Second-Party Opinion

Vastned Green Finance Framework



Evaluation Summary

Sustainalytics is of the opinion that the Vastned Green Finance Framework is credible and impactful and aligns with the four core components of the Green Bond Principles 2018 and the Green Loan Principles 2020. This assessment is based on the following:



USE OF PROCEEDS The eligible category for the use of proceeds, Green Buildings, is aligned with those recognized by the Green Bond Principles 2018 and the Green Loan Principles 2020. Sustainalytics considers that the eligible category will lead to positive environmental impacts and advance the UN Sustainable Development Goals, specifically SDG 11.



PROJECT EVALUATION / SELECTION Vastned's internal process for evaluating and selecting projects is managed by the Green Finance Committee (GFC), which is comprised of the Business Analyst, Treasurer, and CFO. The Business Analyst nominates potential Eligible Assets to the GFC for selection based on alignment with the Framework's eligibility criteria and approval of the portfolio of Eligible Assets. Based on these elements, Sustainalytics considers this process to be in line with market practice.



MANAGEMENT OF PROCEEDS Vastned's process for management of proceeds is overseen by the Treasurer. Proceeds will be allocated on a portfolio basis and Vastned will track allocation using an internal tracking system. Should any proceeds remain unallocated Vastned will manage them in line with its treasury policy. Vastned intends to fully allocate the net proceeds of green finance instruments within 24 months of issuance. Based on these elements, Sustainalytics considers this process to be in line with market practice.



REPORTING Vastned intends to report on the allocation of proceeds on its website, on an annual basis, until full allocation. The allocation reporting will include details such as an overview of the green finance instruments issued and the amount outstanding, composition of the portfolio of eligible assets, the share of financing vs. refinancing, and the amount of any unallocated proceeds. In addition, Vastned is committed to annual reporting on relevant impact indicators where feasible and available. Based on these elements, Sustainalytics considers this process to be in line with market practice.

Evaluation date	December 29, 2020
Issuer Location	Amsterdam, Netherlands

Report Sections

Introduction	2
Sustainalytics' Opinion	3
Appendices	7

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Introduction

Vastned Retail N.V. ("Vastned", or the "Company") is a real estate investor focusing on retail properties on the popular high streets of selected European cities with a historic city centre. Founded in 1986, Vastned is headquartered in Amsterdam, Netherlands and has 41 employees across offices in four countries.

Vastned has developed the Vastned Green Finance Framework (the "Framework") which enables the company to issue green bonds, green private placements, green (syndicated) loan facilities and other green debt instruments (potential other instruments including but not limited to green commercial paper or Schuldschein) and use the proceeds to finance and/or refinance, in whole or in part new and/or existing energy efficient commercial and residential real estate assets with focus on historical city centres. The Framework defines eligibility criteria in the following area:

1. Green Buildings

Vastned engaged Sustainalytics to review the Vastned Green Finance Framework, dated December 2020, and provide a Second-Party Opinion on the Framework's environmental credentials and its alignment with the Green Bond Principles 2018 (GBP)¹ and the Green Loan Principles 2020 (GLP).² This Framework has been published in a separate document.³

Scope of work and limitations of Sustainalytics' Second-Party Opinion

Sustainalytics' Second-Party Opinion reflects Sustainalytics independent⁴ opinion on the alignment of the reviewed Framework with the current market standards and the extent to which the eligible categories are credible and impactful.

As part of the Second-Party Opinion, Sustainalytics assessed the following:

- The Framework's alignment with the Green Bond Principles 2018, as administered by ICMA, and the Green Loan Principles 2020, as administered by LMA, APLMA and LSTA;⁵
- The credibility and anticipated positive impacts of the use of proceeds; and
- The alignment of the issuer's sustainability strategy and performance and sustainability risk management in relation to the use of proceeds.

For the use of proceeds assessment, Sustainalytics relied on its internal taxonomy, version 1.6.1, which is informed by market practice and Sustainalytics' expertise as an ESG research provider.

As part of this engagement, Sustainalytics held conversations with various members of Vastned's management team to understand the sustainability impact of their business processes and planned use of proceeds, as well as management of proceeds and reporting aspects of the Framework. Vastned representatives have confirmed (1) they understand it is the sole responsibility of Vastned to ensure that the information provided is complete, accurate or up to date; (2) that they have provided Sustainalytics with all relevant information and (3) that any provided material information has been duly disclosed in a timely manner. Sustainalytics also reviewed relevant public documents and non-public information.

