Second-Party Opinion

Novelis Green Bond Framework



Evaluation Summary

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



USE OF PROCEEDS The eligible categories for the use of proceeds – Renewable Energy and Pollution Prevention and Control – are aligned with those recognized by the Green Bond Principles 2018. Sustainalytics considers that the eligible categories will lead to positive environmental impacts and advance the UN Sustainable Development Goals, specifically SDGs 7 and 12.



PROJECT EVALUATION / SELECTION Novelis' eligible projects will be evaluated by a Green Bond Committee made up of representatives from the heads of various business units as well as the Sustainability and Treasury teams. Sustainalytics considers the project selection process in line with market practice.



MANAGEMENT OF PROCEEDS Net bond proceeds will be managed by Novelis' Finance department. Pending allocation, the proceeds will be temporarily invested in cash or cash equivalents according to the Company's internal liquidity policy. This is in line with market practice.



REPORTING Novelis intends to report on allocation of proceeds on its website via a Green Bond Report which will include amount of allocated and unallocated proceeds, as well as the description of projects. In addition, the Company is committed to reporting on relevant impact metrics. Sustainalytics views Novelis' allocation and impact reporting as aligned with market practice.

Evaluation Date	March 17, 2021
Issuer Location	Atlanta, USA

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Introduction

Novelis Inc. ("Novelis", or the "Company") is a metal fabrication company that produces flat-rolled aluminum primarily from recycled aluminium. Novelis does not mine bauxite, refine alumina, or smelt aluminium. Heaquarterd in Georgia, United States, the Company owns 33 manufacturing facilities and operates in nine countries with about 15,000 employees. Novelis is a subsidiary of Hindalco Industries Limited, an aluminum and copper manufacturing company.based in Mumbai, India.

Novelis has developed the Novelis Green Bond Framework (the "Framework") under which it intends to issue green bonds and use the proceeds to refinance, in whole or in part, existing projects that advance a low-carbon, sustainable economy through aluminum recycling. The Framework defines eligibility criteria in two areas:

- Renewable Energy
- 2. Pollution Prevention and Control

Novelis engaged Sustainalytics to review the Novelis Green Bond Framework, dated March 2021, and provide a Second-Party Opinion on the Framework's environmental credentials and its alignment with the Green Bond Principles 2018 (GBP). This Framework will be published in a separate document.²

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

Sustainalytics' Second-Party Opinion reflects Sustainalytics' independent³ opinion on the alignment of the reviewed Framework with the current market standards and the extent to which the eligible project 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;
- 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 1.7.1, 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 Novelis' 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. Novelis representatives have confirmed (1) they understand it is the sole responsibility of Novelis 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 Novelis.

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 standards. Furthermore, Sustainalytics' Second-Party Opinion addresses the anticipated impacts of eligible projects expected to be financed with bond 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.

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-gbp/.

 $^{^{2}}$ The Novelis Green Bond Framework is available on Novelis website at: novelis.com/sustainability

³ 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.



In addition, the Second-Party Opinion opines on the potential allocation of proceeds but does not guarantee the realised allocation of the bond 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 Novelis has made available to Sustainalytics for the purpose of this Second-Party Opinion.

Sustainalytics' Opinion

Section 1: Sustainalytics' Opinion on the Novelis Green Bond Framework

Sustainalytics is of the opinion that the Novelis Green Bond Framework is credible and impactful, and aligns to the four core components of the GBP. Sustainalytics highlights the following elements of Novelis' Green Bond Framework:

