

Second-Party Opinion

DNB Boligkreditt Green Bond

Evaluation Summary

Sustainalytics is of the opinion that the DNB Boligkreditt Green Bond Framework is credible and impactful and aligns with the four core components of the Green Bond Principles 2017. This opinion is based on:



USE OF PROCEEDS The eligible category for the use of proceeds (mortgages for energy efficient residential buildings) is aligned with those recognized by the Green Bond Principles (green buildings). Sustainalytics views this category as impactful and contributing to the decarbonization of Norway's residential market.



PROJECT EVALUATION / SELECTION The selection of eligible mortgages for energy efficient buildings will be completed by DNB Boligkreditt based on information provided by third-party Eiendomsverdi that will facilitate the matching of mortgages with the eligibility criteria. DNB's dedicated Green Bond Committee, composed of members from group treasury, CSR department and the Sustainable Finance Department of DNB Markets, will be accountable for reviewing Eligible Green Loans within a green mortgage register that can be drawn upon for inclusion in the "Eligible Green Loans Portfolio". DNB Boligkreditt's approach to the process for project evaluation and selection is seen as aligned with current market practices.



MANAGEMENT OF PROCEEDS DNB Boligkreditt will manage proceeds through a portfolio approach, in which all loans meet the eligibility criteria. The unallocated proceeds will be held or invested at DNB Boligkreditt's discretion in its liquidity portfolio in money market instruments, according to the company's treasury policies. Sustainalytics assesses this approach as being in line with market practices.



REPORTING DNB Boligkreditt intends to issue reporting on allocation, providing the market with information on the size of the identified Eligible Green Loans Portfolio and the balance of unallocated proceeds on its website on an annual basis. With regards to impact reporting, DNB Boligkreditt committed to provide data on the estimated ex-ante annual energy consumption or savings and reduction in GHG emissions or tons of CO₂ equivalent avoided. In Sustainalytics' view, reporting on these metrics is in line with market practices.



Evaluation date	24 May 2018
Issuer Location	Oslo, Norway

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Introduction

DNB Boligkreditt AS (“DNB Boligkreditt”, “DNB” or “the company”) is a wholly-owned subsidiary of DNB Bank ASA, which is a wholly-owned subsidiary of DNB ASA, Norway’s largest financial services group (the “DNB Group”). DNB Boligkreditt provides loans in the form of home mortgages and is also licensed to issue covered bonds, which provide the DNB Group with a key source of funding.

DNB Boligkreditt has developed the DNB Boligkreditt Green Bond Framework (the “framework”) under which it is planning to issue a “Green Covered Bond” to finance or refinance mortgages for energy efficient residential properties with lower energy needs and consumption in Norway (“Eligible Residential Green Buildings”). The framework defines one eligibility criterion:

- New or existing Norwegian residential buildings that comply with the Norwegian building codes 2010 (TEK10) or 2017 (TEK17);

DNB Boligkreditt engaged Sustainalytics to review the DNB Boligkreditt Green Bond Framework and provide a second-party opinion on the alignment of the green bond with the Green Bond Principles 2017 (the “GBP”), as administered by the International Capital Market Association (the “ICMA”),¹ and the framework’s environmental credentials. This framework has been published on DNB’s website.²

As part of this engagement, Sustainalytics has been in contact with various members of DNB’s 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 DNB Boligkreditt Green Bond Framework. Sustainalytics also reviewed relevant public documents and non-public information. Following this engagement between DNB and Sustainalytics, some elements of the Green Bond Framework were clarified to ensure an alignment with the level of disclosure expected by ICMA’s Green Bond Principles 2017.

This document contains Sustainalytics’ opinion of the DNB Boligkreditt Green Bond Framework and should be read in conjunction with that framework.