This document contains Sustainalytics' opinion of the Framework and should be read in conjunction with that Framework.

Any update of the present Second-Party Opinion will be conducted according to the agreed engagement conditions between Sustainalytics and Vastned.

Sustainalytics' Second-Party Opinion, while reflecting on the alignment of the Framework with market standards, is no guarantee of alignment nor warrants any alignment with future versions of relevant market

¹ The Green Bond Principles are administered by the International Capital Market Association and are available at https://www.icmagroup.org/green-social-and-sustainability-bonds/green-bond-principles-qbp/.

² The Green Loan Principles are administered by the Loan Market Association, Asia Pacific Loan Market Association and Loan Syndications & Trading Association and are available at https://www.lsta.org/content/green-loan-principles/

³ The Vastned Green Finance Framework is available on Vastned Retail N.V.'s website at: https://vastned.com/en/investor-relations/greenfinanceframework.

⁴ When operating multiple lines of business that serve a variety of client types, objective research is a cornerstone of Sustainalytics and ensuring analyst independence is paramount to producing objective, actionable research. Sustainalytics has therefore put in place a robust conflict management framework that specifically addresses the need for analyst independence, consistency of process, structural separation of commercial and research (and engagement) teams, data protection and systems separation. Last but not the least, analyst compensation is not directly tied to specific commercial outcomes. One of Sustainalytics' hallmarks is integrity, another is transparency.

⁵ In addition to the Loan Markets Association, the GLP is also administered by the Asia Pacific Loan Market Association and the Loan Syndications & Trading Association



standards. Furthermore, Sustainalytics' Second-Party Opinion addresses the anticipated impacts of eligible projects expected to be financed with bond and loan proceeds but does not measure the actual impact. The measurement and reporting of the impact achieved through projects financed under the Framework is the responsibility of the Framework owner.

In addition, the Second-Party Opinion opines on the intended allocation of proceeds but does not guarantee the realised allocation of the bond and loan proceeds towards eligible activities.

No information provided by Sustainalytics under the present Second-Party Opinion shall be considered as being a statement, representation, warrant or argument, either in favour or against, the truthfulness, reliability or completeness of any facts or statements and related surrounding circumstances that Vastned has made available to Sustainalytics for the purpose of this Second-Party Opinion.

Sustainalytics' Opinion

Section 1: Sustainalytics' Opinion on the Vastned Green Finance Framework

Sustainalytics is of the opinion that the Vastned Green Finance Framework is credible and impactful and aligns with the four core components of the GBP and GLP. Sustainalytics highlights the following elements of Vastned's Green Finance Framework:

- · Use of Proceeds:
 - The eligible category, Green Buildings, is aligned with those recognized by the GBP and GLP.
 - Under the Green Buildings category, the Company intends to finance the development or acquisition of new and/or existing commercial and residential buildings according to the following minimum criteria: EPC label "A" in the Netherlands, EPC label "A" or E-peil level ≤ 60 in Belgium, EPC label "A" in France, and EPC label "C" in Spain. Sustainalytics positively recognizes the targeting of EPC labels and has confirmed that the designated levels correspond to the top 15% energy performing buildings in Netherlands, Belgium, France and Spain, respectively, which is aligned with market practice. In addition, Vastned may finance building renovations that will lead to savings in net primary energy demand of at least 30% compared to the baseline performance of the building before the renovation. Sustainalytics positively views the establishment of a minimum threshold of 30% energy savings for building renovations.
- Project Evaluation and Selection:
 - Vastned's internal process in evaluating and selecting projects is managed by the Green Finance Committee (GFC), which is comprised by Vastned's Business Analyst, Treasurer and CFO. Vastned's Business Analyst selects existing and potential new Eligible Assets and nominates then to the GFC for selection based on alignment with the Framework's eligibility criteria and approval of the portfolio of Eligible Assets. Based on these elements, Sustainalytics considers this process to be in line with market practice.
- · Management of Proceeds:
 - Vastned's process for management of proceeds is overseen by the Treasurer. Proceeds will be allocated on a portfolio basis and Vastned will track allocation using an internal tracking system. Should any proceeds remain unallocated Vastned will manage them in line with its treasury policy (i.e., held in cash or cash equivalents). If an asset ceases to meet eligibility it will be removed from the portfolio of eligible assets and Vastned will strive to replace as soon as possible. Vastned intends to fully allocate the net proceeds of green finance instruments within two years of issuance. Based on these elements, Sustainalytics considers this process to be in line with market practice.
- · Reporting:
 - Vastned intends to report on the allocation of proceeds on its website, on an annual basis, until full allocation. The allocation reporting will include details such as an overview of the green finance instruments issued under the Framework and the total amount outstanding, the composition of the portfolio of eligible assets, a breakdown by geographical area (country level), a breakdown of financing vs. refinancing, the amount of any unallocated proceeds. Where feasible, Vastned is committed to annually report on relevant impact indicators including an overview of eligible assets and their environmental classification (i.e., EPC label classification, achieved energy savings for refurbishments, split between commercial and residential real estate, and square meters), energy savings and tCO₂ emissions avoided and selected case