- Use of Proceeds:
 - The eligible categories Renewable Energy and Pollution Prevention and Control are aligned with those recognized by the GBP.
 - Renewable Energy expenditures under the Framework includes solar and wind energy generation projects with emissions of less than 100g CO₂e/kWh. In addition to investing directly in projects, the Company intends to procure electricity via power purchase agreements (PPAs). Novelis confirms that the PPAs that the issuer intends on financing under the Framework are physical and long-term PPAs, which Sustainalytics views as providing greater assurance of positive impact and aligned with market practice.
 - Under the Pollution Prevention and Control category, Novelis intends to finance projects that are focused on collection and processing of recycled secondary aluminium which it can further process into finished products.
 - Projects could include but are not limited to scrap collection centers, shredding/ processing equipment, or metal remelting and casting facilities.
 - Aluminium is theoretically an infinitely recyclable material, and projects that increase capacity for recycling and processing of secondary aluminium contribute towards establishing a closed-loop system for circular utilization.
 - Sustainalytics views positively projects that increase recycling and that contribute to the transition towards a low-carbon economy via increased circularity of aluminium and the reduction of primary metal usage.
 - Sustainalytics further notes the environmental benefits associated with using recycled metal given that it requires 95% less energy and produces 95% less greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to repurpose and reutilize compared to primary metal.
- Project Evaluation and Selection:
 - Novelis' eligible projects will be evaluated and selected by a Green Bond Committee (the "Committee"). The Committee is made up of representatives from the heads of various business units as well as the Sustainability and Treasury teams.
 - Sustainalytics considers that the collaboration between relevant business units strengthens the implementation of the Framework and is in line with market practice.



Management of Proceeds:

- The Company's Finance department will be responsible for allocating the net proceeds to eligible projects. Pending allocation, the Company will temporarily invest an equal amount of the unallocated balance of proceeds in cash or cash equivalents according to Novelis' internal liquidity policy.
- The Framework defines a three-year lookback period for refinancing activities, which Sustainalytics considers to be in line with market practice.
- Based on the defined management approach and disclosure around the management of unallocated proceeds, Sustainalytics considers this process to be in line with market practice.

Reporting:

- Novelis commits to publishing a Green Bond Report on its website, which will include amounts allocated to eligible projects, project descriptions and the remaining balance of unallocated net proceeds.
- The Company intends to report on the estimated environmental impacts of the projects to which
 it has allocated proceeds. Some of the potental impact metrics include renewable energy
 capacity sourced and developed (MWh), annual renewable energy procured, emissions avoided
 or reduced (mtCO₂e) and reduction of primary aluminum usage (kt).
- Sustainalytics considers Novelis' allocation and impact reporting process to be in line with market practice.

Alignment with Green Bond Principles 2018

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

Section 2: Sustainability Performance of Novelis

Contribution of the Framework to Novelis' sustainability strategy

Sustainalytics is of the opinion that Novelis demonstrates a commitment to sustainability with a focus on five environmental areas related to its operations, including percentage of recycled materials used; GHG emissions; waste to landfill; water usage; and energy intensity. Generally, investments in the aluminium sector with a focus on providing environmental benefits are conisdered relevant from a transition finance perspective. However, Sustainalytics notes Novelis' environmental focus areas are closely related to the Company's main operations as a producer of flat-rolled aluminum products primarily from recycled metal, and its sustainability strategy is linked to its closed-loop recycling system.

Novelis is a global recycler of aluminum products, and has implemented its closed-loop recycling systems across several locations around the world. Recycling aluminum has financial and environmental benefits because it requires 95% less energy compared to producing new metal.⁴ In this context, Novelis' focus on renewable energy investments have the potential to contribute to further reducing GHG emissions from its manufacturing processes. In its 2020 Purpose Report, Novelis reported a steady decrease in energy intensity measured against its baseline year of 2007.⁵ Similarly, Novelis reported steady decreases in GHG emissions compared to the same baseline year.⁶ SustainalyticsNovelis' Framework will contribute to further progress towards its energy and sustainability strategy.