¹ ICMA’s Green Bond Principles 2017 <https://www.icmagroup.org/assets/documents/Regulatory/Green-Bonds/GreenBondsBrochure-JUNE2017.pdf>

² <https://www.ir.dnb.no/funding-and-rating/green-covered-bonds>

Sustainalytics' Opinion

Section 1: Sustainalytics' Opinion on the DNB Boligkreditt Green Bond Framework

Summary

Sustainalytics is of the opinion that the DNB Boligkreditt Green Bond Framework is credible and impactful and aligns with the four core components of the Green Bond Principles 2017. Some of its key strengths are that:

- Green Buildings are recognized by the Green Bond Principles as a project category with clear environmental benefits. Sustainalytics views DNB Boligkreditt's intended allocation of bond proceeds to a loan portfolio for energy-efficient residential buildings in Norway as impactful (for additional information on impact, please consult Section 3).
- A green mortgage register will be set up and maintained by DNB Boligkreditt to identify and log mortgages that meet the eligibility criteria outlined within the framework. DNB Boligkreditt will draw loans from the register to be included in the Eligible Green Loans Portfolio. DNB will select and track the Eligible Green Loans' by cross-matching building identification numbers, maintained by third-party Eiendomsverdi³, and DNB's cover pool to determine eligibility. Eiendomsverdi is a third party that manages and supports the reporting of mortgage cover pool data for covered bond issuers. Accountability within DNB for reviewing the mortgages within the register is assigned to a dedicated Green Bond Committee composed of representatives from group treasury, CSR department and the Sustainable Finance Department of DNB Markets. Ongoing compliance of mortgages within the register will be reviewed by the committee on a regular basis (at least annually). Sustainalytics assesses DNB's approach to the process for project evaluation and selection as being in line with current market practices.
- Proceeds from the green covered bond will be managed and tracked through a portfolio approach, where the balance of Eligible Green Loans that constitute the portfolio will be greater than the balance of the issuer's green covered bond proceeds. DNB Boligkreditt will invest any unallocated proceeds in money market instruments until they are allocated to loans meeting the eligibility criteria. This process is in line with current market practices.
- DNB Boligkreditt has committed to reporting on its website on an annual basis to investors on the allocation of proceeds from the green covered bond and on impact metrics. The allocation reporting will include the size of the Eligible Green Loans Portfolio, the total amount of proceeds allocated to eligible loans, the balance of unallocated proceeds or the amount/percentage of new financing and refinancing, while the impact reporting will include the estimated ex-ante annual energy consumption or savings and the estimated GHG emissions reduced or tons of CO₂ equivalent avoided. Sustainalytics views this approach in line with market practices.

Alignment with Green Bond Principles 2017:

Sustainalytics has determined that DNB Boligkreditt's green covered bond aligns to the four core components of the Green Bond Principles 2017. For detailed information please refer to Appendix B: Green Bond/Green Bond Programme External Review Form.

Section 2: Sustainability Strategy of the Issuer

Contribution of framework to DNB Bank ASA's sustainability strategy

DNB Boligkreditt's parent company, DNB Bank ASA and the DNB Group, released a corporate strategy in 2017 that highlights four strategic priorities, one of which is to incorporate corporate responsibility in all processes.⁴ To further this goal, DNB is promoting innovation and restructuring in the Norwegian Economy, advancing financial literacy, integrating and promoting sustainability considerations in operations, incorporating long-termism into analysis of risk and opportunity and ensuring transparency and openness.⁵ The company's

³ For more information, please consult <https://eiendomsverdi.no/>

⁴ DNB 2017 Annual Report document available at: <https://www.dnb.no/portalfont/nedlast/en/about-us/corporate-responsibility/2017/Annual-report-dnb-group-2017.pdf>

⁵ DNB 2017 Annual Report document available at: <https://www.dnb.no/portalfont/nedlast/en/about-us/corporate-responsibility/2017/Annual-report-dnb-group-2017.pdf>

subscription to the Principles for Responsible Investment, the United Nations Environmental Programme Finance Initiative and the Equator Principles and its alignment with other initiatives and standards provide a framework to guide its approach to incorporating sustainability into its core business activities.⁶ Sustainalytics considers the DNB Group to have a robust sustainability profile.

To govern its credit activities, DNB has established guidelines for corporate social responsibility in corporate lending. While the standard only applies to corporate clients, Sustainalytics considers the DNB Boligkreditt Green Covered Bond Framework as an important tool to promote sustainable outcomes in its non-corporate lending activities and as consistent with the company's overall emphasis on incorporating sustainability considerations into its business activities.

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

The DNB Group's Principles for Corporate Responsibility directs the company's approach to ensuring sustainable development and mitigating environmental, social and governance risks in its operations.⁷ The DNB Group also has a range of sector specific and thematic commitments that provide detailed guidance on how the company can avoid key areas of sustainability risk through its investment and banking activities, including on human rights and forestry, for example.⁸ Overall, Sustainalytics considers that these policies and due diligence efforts strengthen the bank's ability to address and mitigate risks in its activities.