studies. Based on these elements, Sustainalytics considers this process to be in line with market practice.

Alignment with Green Bond Principles 2018 and Green Loan Principles 2020

Sustainalytics has determined that the Vastned Green Finance Framework aligns to the four core components of the GBP and GLP. For detailed information please refer to Appendix 1: Green Bond/Green Bond Programme External Review Form.

Section 2: Sustainability Strategy of Vastned

Contribution of framework to Vastned Retail N.V.'s sustainability strategy

Vastned incorporates sustainability within its core business practices by focusing on improving the energy efficiency of existing buildings. The Company's sustainability strategy identifies key pillars including (i) improving the liveability of cities and (ii) minimizing the impact of properties. Vastned outlines its intention to minimize the impact of property on the environment through the improvement of Energy Performance Certificates (EPC), green energy, and through maintenance and renovation of heritage buildings. Vastned's value creation model outlines the Company's strategy in high street historic retail property and identifies other sustainability metrics being pursued such as the carbon offsets, sustainable energy consumption and green clauses within new leases. To further commit to sustainable business Vastned is publicly committed to helping achieve the goals set by the Paris Agreement.

Vastned demonstrates its commitment to sustainability through growth in energy efficient renovations within its portfolio. Vastned annually renovates and (or) creates approximately anywhere between 10-15 apartments per year. In 2019, Vastned converted two sites into apartments and renovated twelve apartments and studios in Amsterdam and Utrecht for energy efficiency improvements. Of these apartments, 4 of them have improved EPC labels from G to A. These efforts will be further supported by the activities financed via the framework which are intended for at least 30% savings in primary energy demand post renovation. Vastned has outlined the intention of refinancing a project in Eindhoven that currently stands as a shopping centre with plans to build 141 residential units above the asset on Orionstraat and plans to develop them with an EPC A label. Sustainalytics views positively this project and its potential to improve energy efficiency in building stock within the Netherlands. Additionally, Sustainalytics notes that, as part of Vastned's long-term sustainability strategy, the Company intends to issue other sustainable finance instruments in the future to achieve this goal, including sustainability-linked instruments.

Sustainalytics is of the opinion that the Vastned Green Finance Framework is aligned with the company's overall sustainability strategy and initiatives and will further the Company's action on its key environmental priorities.

Well-positioned to address common environmental and social risks associated with the projects

While Sustainalytics recognizes that the net proceeds from the bonds and loans / green finance instruments issued under the Framework will be directed towards eligible projects that are recognized by the GBP to have positive environmental impact, Sustainalytics is aware that such eligible projects could also lead to negative environmental and social outcomes. Some key environmental and social risks associated with the eligible projects could include worker and tenant health and safety as well as those related to stakeholder engagement.

Sustainalytics is of the opinion that Vastned is able to manage and/or mitigate potential risks through implementation of the following:

- Legislation in European countries, such as EU Directives on Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment, which requires assessments to be conducted when developing infrastructure to reduce the environmental risks associated with Vastned's projects.
- Vastned complies with all relevant local and international environmental legislation and operates in EU countries where legislation mandates environmental impact assessments to be conducted prior to construction projects.