Novelis has grown the percentage of recycled content used in the production of its products compared to 2007 and further investments in pollution prevention and control through circular economy processes have the potential to further contribute to this trajectory. Novelis' 2020 Purpose Report highlighted the Company's partnerships in the aviation and auto industries, that create opportunities to improve its closed loop recycling system through better sourcing of scrap metal from these sectors.⁷

While noting the steady progress made on key performance indicators, Sustainalytics encourages the issuer to highlight quantifiable and time-bound targets with respect to its sustainability strategy. Overall,

⁴ The Aluminum Association, "Recycling", (2021), at: https://www.aluminum.org/industries/production/recycling

⁵ Novelis, "2020 Purpose Report", (2020), at: https://www.novelis.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/2020-Purpose-Report-ENG-Page.pdf

⁶ Novelis, "2020 Purpose Report", (2020), at: https://www.novelis.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/2020-Purpose-Report-ENG-Page.pdf

Novelis, "2020 Purpose Report", (2020), at: https://www.novelis.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/2020-Purpose-Report-ENG-Page.pdf



Sustainalytics is of the opinion that the Novelis Green Bond Framework is aligned with the Company's 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 bond issued under the Framework will be directed towards eligible projects that are expected 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 health and safety, waste and effluents, carbon emissions from own operations, and supply chain risks.

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

- Environmental, Health, Safety and Quality Policy (EHS&Q) Novelis' EHS&Q Policy focuses on three commitments to health and safety including: (I) achieving zero workplace injuries and illnesses, (II) minimizing environmental impacts and reducing natural resource consumption, and (III) enhancing the quality of product lifecycle and provide quality services to customers.⁸ Novelis' plants are certified by internationally recognized standards including ISO 9001 (quality management), ISO 140001 (environmental management), OHSAS 18001 (occupational health and safety), and IATF 16929 (quality management).⁹
- Environmental Metrics Reporting and Management Novelis reports and manages environmental metrics at its locations globally.¹⁰ Reporting consists of energy, material flows, water, transportation, waste, air emissions and discharge and recycling.¹¹
- Code of Conduct Novelis' Code of Conduct details guidelines for how the Company operates.¹²
 The Code details employee engagement, stakeholder engagement processes, how the Company complies with the laws in the countries it works in and how the Company promotes safe and harassment-free work environments.¹³
- Supplier Code of Conduct Novelis' Supplier Code of Conduct details how it engages with its supply
 chain including on governance, management and transparency issues.¹⁴ The Code outlines
 requirements of suppliers to comply with regulations, labor and human rights expectations, abolition
 of child labor, health and safety, environmental protection and responsible sourcing.

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

⁸ Novelis, "Environment, Health, Safety and Quality Policy", (2020), at: https://novelis.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/EHS-Policy-Guidelines_ENG.pdf
9 Novelis, "Certifications", (2021), at: https://www.novelis.com/certifications/

¹⁰ Novelis, "Novelis Environmental Metrics Reporting and Management Directive, (2020), at: https://www.novelis.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Env-Metrics-Reporting-and-Management-Directive_EN.pdf

¹¹ Ibid

¹² Novelis, "Code of Conduct", (2020), at: https://www.novelis.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Code-of-Conduct.pdf

¹³ Ibid

¹⁴ Novelis, "Supplier Code of Conduct", (2020), at: https://www.novelis.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Novelis-Supplier-Code-of-Conduct.pdf



Section 3: Impact of Use of Proceeds

Both use of proceeds categories are aligned with those recognized by the GBP. Sustainalytics has focused the below where the impact is specifically relevant in the local context.

Importance of recycling aluminum and the circular economy

According to the World Resources Institute, creating a circular economy for the cement, aluminum, steel, plastics and food industries would have the potential to cut CO2 emissions by 3.7 billion tonnes by 2050. Globally, only 8.6% of the economy is part of the circular economy, a decrease -of 0.5% from 2018. In the aluminum sector, half the aluminum produced each year does not reach the final product, instead becoming scrap. Aluminium has the potential to be one of the main drivers of the global transition towards a low-carbon, circular economy. Aluminium can be infinitely recycled without affecting the metal's original properties, making it a circular material. Because of that unique trait, 75% of the 1.5 billion tonnes of aluminium ever produced is still in use today. In addition to its recycling capability, aluminium is lightweight, durable, conductive and formable, which makes it a key material that can help other industries to achieve their emission reduction targets.