Section 3: Impact of Use of Proceeds

Contribution towards the achievement of Norwegian climate targets

According to the most recent data, Norway's household energy consumption accounted for approximately 21% of national energy consumption in 2015.⁹ 95% of household energy consumption in Norway is from electricity (83%), 98% of which is produced from renewable sources, and bio energy (12%).¹⁰ The remainder is accounted for by mineral oil and gas, making up the most emissions intensive component of the energy mix.¹¹ The government of Norway is implementing policy measures to encourage energy efficient homes, including taxes on mineral oil.¹² Norway has set climate targets to reduce emissions by 30% by 2020 and by at least 40% by 2030.¹³ The goals seek to achieve climate neutrality by 2030 and aim to position the country to become a low-emission society by 2050.¹⁴ In turn, Norway's climate goals feed into the broader EU target of reducing GHG emissions by 80% by 2050, which includes the potential for a 60% cut in emissions from transportation and 90% from houses and buildings.¹⁵ By financing and refinancing homes with high energy efficiency standards, Sustainalytics is of the opinion that DNB Boligkreditt's green covered bond issuance will contribute to Norway's climate targets and the broader EU climate targets.

Strength of the eligibility criterion using the Norwegian Building Codes

DNB Boligkreditt's process for project evaluation and selection is partly based on the two most recent Norwegian building codes, namely the 2010 (TEK10) and 2017 to identify the top energy performing buildings in Norway. A detailed overview of the Norwegian building codes used is outlined in Appendix 1. DNB Boligkreditt employed a third-party consultancy, i.e. Multiconsult, which conducted a market analysis of the energy performance of Norwegian buildings using data from Norwegian regulations and the national

⁶ DNB's Sustainability Library section: https://www.dnb.no/en/about-us/csr/sustainability-library.html?la=EN&site=DNB_NO

⁷ DNB's Principles for Corporate Responsibility document available at: https://www.dnb.no/portalfont/nedlast/en/about-us/corporate-responsibility/2017/Principles-corporate_responsibility_in_DNB.pdf

⁸ DNB's Sustainability Library section: https://www.dnb.no/en/about-us/csr/sustainability-library.html?la=EN&site=DNB_NO

⁹ Norway's Seventh National Communication under the Framework Convention on Climate Change <https://www.regjeringen.no/contentassets/52d65a62e2474bafa21f4476380cffda/t-1563e.pdf>

¹⁰ Norway's energy mix <https://www.regjeringen.no/en/topics/energy/renewable-energy/renewable-energy-production-in-norway/id2343462/>

¹¹ Norway's Seventh National Communication under the Framework Convention on Climate Change

<https://www.regjeringen.no/contentassets/52d65a62e2474bafa21f4476380cffda/t-1563e.pdf>

¹² Mineral oil will be banned for use in household heating by 2020; information retrieved from Norway's Seventh National Communication under the Framework Convention on Climate Change <https://www.regjeringen.no/contentassets/52d65a62e2474bafa21f4476380cffda/t-1563e.pdf>

¹³ Norway's Seventh National Communication under the Framework Convention on Climate Change

<https://www.regjeringen.no/contentassets/52d65a62e2474bafa21f4476380cffda/t-1563e.pdf>

¹⁴ Norway's Seventh National Communication under the Framework Convention on Climate Change

<https://www.regjeringen.no/contentassets/52d65a62e2474bafa21f4476380cffda/t-1563e.pdf>

¹⁵ EU Climate Strategy and Targets https://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/strategies_en

statistical institute of Norway. As of 2017, the eligible buildings identified through the eligibility criteria, account for the top 7% energy efficient buildings in Norway, which is aligned with market standards. Sustainalytics considers the eligibility criteria used by DNB Boligkreditt to be credible and robust, given credibility of the sources used to establish the eligibility criteria.

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 bond advances the following SDG goals and targets:

Use of Proceeds Category	SDG	SDG target
Green buildings	7. Affordable and clean energy	7.3 By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency
Green buildings	11. Sustainable cities and communities	11.3 By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries
		11.6 By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management
Green buildings	12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns	12.2 By 2030, achieve sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources

Conclusion

DNB Boligkreditt has developed the DNB Boligkreditt Green Bond Framework under which it is planning to issue a "Green Covered Bond" to finance or refinance mortgages for energy efficient new or existing Norwegian residential buildings that comply with the Norwegian building codes 2010 (TEK10) or 2017 (TEK17).