⁶ Vastned Annual Report 2019, at: <u>Vastned_Jaarverslag_2019_print.indd (presspage-production-content.s3.amazonaws.com)</u>

⁷ Vastned, Half year 2020 results, at: Full-Year Results 2019 (vastned.com)



- The Netherlands, France, Belgium and Spain are classified as designated countries by the Equator Principles, indicating the presence of robust environmental and social governance as well as legislation systems and institutional capacity to protect communities and the environment.⁸
- Vastned's code of conduct, which is governed by and in compliance with Dutch Law, refers to
 minimizing the use of natural resources such as energy.⁹ Employees and stakeholders such as
 tenants, suppliers and maintenance contractors are expected to adhere to local laws and respect
 human rights and consider societal challenges experienced by stakeholders.
- Regarding worker health and safety, Vastned is responsible for compliance with all health and safety regulations in the local context. Given that many of Vastned's operations are based in the Netherlands and that the Code of Conduct is governed by Dutch Law, the most relevant legislation for assets financed by green finance transactions is the working conditions law, or Arbeidsomstandighedenwet.¹⁰ This law holds employers and employees collectively responsible for ensuring safe working conditions through official inspection, supervision, and assessment of compliance with the legislation.
- In addition to worker health and safety, Vastned demonstrates commitment to stakeholder health
 and safety through its materiality assessment which holds tenant health and safety as a top
 priority for the company. Vastned's stakeholder engagement processes also include surveying
 tenants and employees as part of the materiality assessment undertaken, which are based on
 sustainability reporting guidelines outlined by the Global Reporting Initiative.¹¹

Based on these policies and assessments, Sustainalytics is of the opinion that Vastned has implemented adequate measures and is well-positioned to manage and mitigate environmental and social risks commonly associated with the eligible categories.

Section 3: Impact of Use of Proceeds

The use of proceeds category is aligned with those recognized by the GBP and GLP. Sustainalytics has focused below on how the impact is specifically relevant in the local context.

Importance of green buildings in France and The Netherlands

The building sector is an energy intensive industry, accounting for 36% of greenhouse gas emissions and 40% of EU's total primary energy consumption. 12 85% of the EU's building stock was built before 2001 and 85-95% of those buildings will still be standing in 2050. 13 The EU has established climate objectives to be achieved by 2030, including a 55% reduction in GHG emissions and improving energy efficiency by 32%. 14 Considering that heat and cooling makes up half of EU's final energy consumption, 80% of which comes from buildings, the EU's climate objectives are closely linked to the development of sustainable and energy efficient buildings.

Similar trends are seen in the Netherlands, where the building sector is responsible for approximately 28% of total energy consumption. The Dutch Government has taken a proactive approach to emission reduction in the sector by establishing a national goal of improving EPC labels by at least two performance levels by 2020 and aims to bring the average score to an A-label.¹⁵

In France, the building sector is the leading final energy consumer and accounts for 42% of total energy consumption. The French Government established a Climate Plan in 2017 which aims to accelerate the energy transition over a 5-year period and outlines energy efficiency in renovation as a key priority. By renovating 500,000 buildings over the period, the Government aims to prioritize energy retrofitting of buildings, improving energy efficiency, and developing the role of private finance in leading this transition.¹⁶

⁸ The Equator Principles, <u>Designated Countries - The Equator Principles (equator-principles.com)</u>

⁹ Vastned code of conduct (2017), at: <u>2017.12.01-Vastned-code-of-conduct.pdf</u>

¹⁰ Ministerie van Sociale Zaken en Werkgelegenheid, "Arbowetgeving (Arbowet)" (2019), at: Arbowetgeving (Arbowet) | Arboportaal

¹¹ Global Reporting Initiative, "Standards", (2020), at: https://www.globalreporting.org/standards/

¹² European Commission, "Document on the energy performance of buildings in the European Union", at: Energy efficient buildings | Energy (europa.eu)

¹³ European Commission, "A Renovation Wave for Europe" (2020), at: EUR-Lex - 52020DC0662 - EN - EUR-Lex (europa.eu)

¹⁴ European Commission, 'Stepping Up Europe's 2030 climate ambition', at: EUR-Lex - 52020DC0562 - EN - EUR-Lex (europa.eu)