Increasing the share of secondary aluminium in aluminium production has significant implications for energy intensity improvements. IAccording to the IEA, the combined share of aluminium produced from new and old scrap should reach 40% by 2030.²² Furthermore, to follow the path of the sustainable development scenario, the IEA highlights the need to reduce the emissions intensity of both primary and secondary aluminium production by 1.5% annually from now until 2030.²³ As a result of Novelis' efforts to increase recycling input rates, increase energy efficiency rates and use renewable sources of power, Sustainalytics is of the opinion that Novelis's projects are expected to have a positive environmental impact.

Alignment with/contribution to SDGs

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were set in September 2015 by the United Nations General Assembly and form an agenda for achieving sustainable development by the year 2030. The bond(s) issued under the Novelis Green Bond Framework advances the following SDGs and targets:

Use of Proceeds Category	SDG	SDG target
Renewable Energy	7. Affordable and Clean Energy	7.2 By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix
Pollution Prevention and Control	12. Responsible Consumption and Production	12.5 By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse

 $\underline{\%20 Report \%20 web \%20 single \%20 page \%20-\%20210 x297 mm \%20-\%20 compressed.pdf}$

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¹⁵ World Resources Institute (WRI), "How to Build a Circular Economy", (2020), at: https://www.wri.org/blog/2020/08/how-to-circular-economy

¹⁶ CGRi, "The Circularity Gap Report 2020", (2020), at: https://assets.website-

¹⁷ Ellen MacArthur Foundation, "Completing The Picture How The Circular Economy Tackles Climate Change", (2019), at: https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/assets/downloads/Completing_The_Picture_How_The_Circular_Economy_Tackles_Climate_Change_V3_26_September.pdf

¹⁸ European Aluminium, "Circular Aluminium Action Plan", at: https://www.european-aluminium.eu/policy-areas/recycling-circular-economy/

¹⁹ European Aluminium, "Vision 2050", at: https://www.european-aluminium.eu/media/2545/sample_vision-2050-low-carbon-strategy_20190401.pdf

²⁰ World Aluminium, "Aluminium Recycling", at: https://www.world-aluminium.org/media/filer_public/2020/10/20/wa_factsheet_final.pdf

²¹ European Aluminium, "Vision 2050", at: https://www.european-aluminium.eu/media/2545/sample_vision-2050-low-carbon-strategy_20190401.pdf

²² 'Old scrap' refers to scrap aluminum arising from products after use while 'New scrap' refers to scrap aluminum arising from the various production stages of aluminium products, before the aluminium product is sold to the final user. For more information see: https://www.aluminum.org/sites/default/files/GAG_Terms_and_Definitions_-Edition_2009-01_-March_2009.pdf

²³ IEA, "Aluminium", (2021), at: https://www.iea.org/reports/aluminium



Conclusion

Novelis has developed the Novelis Green Bond Framework under which it may issue green bonds and the use of proceeds to finance renewable energy as well as secondary aluminum production activities. Sustainalytics considers that the recycling projects funded by the green bond proceeds are expected to have provide positive environmental impact especially towards reducing primary aluminum production.

The Novelis Green Bond 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 Novelis Green Bond Framework is aligned with the overall sustainability strategy of the company and that the green use of proceeds categories will contribute to the advancement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals 7 and 12. Additionally, Sustainalytics is of the opinion that Novelis 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 Novelis is well-positioned to issue green bonds and that the Novelis Green Bond Framework is robust, transparent, and in alignment with the four core components of the Green Bond Principles 2018.



Appendices

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

Section 1. Basic Information

Issuer name: Novelis Inc.		is Inc.		
	en Bond ISIN or Issuer Green Bond Framework ne, if applicable:	Noveli	Novelis Green Bond Framework	
Revie	ew provider's name:	Sustai	inalytics	
Com	pletion date of this form:	March	17, 2021	
Publi	ication date of review publication:			
Secti	ion 2. Review overview			
SCOPE	E OF REVIEW			
The fo	ollowing may be used or adapted, where appropri	iate, to s	summarise the scope of the review.	
The re	eview assessed the following elements and confi	irmed th	neir alignment with the GBP:	
\boxtimes	Use of Proceeds	\boxtimes	Process for Project Evaluation and Selection	
\boxtimes	Management of Proceeds		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 pr	oviders,	, please provide separate forms for each review.	
EXECL	JTIVE SUMMARY OF REVIEW and/or LINK TO FU	JLL REV	IEW (if applicable)	
Please	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 categories for the use of proceeds – Renewable Energy and Pollution Prevention and Control – are aligned with those recognized by the Green Bond Principles 2018. Sustainalytics considers that the eligible categories will lead to positive environmental impacts and advance the UN Sustainable Development Goals, specifically SDGs 7 and 12.