The eligible category (green buildings) is recognized as impactful by the Green Bond Principles and Sustainalytics is of the opinion that the eligible criterion used is robust, given the credible data sources used to establish the underlying methodology. As of 2017, the selected buildings account for the top 7% of energy efficient buildings in Norway as assessed by an independent third party.

Separately, DNB Boligkreditt's processes for evaluation and selection of mortgages and management of proceeds are aligned with market standards. Moreover, aligned with market practices, DNB Boligkreditt will report annually on allocated and unallocated proceeds as well as on impact metrics. The impact indicators used are also aligned with market practices.

Based on the above, Sustainalytics is of the opinion that the DNB Boligkreditt is well positioned to issue green bonds, and that the DNB Boligkreditt Green Bond Framework is credible, robust and aligns with the four pillars of the Green Bond Principles.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Overview of the Norwegian Building Codes

	Norwegian Building Codes 2010 (TEK10) or 2017 (TEK17)
Background	The Norwegian Building Codes 2010 (TEK10) or 2017 (TEK17) are the country's two most recent and stringent buildings regulations enforced by the Ministry of Local Government and Modernization pursuant to the Act of 27 June 2008 No. 71 relating to planning and processing of building applications (Planning and Building Act), the Act of 16 June 1994 No. 20 relating to the technical assessment bodies responsible for conducting conformity assessments and the Act of 19 June 2009 No. 100 relating to the management of biological, geological and landscape biodiversity (Nature Diversity Act). The deployment of the Norwegian Building Codes is intended to ensure that projects are planned, designed and executed on the basis of good visual aesthetics, universal design, and in a manner that ensures that the project complies with the technical standards for safety, the environment health and energy.¹⁶
Certification levels	Compliant or non-compliant status
Areas of Assessment: Environmental Performance of the Building^{17 18}	<u>TEK17 areas of assessment</u> • Common provisions • Documentation of compliance with the requirements • Documentation of products • Documentation for management, operation and maintenance (MOM) • Degree of utilisation • Calculation and measurement rules • Protection against act of nature • Developed outside areas • External environment • Structural safety • Fire safety • Layouts of and building elements in construction works • Indoor climate and health • Energy • Installation and plants • Lift safety inspections • Entry into force and transitional provisions <u>TEK10 areas of assessment</u> • Common provisions • Documentation of products • Management, operation and maintenance (MOM) documentation • Degree of utilization • Calculation and measurement rules • Protection against act of nature • Outside areas and siting of structures • External environment • Structural safety • Fire safety • Layouts of and building components in structures • The environment and health • Energy • Installations and systems

¹⁶ Norwegian regulations regarding the TEK17 technical requirements <https://dibk.no/globalassets/byggeregler/regulation-on-technical-requirements-for-construction-works-technical-regulations.pdf>

¹⁷ Norwegian regulations regarding the TEK17 technical requirements <https://dibk.no/globalassets/byggeregler/regulation-on-technical-requirements-for-construction-works-technical-regulations.pdf>

¹⁸ Norwegian regulations regarding the TEK 10 technical requirements: https://dibk.no/globalassets/byggeregler/regulations_on_technical_requirements_for_building_works.pdf

	• Lift safety inspections • Commencement and transitional provisions
Requirements	The Norwegian building code is a function-based Building Code, with the technical requirements being specified in the form of functions or performance within the relevant areas of assessment. The requirements are either in the form of qualitative or quantitative performance and are designed as a pre-accepted performance. Once these pre-accepted performances are respected, compliance with the Norwegian Building Regulation is granted by the Norwegian Building Authority. ¹⁹
Performance display	Compliance with the Norwegian Building Codes as administered by the Norwegian Building Authority is not associated with any performance display.   20 21

¹⁹ Background information on the Norwegian Building Code available at: <http://www.byggvareinfo.no/en/understanding-norwegian-building-code>

²⁰ Logo retrieved from the Norwegian Building Authority website: <https://dibk.no/>

²¹ Logo retrieved from the TEK17 technical requirements document available at: <https://dibk.no/globalassets/byggeregler/regulation-on-technical-requirements-for-construction-works-technical-regulations.pdf>

Appendix 2: Green Bond / Green Bond Programme - External Review Form

Section 1. Basic Information

Issuer name:	DNB Boligkreditt
Green Bond ISIN or Issuer Green Bond Framework Name, if applicable: <i>[specify as appropriate]</i>	DNB Boligkreditt Green Bond Framework
Review provider's name:	Sustainalytics
Completion date of this form:	May 2018
Publication date of review publication: <i>[where appropriate, specify if it is an update and add reference to earlier relevant review]</i>	May 2018

Section 2. Review overview

SCOPE OF REVIEW

The following may be used or adapted, where appropriate, to summarise the scope of the review.

