

Mizuho Financial Group, Inc. (2022 Green Bond)

Type of Engagement: Annual Review

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Introduction

In February 2022, Mizuho Financial Group, Inc. (“Mizuho FG”) issued a green bond aimed at financing and/or refinancing projects related to Renewable Energy, Clean Transportation, Pollution Prevention and Control, and Green Buildings (USD 500 mn 8.25-Year Green Bond, hereinafter the “2022 Green Bond”). As of March 31, 2022, the proceeds have been allocated to 12 projects renewable energy projects and a project related to 20 green buildings. In August 2022, Mizuho FG engaged Sustainalytics to review the projects funded through the 2022 Green Bond and assess whether the projects met the Use of Proceeds criteria and the Reporting commitments outlined in the Mizuho Financial Group, Inc. Green Bond Framework (the “Framework”)¹.

Evaluation Criteria

Sustainalytics evaluated the projects funded with proceeds as of March 31, 2022 based on whether the projects:

1. Met the Use of Proceeds and Eligibility Criteria outlined in the Framework; and
2. Reported on the impact indicators for each Use of Proceeds criteria outlined in the Framework.

Table 1 lists the Use of Proceeds, Eligibility Criteria, and associated impact indicators for the Use of Proceeds category to which the proceeds were allocated.

Table 1: Use of Proceeds, Eligibility Criteria, and associated impact indicators

Use of Proceeds	Eligibility Criteria	Impact indicators
Renewable Energy	The development, construction and operation of renewable energy facilities which generate wind, solar, solar thermal, biomass energy (restricted to sustainable feedstock and/or waste sources), geothermal energy (restricted to the projects that have direct emissions of less than 100gCO ₂ /kWh), and small hydro facilities with generation capacity of 25 megawatts or less or run of river hydropower assets without pondage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tons of CO₂ emission equivalent avoided
Green Buildings	Buildings which have received or will receive during the life of the Green Bond at least one of the following classifications. Net proceeds of the Green Bond may be allocated towards new and existing loans from Mizuho BK to eligible green buildings with certifications as defined below, including the ones owned by J-REITs (Japanese Real Estate Investment Trusts). The allocation amounts to eligible green buildings owned by JREITs may be calculated based on pro-rata share of eligible green buildings’ acquisition cost. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design): LEED Platinum or Gold ○ BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method): BREEAM Outstanding or Excellent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number and certification level of green buildings

¹ Mizuho Financial Group, Inc. Green Bond Framework is available at the following link: <https://www.mizuhogroup.com/sustainability/environment/business/greenbond>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CASBEE (Comprehensive Assessment System for Built Environment Efficiency): CASBEE S Rank or A Rank ○ DBJ Green Building Certification: DBJ Green Building 5 Star or 4 Star ○ BELS (Building-Housing Energy-efficiency Labelling System): BELS 5 Star or 4 Star 	
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Issuing Entity's Responsibility

Mizuho FG 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 Mizuho FG's 2022 Green Bond Use of Proceeds. The work undertaken as part of this engagement included collection of documentation from Mizuho FG employees and review of documentation to confirm the conformance with the Framework.

Sustainalytics has relied on the information and the facts presented by Mizuho FG 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 Mizuho FG.

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,² nothing has come to Sustainalytics' attention that causes us to believe that, in all material respects, the reviewed bond projects, funded through proceeds of Mizuho FG's 2022 Green Bond, are not in conformance with the Use of Proceeds and Reporting Criteria outlined in the Framework. Mizuho FG has disclosed to Sustainalytics that the proceeds of the 2022 Green Bond were fully allocated as of March 31, 2022.

² Sustainalytics limited assurance process includes reviewing the documentation relating to the details of the projects that have been funded, including description of projects, 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 2: Detailed Findings

Evaluation Criteria	Procedure Performed	Factual Findings	Error or Exceptions Identified
Use of Proceeds Criteria	Verification of the projects funded by the 2022 Green Bond as of March 31, 2022 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 2022 Green Bond as of March 31, 2022 to determine if the impact of projects were reported in line with the impact indicators outlined in the Framework and above in Table 1.	All projects reviewed reported on impact indicators per Use of Proceeds criteria.	None

Appendix

Appendix 1: Impact Reporting and Allocation³ of Green Bond Proceeds

1. Renewable Energy

Project Category	Sub-category	Number of Projects	Impact Indicators		Loan Balance (USD-mn) ⁴
			Annual Energy Production (MWh)	CO ₂ emissions reduction (Mizuho FG's contribution) (t-CO ₂ /y) ⁵	
Renewable Energy	Solar	6	7,787,527	346,620	238
Renewable Energy	Wind	5	4,192,125	298,946	171
Renewable Energy	Biomass ⁶	1	541,037	11,187	9
Total		12	12,520,689	656,753	418

³ Impact Reporting by Mizuho FG is available at:

https://www.mizuhogroup.com/binaries/content/assets/pdf/mizuhoglobal/sustainability/environment/business/greenbond/improvement_20220222.pdf

⁴ The amount of loan balance is rounded to the nearest million. The exchange rate from March 31, 2022 was used in converting JPY to USD.

⁵ Calculated by multiplying the project expected CO₂ emission reductions by the ratio of Mizuho Bank, Ltd.'s outstanding debt of the total project cost (Mizuho's Attribution Factor). Mizuho's Attribution Factor is in line with PCAF Guidance.

⁶ Mizuho FG has confirmed that the source of biomass energy project was restricted to sustainable feedstock and waste materials.

2. Green Buildings⁷

Project Category	Number of Properties	Impact Indicators					Loan Balance (USD-mn) ⁸
		CASBEE	BELS	DBJ Green Building	CASBEE and BELS	CASBEE and DBJ Green Building	
Green Buildings	20	S rank: 6 properties A rank: 8 properties	5 stars: 1 property	5 stars: 2 properties	S rank and 4 stars: 1 property A rank and 5 stars: 1 property	A rank and 4 stars: 1 property	84

Allocation of Green Bond Proceeds

Item	Amount (USD-mn) ⁹
Total Net Bond Proceeds from Green Bond issuance:	500
Total Loan Balance (Renewable Energy + Green Buildings):	502
Total Net Bond Proceeds Unallocated:	0

⁷ In the Green Buildings category, Mizuho FG allocated the proceeds to eligible green buildings owned by a J-REIT (Japanese Real Estate Investment Trust) through loans to the REIT.

⁸ The amount of loan balance is rounded to the nearest million. The exchange rate from March 31, 2022 was used in converting JPY to USD. The allocation amounts to eligible green buildings owned by J-REITs are calculated based on pro-rata share of eligible green buildings' acquisition cost.

⁹ Ibid.

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