

Marui Group Co., Ltd.

Type of Engagement: Annual Review

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Introduction

In October 2018, Marui Group Co., Ltd. (Marui Group) issued a green bond aimed at financing and refinancing expenditures related to i) Source 100% of electricity from renewable power sources, ii) Reduction of GHG emissions and iii) Renewable power generation (the “Green Bond”). In June 2021, Marui Group engaged Sustainalytics to review the projects funded through the issued Green Bond and provide an assessment as to whether the projects met the Use of Proceeds criteria and the Reporting commitments outlined in the Marui Group Green Bond Framework (the “Framework”).¹ This is Sustainalytics’ third annual review of Marui Group’s Green Bond following the previous review in June 2020.

Evaluation Criteria

Sustainalytics evaluated the projects funded in fiscal year 2020² based on whether the projects:

1. Met the Use of Proceeds and Eligibility Criteria outlined in the Framework; and
2. Reported on the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for each Use of Proceeds criteria outlined in the Framework.

Table 1 lists the Use of Proceeds and Eligibility Criteria, while Table 2 lists the associated KPIs.

Table 1: Use of Proceeds, Eligibility Criteria, and associated KPIs

Marui Group has committed to allocating the proceeds of the Green Bond towards financing and refinancing projects that meet the following eligibility criteria, and that refinancing of projects will be limited to existing projects with a look-back period of 24 months prior to the date of issuance of the Green Bond.

Use of Proceeds	Eligibility Criteria
i) Source 100% of electricity from renewable power sources	Costs related to MARUI GROUP’ efforts to achieve 100% renewable energy utilization, mainly via solar and wind power, consumed by its business segments
ii) Reduction of GHG emissions	Costs related to energy-saving efforts at stores and offices
iii) Renewable power generation	Costs related to implementation of renewable energy power generation projects

¹ Marui Group’s Green Bond Framework overview available at: <https://www.sustainalytics.com/corporate-solutions/sustainable-finance-and-lending/published-projects/project/marui-group-co-ltd/marui-group-green-bond-framework-second-party-opinion/marui-group-green-bond-framework-overview-spo-final-pdf>

² The fiscal year 2020 begins on 1 April 2020 and end on 31 March 2021.

Table 2: Key Performance Indicators

Marui Group has committed to report on the following impact indicators on an annual basis throughout the term of the bond.

Key performance indicators	
i) Source 100% of electricity from renewable power sources	Ratio of renewable power to the Group's total power consumption (%)
ii) Reduction of GHG emissions	Rate of reduction of the group wide total GHG emissions in comparison to the level in the fiscal year ending March 31, 2017 (%)
iii) Renewable power generation	Amount of renewable power generation (kWh)

Issuing Entity's Responsibility

Marui Group is responsible for providing accurate information and documentation relating to the details of the projects that have been funded, including description of projects, amounts allocated, and project impact.

Independence and Quality Control

Sustainalytics, a leading provider of ESG and corporate governance research and ratings to investors, conducted the verification of Marui Group's Green Bond Use of Proceeds. The work undertaken as part of this engagement included collection of documentation from Marui Group employees and review of documentation to confirm the conformance with the Framework.

Sustainalytics has relied on the information and the facts presented by Marui Group with respect to the Nominated Projects. Sustainalytics is not responsible nor shall it be held liable if any of the opinions, findings, or conclusions it has set forth herein are not correct due to incorrect or incomplete data provided by Marui Group.

Sustainalytics made all efforts to ensure the highest quality and rigor during its assessment process and enlisted its Sustainability Bonds Review Committee to provide oversight over the assessment of the review.

Conclusion

Based on the limited assurance procedures conducted,³ nothing has come to Sustainalytics' attention that causes us to believe that, in all material respects, the reviewed bond projects, funded through proceeds of the Green Bond, are not in conformance with the Use of Proceeds and Reporting Criteria outlined in the Framework.

³ Sustainalytics limited assurance process includes reviewing the documentation relating to the details of the projects that have been funded, including description of projects, amounts allocated, and project impact, which were provided by the Issuer. The Issuer is responsible for providing accurate information. Sustainalytics has not conducted on-site visits to projects.

Detailed Findings

Table 3: Detailed Findings

Eligibility Criteria	Procedure Performed	Factual Findings	Error or Exceptions Identified
Use of Proceeds Criteria	Verification of the projects funded by the Green Bond in fiscal year 2020 to determine if projects aligned with the Use of Proceeds Criteria outlined in the Framework and above in Table 1.	All projects reviewed complied with the Use of Proceeds criteria.	None
Reporting Criteria	Verification of the projects funded by the Green Bond in fiscal year 2020 to determine if impact of projects was reported in line with the KPIs outlined in the Framework and above in Table 2. For a list of KPIs reported please refer to Appendix 2.	All projects reviewed reported on KPI per Use of Proceeds criteria.	None

Appendices

Appendix 1: List of Project Categories Reviewed

Use of Proceeds Category	Description	Look-back period for refinanced projects	Net Bond Proceeds Allocation (million JPY)	
			fiscal year 2020	Cumulative total ⁴
i) Source 100% of electricity from renewable power sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Costs related to purchase of power from renewable energy sources 	None	1,133.9	1,986.3
ii) Reduction of GHG emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Costs related to LED lights (at least 40% of the reduction in power consumption) Costs related to air-conditioners (at least 30% reduction on power consumption) Costs related to hot and cold water dispensers and cooling water pumps (at least a 30% reduction on power consumption) Costs related to transformers (at least 50% of the reduction in power consumption) Costs related to escalators and elevators (at least 30% of the reduction in power consumption) Costs related to guidance lights (at least 40% of the reduction in power consumption) 	Confirmed that the lookback period for all the refinanced projects are within 24 months prior to the issuance date of the Green Bond	1,608.9	4,232.5
iii) Renewable power generation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Costs of operating solar power generation facilities 	None	0.4	1.7
Total:			2,743.2	6,220.6

Appendix 2: Impact Reporting by Eligibility Criteria

Use of Proceeds Category	KPIs
i) Source 100% of electricity from renewable power sources	Ratio of renewable power to the Group's total power consumption: 52.1%
ii) Reduction of GHG emissions	Rate of reduction of the group wide total GHG emissions in comparison to the level in the fiscal year ending March 31 2017: 58.6%
iii) Renewable power generation	Amount of renewable power generation: 354,519 kWh

⁴ Total amount allocated from the Green Bond issuance (October 19, 2018) to March 31, 2021.

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