The review assessed the following elements and confirmed their alignment with the GBPs:

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☒ Use of Proceeds | ☒ Process for Project Evaluation and Selection |
| ☒ Management of Proceeds | ☒ Reporting |

ROLE(S) OF REVIEW PROVIDER

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☒ Consultancy (incl. 2 nd opinion) | ☐ Certification |
| ☐ Verification | ☐ Rating |
| ☐ Other <i>(please specify)</i> : | |

Note: In case of multiple reviews / different providers, please provide separate forms for each review.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REVIEW and/or LINK TO FULL REVIEW *(if applicable)*

Please refer to the DNB Boligkreditt Green Bond Framework document available at <https://www.ir.dnb.no/funding-and-rating/green-covered-bonds> and the Second Party Opinion document 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)*:

Green Buildings are recognized by the Green Bond Principles as a project category with clear environmental benefits. Sustainalytics views DNB Boligkreditt's intended allocation of bond proceeds to a loan portfolio for energy-efficient residential buildings in Norway as impactful (for additional information on additionality and impact, please consult Section 3).

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 GBPs | ☐ Other <i>(please specify)</i> : |

If applicable please specify the environmental taxonomy, if other than GBPs:

2. PROCESS FOR PROJECT EVALUATION AND SELECTION

Overall comment on section *(if applicable)*:

A green mortgage register will be set up and maintained by DNB Boligkreditt to identify and log mortgages that meet the eligibility criteria outlined within the framework. DNB Boligkreditt will draw loans from the register to be included in the Eligible Green Loans Portfolio. DNB will select and track the Eligible Green Loans' by cross-matching building identification numbers stored in third party Eiendomsverdi's data and DNB's cover pool to determine eligibility. Eiendomsverdi is a third party that manages and supports the reporting of mortgage cover pool data for covered bond issuers. Accountability within DNB for reviewing the mortgages within the register is assigned to a dedicated Green Bond Committee composed of representatives from group treasury, CSR department and the Sustainable Finance Department of DNB Markets. Ongoing compliance of mortgages within the register will be reviewed by the committee on a regular basis (at least annually). Sustainalytics assesses DNB's approach to the process for project evaluation and selection as being in line with current market practices.

Evaluation and selection

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☒ 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 <i>(please specify)</i> : |

Information on Responsibilities and Accountability

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☒ Evaluation / Selection criteria subject to external advice or verification | ☐ In-house assessment |
| ☐ Other <i>(please specify)</i> : | |

3. MANAGEMENT OF PROCEEDS

Overall comment on section *(if applicable)*:

Proceeds from the green covered bond will be managed and tracked through a portfolio approach, where the balance of Eligible Green Loans that constitute the portfolio will be greater than the balance of the issuer's green covered bond proceeds. DNB Boligkreditt will invest any unallocated proceeds in money market instruments until they are allocated to loans meeting the eligibility criteria. This process is in line with current market practices.

Tracking of proceeds:

- | |
|---|
| ☒ Green Bond proceeds segregated or tracked by the issuer in an appropriate manner |
| ☒ Disclosure of intended types of temporary investment instruments for unallocated proceeds |
| ☐ Other <i>(please specify)</i> : |

Additional disclosure:

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Allocations to future investments only | ☒ Allocations to both existing and future investments |
| ☐ Allocation to individual disbursements | ☒ Allocation to a portfolio of disbursements |
| ☒ Disclosure of portfolio balance of unallocated proceeds | ☐ Other <i>(please specify)</i> : |

4. REPORTING

Overall comment on section (if applicable):

DNB Boligkreditt has committed to reporting on its website on an annual basis to investors on the allocation of proceeds from the green covered bond and on impact metrics. The (i) allocation reporting will include the size of the Eligible Green Loans Portfolio, the total amount of proceeds allocated to eligible loans, the balance of unallocated proceeds or the amount/percentage of new financing and refinancing, while the (ii) impact reporting will include the estimated ex-ante annual energy consumption or savings and the estimated GHG emissions reduced or tons of CO2 equivalent avoided. Sustainalytics views this approach in line with market practices.