Use	e of proceeds categories as per GBP:		
\boxtimes	Renewable energy		Energy efficiency
\boxtimes	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 a	pplicable please specify the environmental taxo	nomy,	if other than GBP:
	PROCESS FOR PROJECT EVALUATION AND SELE rall comment on section (if applicable):	ECTIC	DN .
hea		ainabil	nd Committee made up of representatives from the ity and Treasury teams. Sustainalytics considers the
Eva	luation and selection		
⊠	Credentials on the issuer's environmental sustainability objectives	\boxtimes	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 Accountabilit	y				
\boxtimes	Evaluation / Selection criteria subject to external advice or verification		In-house assessment			
	Other (please specify):					
3. M	IANAGEMENT OF PROCEEDS					
Ove	rall comment on section (if applicable):					
tem			e department. Pending allocation, the proceeds will be ding to the Company's internal liquidity policy. This is			
Trac	cking 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		Allocations to both existing and future investments			
	Allocation to individual disbursements	\boxtimes	Allocation to a portfolio of disbursements			
\boxtimes	Disclosure of portfolio balance of unallocated proceeds		Other (please specify):			
4.5	FRONTING					
	4. REPORTING Overall comment on section (if applicable):					
Novelis intends to report on allocation of proceeds on its website via a Green Bond Report which will include amount of allocated and unallocated proceeds, as well as the description of projects. In addition, the Company is committed to reporting on relevant impact metrics. Sustainalytics views Novelis' allocation and impact reporting as aligned with market practice.						
Use of proceeds reporting:						
	Project-by-project	\boxtimes	On a project portfolio basis			
	Linkage to individual bond(s)		Other (please specify):			



		Info	rmation reported:			
			Allocated amounts			Green Bond financed share of total investment
			Other (please specify):			
		Fred	quency:			
		\boxtimes	Annual			Semi-annual
			Other (please specify):			
Impa	ct reporting	:				
	Project-by-	proje	ct	\boxtimes	On a pro	oject portfolio basis
	Linkage to	indivi	idual bond(s)		Other (p	lease specify):
		Info	rmation reported (expected	or ex-	post):	
		\boxtimes	GHG Emissions / Savings			Energy Savings
			Decrease in water use			Other ESG indicators (please specify): Renewable energy capacity sourced and developed (MWh), Annual renewable energy procured, Reduction of primary aluminum usage (kt).
		Fred	quency			
		\boxtimes	Annual			Semi-annual
			Other (please specify):			
Mea	ns of Disclos	sure				
	Information	n pub	lished in financial report	\boxtimes	Informa report	tion published in sustainability
	Information documents	•	lished in ad hoc		Other (p	please specify):
Reporting reviewed (if yes, please specify which parts of the reporting are subject to external review):						
Where appropriate, please specify name and date of publication in the useful links section.						
USEF	FUL LINKS (e.g. to	review provider methodolo	gy or (credential	ls, to issuer's documentation, etc.)



SPECIFY OTHER EXTERNAL REVIEWS AVAILABLE, IF APPROPRIATE

Type(s) of Review provided:					
	Consultancy (incl. 2 nd opinion)		Certification		
	Verification / Audit		Rating		
	Other (please specify):				
Review provider(s):		Da	te 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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The issuer is fully responsible for certifying and ensuring the compliance with its commitments, for their implementation and monitoring.

In case of discrepancies between the English language and translated versions, the English language version shall prevail.



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Named

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