¹⁵ Dutch Government, "Energy Report Transition to sustainable energy" (2016), at: <u>Energy Report Transition to sustainable energy | Report |</u> Government.nl

¹⁶ Ministere de la Transition Ecologique, "Energy retrofit plan for buildings" (2020), at: <u>Plan de rénovation énergétique des bâtiments | Ministère de la Transition écologique (ecologie.gouv.fr)</u>



Renovation can play a significant role in decarbonizing the building sector in that deep retrofitting can achieve up to 33% energy savings among EU building stock.¹⁷ Building renovations bring about significant energy savings and have the potential to reduce EU's total energy consumption by 5% and lower emissions by 5%. Currently, the weighted average renovation rate of EU buildings is about 1% per year.

Sustainalytics is of the opinion that, in line with both nation's plans to improve energy efficiency of their building stock, Vastned's financing of energy efficiency improvements in historic buildings can further contribute to reducing buildings' energy consumption and GHG emissions.

Alignment with/contribution to SDGs

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were set in September 2015 and form an agenda for achieving sustainable development by the year 2030. This Green Finance Framework advances the following SDG and targets:

Use of Proceeds Category	SDG	SDG target		
Green Buildings	11. Sustainable Cities and Communities	11.3 Ensure inclusive and sustainable urbanization, planning and management.		

Conclusion

Vastned has developed the Vastned Green Finance Framework under which it intends to issue green finance instruments and use the proceeds to finance green building projects as well as projects that improve the energy performance and sustainability of standing building stock. Sustainalytics considers that the projects funded by the green finance proceeds are expected to provide positive environmental impact.

The Vastned Green Finance Framework outlines a process by which proceeds will be tracked, allocated, and managed, and commitments have been made for reporting on the allocation and impact of the use of proceeds. Furthermore, Sustainalytics believes that the Vastned Green Finance Framework is aligned with the overall sustainability strategy of the company and that the green use of proceeds category will contribute to the advancement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, notably goal 11.. Additionally, Sustainalytics is of the opinion that Vastned has adequate measures to identify, manage and mitigate environmental and social risks commonly associated with the eligible projects funded by the use of proceeds.

Based on the above, Sustainalytics is confident that Vastned Retail N.V. is well-positioned to issue green finance instruments and that the Vastned Green Finance Framework is robust, transparent, and in alignment with the four core components of the Green Bond Principles 2018 and Green Loan Principles 2020.

6

¹⁷ Berardi, U., (2015), "Building Energy Consumption in US, EU and BRIC Countries", Procedia Engineering, at: <u>Building Energy Consumption in US, EU, and BRIC Countries - ScienceDirect</u>



Appendices

Appendix 1: Green Bond / Green Bond Programme - External Review Form

Section 1. Basic Information

Issuer name:			Vastned Retail N.V.			
Green Bond ISIN or Issuer Green Bond Framework Name, if applicable:		ork Vastne	Vastned Green Finance Framework			
Revie	ew provider's name:	Sustai	inalytics			
Com	pletion date of this form:	Decem	nber 28, 2020			
Publi	lication date of review publication:					
Secti	ion 2. Review overview					
SCOPI	E OF REVIEW					
The fo	ollowing may be used or adapted, where app	ropriate, to s	summarise the scope of the review.			
The re	eview assessed the following elements and o	confirmed th	eir alignment with the GBP:			
\boxtimes	Use of Proceeds	\boxtimes	Process for Project Evaluation and Selection			
\boxtimes	Management of Proceeds	\boxtimes	Reporting			
ROLE((S) OF REVIEW PROVIDER					
\boxtimes	Consultancy (incl. 2 nd opinion)		Certification			
	Verification		Rating			
	Other (please specify):					
	Note: In case of multiple reviews / different	nt providers,	please provide separate forms for each review.			
EXECL	UTIVE SUMMARY OF REVIEW and/or LINK T	O FULL REV	IEW (if applicable)			
	e refer to Evaluation Summary above.					

Section 3. Detailed review

Reviewers are encouraged to provide the information below to the extent possible and use the comment section to explain the scope of their review.



1. USE OF PROCEEDS

Overall comment on section (if applicable):

The eligible category for the use of proceeds, Green Buildings, is aligned with those recognized by the Green Bond Principles 2018 and the Green Loan Principles 2020. Sustainalytics considers that the eligible category will lead to positive environmental impacts and advance the UN Sustainable Development Goals, specifically SDG 11.

