All applicants make their application through the [RACQ funding portal](#). Applicants will first have to complete an eligibility checklist before proceeding, ineligible projects will not be able to start the application process. If you believe your application has been incorrectly deemed ineligible, please contact racqcommunity@racq.com.au or phone 07 3872 8603.

Eligible projects will then be able to go through the funding assessment questions and provide [supporting evidence](#). You can save your draft application and return at any time before the close date. Once completed, applications will then be made available to assessors.

It is possible to complete your application without providing all required evidence; however, your application can only be assessed based on the information provided within the application.



Complete applications will be assessed by a program advisory panel. The initial assessment round will consider the project based on:

- Whether you meet eligibility criteria
- Organisation capacity
- Project and community impact
- Suitability of your site, and
- Any co-funding contributions

The program advisory panel will select a shortlist of applicants to advance to the due diligence stage.

SHORTLIST STAGE



All shortlisted applications will go through due diligence which is an investigation, audit or review performed by RACQ to confirm the facts of the project and the legitimacy of the organisation under consideration for the program. Due diligence will include, without limitation reference checks and a review of the applicant's financial statements including analysis of key financial indicators.

Following due diligence, all successful applicants will receive notification of shortlisting.

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• Assessment determining technical viability in collaboration with RACQ Solar

Shortlisted applicants will be supported by RACQ Solar in the development of a REC system design, including technical feasibility studies, energy generation and battery energy storage modelling, required site upgrades, project development plans, budgeting and quotation for procurement and installation.

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• Final approval and funding agreement

After the program advisory panel reviews technical viability, successful applicants will be advised of their approved funding and issued a funding agreement. This agreement formalises the funding arrangements between your organisation and RACQ. Once signed, your project enters the program.

RACQ may, in its absolute discretion, resolve to provide funding to organisations that do not strictly meet the above criteria and may provide funding in addition to the funding pool.

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• Selection of installer

Following completion of the system design by RACQ Solar, successful applicants may continue to engage RACQ Solar or choose to engage a local solar and battery installer to procure and install their system, where the local installer can deliver the installation at a lower cost. Any installation delivered by a local installer must comply with the RACQ-approved system design, and any proposed changes to products must be approved by RACQ and meet RACQ's quality and performance requirements.

PROJECT STAGE

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• Introductory workshop and mentoring

All program participants are required to attend an introductory workshop covering the program overview, mentoring and implementation requirements, reporting obligations, and evaluation processes.

Depending on the needs of your project, you may also be offered mentoring sessions delivered by the Community Power Agency to support project development. If you choose to obtain quotes from a local supplier, this process will continue to be supported through mentoring to ensure the proposed installation aligns with the approved Resilient Energy Centre design.

This program may run for several weeks and requires active, ongoing participation.

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• Progress update reports

All participants will have specific milestones and complete short progress update reports. Where milestones are not achieved or their project is no longer deemed feasible, participants may be removed from the program and funding may be reallocated.

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• Communications, evaluation and monitoring

RACQ is dedicated to supporting the broader adoption of RECs in Queensland. All projects will be expected to agree with RACQ media and communications requests, which may include (but are not limited to) interviews, site visits and photo opportunities. In addition, all projects must participate in evaluation activities. These activities will include collecting data on system design and intended use; completing a short survey on your reflections and learnings; providing photos of completed works; completing milestone and acquittal reports; and conducting a post-project implementation review.

RACQ Solar may provide ongoing monitoring services to help ensure REC systems continue to operate safely and effectively.

Payment arrangements and conditions

Whether using RACQ Solar or a local supplier to procure and install the system, successful applicants must prepare and submit GST free invoice to RACQ for any eligible project expenses to be paid, supported with copies of supplier invoices. Payments are made directly to the successful applicant and capped at the approved funding amount. It is the successful applicant's responsibility to pay the installer directly.

RACQ may, at its discretion, withhold 5% of the approved funding amount until an independent quality assessment of the installed system has been completed. The independent assessment must verify that the installation complies with:

- a) RACQ's approved system design;
- b) safety and regulatory requirements; and
- c) performance standards applicable to the program.

RACQ may continue to withhold the funding up to and until any identified issues are fully rectified by the installer and RACQ is reasonably satisfied that all quality, safety and performance requirements have been met. For the avoidance of doubt, the initial independent quality assessment will be conducted at the cost of RACQ.