

An Impact Analysis of RETScreen International (2004)

Client: CANMET Energy Technology Centre (Varenes), NRCan

SGA conducted an independent assessment of RETScreen in order to allow CETC to better judge the importance and effectiveness of this award winning renewable energy assessment tool as part of an overall program review. We were hired to give an unbiased assessment of the program's effectiveness up to the present and to project potential impacts to 2012 through surveys and statistical analysis. Four major performance indicators were identified as assessment tools: user savings, installed generation capacity, installed value and CO₂ equivalent GHG reduction associated with the use of RETScreen.

SGA used a combination of RETScreen user surveys and an evaluation of actual installed capacities of clean energy projects to evaluate impacts. Surveys provided data on the perceived savings of users of the software and related tools as well as an estimate of the capacity of installed clean energy projects where the RETScreen software had been used in initial pre-feasibility analysis. The evaluation of existing and forecast actual installed capacities provided an upper bound to estimates. Proprietary SGA market penetration modelling was used to estimate the future uptake of RETScreen.