Use of proceeds reporting:

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Project-by-project | ☒ On a project portfolio basis |
| ☐ Linkage to individual bond(s) | ☐ Other (<i>please specify</i>): |

Information reported:

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☒ Allocated amounts | ☐ Green Bond financed share of total investment |
| ☐ Other (<i>please specify</i>): | |

Frequency:

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| ☒ Annual | ☐ Semi-annual |
| ☐ Other (please specify): | |

Impact reporting:

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Project-by-project | ☒ On a project portfolio basis |
| ☐ Linkage to individual bond(s) | ☐ Other (please specify): |

Frequency:

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| ☒ Annual | ☐ Semi-annual |
| ☐ Other (please specify): | |

Information reported (expected or ex-post):

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☒ GHG Emissions / Savings | ☒ Energy Savings |
| ☐ Decrease in water use | ☐ Other ESG indicators (please specify): |

Means of Disclosure

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ Information published in financial report | ☐ Information published in sustainability report |
| ☐ Information published in ad hoc documents | ☐ Other (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.

USEFUL LINKS (e.g. to review provider methodology or credentials, to issuer's documentation, etc.)

<https://www.ir.dnb.no/funding-and-rating/green-covered-bonds>

<https://www.dnb.no/portalfont/nedlast/en/about-us/corporate-responsibility/2017/Annual-report-dnb-group-2017.pdf>

https://www.dnb.no/en/about-us/csr/sustainability-library.html?la=EN&site=DNB_NO

SPECIFY OTHER EXTERNAL REVIEWS AVAILABLE, IF APPROPRIATE

Type(s) of Review provided:

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Consultancy (incl. 2 nd opinion) | ☐ Certification |
| ☐ Verification / Audit | ☐ Rating |
| ☐ Other (<i>please specify</i>): | |

Review provider(s):

Date of publication:

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

- i. Consultant Review: An issuer can seek advice from consultants and/or institutions with recognized expertise in environmental sustainability or other aspects of the issuance of a Green Bond, such as the establishment/review of an issuer's Green Bond framework. "Second Party Opinions" may fall into this category.
- ii. Verification: An issuer can have its Green Bond, associated Green Bond framework, or underlying assets independently verified by qualified parties, such as auditors. In contrast to certification, verification may focus on alignment with internal standards or claims made by the issuer. Evaluation of the environmentally sustainable features of underlying assets may be termed verification and may reference external criteria.
- iii. Certification: An issuer can have its Green Bond or associated Green Bond framework or Use of Proceeds certified against an external green assessment standard. An assessment standard defines criteria, and alignment with such criteria is tested by qualified third parties / certifiers.
- iv. Rating: An issuer can have its Green Bond or associated Green Bond framework rated by qualified third parties, such as specialized research providers or rating agencies. Green Bond ratings are separate from an issuer's ESG rating as they typically apply to individual securities or Green Bond frameworks / programmes.

Disclaimer

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The client is fully responsible for certifying and ensuring its commitments' compliance, implementation and monitoring.

Sustainalytics

Sustainalytics is a leading independent ESG and corporate governance research, ratings and analytics firm that support investors around the world with the development and implementation of responsible investment strategies. With 13 offices globally, the firm partners with institutional investors who integrate ESG information and assessments into their investment processes. Spanning 30 countries, the world's leading issuers, from multinational corporations to financial institutions to governments, turn to Sustainalytics for second-party opinions on green and sustainable bond frameworks. Sustainalytics has been certified by the Climate Bonds Standard Board as a verifier organization, and supports various stakeholders in the development and verification of their frameworks. Global Capital named Sustainalytics the "Most Impressive Second Party Opinion Provider in 2017". In 2018, the firm was recognized as the "Largest External Reviewer" by the Climate Bonds Initiative as well as Environmental Finance. In addition, Sustainalytics received a Special Mention Sustainable Finance Award in 2018 from The Research Institute for Environmental Finance Japan for its contribution to the growth of the Japanese Green Bond Market.

For more information, visit www.sustainalytics.com

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