Use of proceeds categories as per GBP:							
	Renewable energy		Energy efficiency				
	Pollution prevention and control		Environmentally sustainable management of living natural resources and land use				
	Terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity conservation		Clean transportation				
	Sustainable water and wastewater management		Climate change adaptation				
	Eco-efficient and/or circular economy adapted products, production technologies and processes		Green buildings				
	Unknown at issuance but currently expected to conform with GBP categories, or other eligible areas not yet stated in GBP		Other (please specify):				
If ap	If applicable please specify the environmental taxonomy, if other than GBP:						
2. P	ROCESS FOR PROJECT EVALUATION AND SELE	CTIO	N				
Ove	rall comment on section (if applicable):						
Vastned's internal process in evaluating and selecting projects is managed by the Green Finance Committee (GFC), which is comprised of the Business Analyst, Treasurer and CFO. The Business Analyst nominates potential Eligible Assets to the GFC for selection based on alignment with the Framework's eligibility criteria and approval of the portfolio of Eligible Assets. Based on these elements, Sustainalytics considers this process to be in line with market practice.							
Evaluation and selection							
\boxtimes	Credentials on the issuer's environmental sustainability objectives		Documented process to determine that projects fit within defined categories				
	Defined and transparent criteria for projects eligible for Green Bond proceeds		Documented process to identify and manage potential ESG risks associated with the project				
	Summary criteria for project evaluation and selection publicly available		Other (please specify):				



Info	rmation on Responsibilities and Accountability	y	
\boxtimes	Evaluation / Selection criteria subject to external advice or verification		In-house assessment
	Other (please specify):		
3. M	ANAGEMENT OF PROCEEDS		
Ove	rall comment on section (if applicable):		
a por rema the	ortfolio basis and Vastned will track allocatio ain unallocated Vastned will manage them in l	n usi ine w with	erseen by the Treasurer. Proceeds will be allocated on ing an internal tracking system. Should any proceeds ith its treasury policy. Vastned intends to fully allocate in 2 years of issuance. Based on these elements, market practice.
Trac	king of proceeds:		
\boxtimes	Green Bond proceeds segregated or tracked	by th	e issuer in an appropriate manner
	Disclosure of intended types of temporary in proceeds	vestr	nent instruments for unallocated
	Other (please specify).		
Add	itional disclosure:		
	Allocations to future investments only	\boxtimes	Allocations to both existing and future investments
	Allocation to individual disbursements		Allocation to a portfolio of disbursements
\boxtimes	Disclosure of portfolio balance of unallocated proceeds		Other (please specify):
4 RI	EPORTING		
	rall comment on section (if applicable):		
The the and impa	allocation reporting will include details such a amount outstanding, composition of the portfo the amount of any unallocated proceeds. In ad	as an olio o ditior	on its website, on an annual basis, until full allocation. overview of the green finance instruments issued and f eligible assets, the share of financing vs. refinancing, n, Vastned is committed to annual reporting on relevant ed on these elements, Sustainalytics considers this
Use	of proceeds reporting:		
	Project-by-project	\boxtimes	On a project portfolio basis
	Linkage to individual bond(s)		Other (please specify):

☐ Other (please specify):



	Information reported:					
		\boxtimes	Allocated amounts			Green Bond financed share of total investment
			Other (please specify):			
		Free	quency:			
		\boxtimes	Annual			Semi-annual
			Other (please specify):			
lmp	act reporting:					
	Project-by-p	oroje	ct	\boxtimes	On a pro	oject portfolio basis
	Linkage to	indiv	idual bond(s)		Other (p	please specify):
		Info	ormation reported (expected	or ex	-post):	
		\boxtimes	GHG Emissions / Savings			Energy Savings
			Decrease in water use			Other ESG indicators (please specify):
		Free	quency			
		\boxtimes	Annual			Semi-annual
			Other (please specify):			
Mea	ans of Disclos	ure				
\boxtimes	☑ Information published in financial report ☐ Information published in sustainability report					ition published in sustainability
	☐ Information published in ad hoc ☐ Other (please specify): documents					
Reporting reviewed (if yes, please specify which parts of the reporting are subject to external review):						
Whe	ere appropriat	e, ple	ease specify name and date	of pu	ıblication i	in the useful links section.
USF	FULLINKS (e	a ta	o review provider methodolo	av or	credentia	ls, to issuer's documentation, etc.)
				9, 0.		,
SPE	CIFY OTHER	EXTE	ERNAL REVIEWS AVAILABLE	Ξ, IF A	.PPROPRI	ATE
Тур	e(s) of Reviev	v pro	vided:			
	Consultancy	(inc	I. 2 nd opinion)		Certificat	tion
	Verification	/ Aud	dit		Rating	



Review provider(s):

Date of publication:

ABOUT ROLE(S) OF INDEPENDENT REVIEW PROVIDERS AS DEFINED BY THE GBP

- i. Second-Party Opinion: An institution with environmental expertise, that is independent from the issuer may issue a Second-Party Opinion. The institution should be independent from the issuer's adviser for its Green Bond framework, or appropriate procedures, such as information barriers, will have been implemented within the institution to ensure the independence of the Second-Party Opinion. It normally entails an assessment of the alignment with the Green Bond Principles. In particular, it can include an assessment of the issuer's overarching objectives, strategy, policy and/or processes relating to environmental sustainability, and an evaluation of the environmental features of the type of projects intended for the Use of Proceeds.
- ii. Verification: An issuer can obtain independent verification against a designated set of criteria, typically pertaining to business processes and/or environmental criteria. Verification may focus on alignment with internal or external standards or claims made by the issuer. Also, evaluation of the environmentally sustainable features of underlying assets may be termed verification and may reference external criteria. Assurance or attestation regarding an issuer's internal tracking method for use of proceeds, allocation of funds from Green Bond proceeds, statement of environmental impact or alignment of reporting with the GBP, may also be termed verification.
- iii. Certification: An issuer can have its Green Bond or associated Green Bond framework or Use of Proceeds certified against a recognised external green standard or label. A standard or label defines specific criteria, and alignment with such criteria is normally tested by qualified, accredited third parties, which may verify consistency with the certification criteria.
- iv. Green Bond Scoring/Rating: An issuer can have its Green Bond, associated Green Bond framework or a key feature such as Use of Proceeds evaluated or assessed by qualified third parties, such as specialised research providers or rating agencies, according to an established scoring/rating methodology. The output may include a focus on environmental performance data, the process relative to the GBP, or another benchmark, such as a 2-degree climate change scenario. Such scoring/rating is distinct from credit ratings, which may nonetheless reflect material environmental risks.



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These are based on information made available by the issuer and therefore are not warranted as to their merchantability, completeness, accuracy, up-to-dateness or fitness for a particular purpose. The information and data are provided "as is" and reflect Sustainalytics` opinion at the date of their elaboration and publication. Sustainalytics accepts no liability for damage arising from the use of the information, data or opinions contained herein, in any manner whatsoever, except where explicitly required by law. Any reference to third party names or Third Party Data is for appropriate acknowledgement of their ownership and does not constitute a sponsorship or endorsement by such owner. A list of our third-party data providers and their terms of use is respective available on our website. For more visit http://www.sustainalytics.com/legal-disclaimers.

The issuer is fully responsible for certifying and ensuring the compliance with its commitments, for their implementation and monitoring.



About Sustainalytics, a Morningstar Company

Sustainalytics, a Morningstar Company, is a leading ESG research, ratings and data firm that supports investors around the world with the development and implementation of responsible investment strategies. The firm works with hundreds of the world's leading asset managers and pension funds who incorporate ESG and corporate governance information and assessments into their investment processes. The world's foremost issuers, from multinational corporations to financial institutions to governments, also rely on Sustainalytics for credible second-party opinions on green, social and sustainable bond frameworks. In 2020, Climate Bonds Initiative named Sustainalytics the "Largest Approved Verifier for Certified Climate Bonds" for the third consecutive year. The firm was also recognized by Environmental Finance as the "Largest External Reviewer" in 2020 for the second consecutive year. For more information, visit www.sustainalytics.com.







Named

2015: Best SRI or Green Bond Research or Rating Firm 2017, 2018, 2019: Most Impressive Second Opinion Provider

