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Climate and biodiversity data provider specialized in metrics for the financial sector



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# The EU Green Bond Standard, a game changer in the low-carbon transition?

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## Agenda

▶ 1. EU GBS, the new golden standard?

2. Green bonds methodology

3. Case study by Franklin Templeton Investments

#### Green bond issuance over the last five years





# The EU Green Bond Standard supports the low-carbon transition's ambition of the Green Bond market

#### Objectives

- Mobilizing capital for the energy and ecological transition
- Enhance credibility and align with the EU taxonomy
- Support transparency of information for financial market players

#### Scope

Voluntary standard, listed and unlisted bonds, open to any EU and non- EU issuer



#### Disclosure requirements for an EU GBS

Mandatory documentation to be published on issuer's website

EU GB Factsheet Annual allocation Post-issuance review reports report	Impact report	Prospectus requirements
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# Agenda

#### 1. EU GBS, the new golden standard?



#### 2. Green bonds methodology

3. Case study by Franklin Templeton Investments

#### **Green Bond Methodology**

A five-steps analyst-driven climate analysis



#### 1. Project type classification

- Identify the underlying projects of the Green Bond
- Classify projects into sectors
- Perform the analysis following a bottomup approach, based on physical data reported by the issuer

#### Use of proceeds by sector (% total)



#### 2. Calculation of key indicators

#### Scope of analysis of induced emissions and emissions savings

> Calculation principles are adapted to each sector's specificities:



### 2. Calculation of key indicators

Sector-specific metrics and indicators are analysed:

- absolute induced and avoided emissions (Scopes 1, 2 and 3)
- the Carbon Impact Ratio CIR (ratio of total avoided emissions over total induced emissions)
- induced and avoided emissions intensity (in tCO2e/M€)
- overall rating by sector, embedding sector-specific indicators (e.g., carbon intensity for power producers)

#### 2. Calculation of key indicators

#### Emissions savings assessment:

Emissions savings represent the difference between project's emissions and the emissions in a reference situation.



#### 2. Calculation of key indicators

#### Example of a renewable electricity project

#### • Induced emissions calculation

Induced emissions = Annual production (MWh/year) x Emission Factor



#### • Emission savings calculation

 Emission savings = Induced emissions – Annual production (MWh/year) x Reference Emission Factor depending on the geographic zone

#### **Green Bond Methodology**

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### 2. Calculation of key indicators

#### Example of a Real Estate project

- Induced emissions calculation
  - Induced emissions = m<sup>2</sup> built x Emission Factor + m<sup>2</sup> operated x Emission Factor



• Emission savings calculation

#### Construction

The buildings will replace a certain percentage of existing buildings : as they are more efficient than the existing buildings, there are emissions savings

# RefurbishmentThe refurbishment of an ancient<br/>building will enable it to consume less<br/>energy than before, so that there will<br/>be emissions savingsarbon4 | finance

### 2. Calculation of key indicators

#### Example of a low-carbon transportation project

- Induced emissions calculation
  - Induced emissions = Annual traffic generated (passengers km) x Emission Factor of transport type (Bus, rail, subway,...)



Emission savings calculation

#### New transport line

The new transport will be used by passengers : some will use it instead of a less efficient mode of transport : this generates emissions savings

#### Renovation of transport line

For a given mode of transport, the renovation will make the transport more efficient : this generates emissions savings

#### 2. Calculation of key indicators

#### Case study for a transportation project : Société du Grand Paris (FR0013372299)

- Induced emissions calculation
  - Induced emissions = Annual traffic generated (passengers km) x Emission Factor of transport type (Bus, rail, subway,...)



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#### 2. Calculation of key indicators

As Induced emissions and emissions savings are calculated for the entire project, the issuance of the green bond is not entirely responsible for these emissions : two retreatments are necessary.



#### 2. Calculation of key indicators

#### Allocation of the project's emissions to the portfolio



### 2. Calculation of key indicators

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#### Allocation of the project's emissions to the portfolio



#### **Green Bond Methodology**

#### A five-steps analyst-driven climate analysis

## 2. Calculation of key indicators

> For each sector, an overall rating is calculated based on a specific indicator :



#### **Green Bond Methodology**

A five-steps analyst-driven climate analysis

3. Aggregation of results at the bond-level

- Indicators for each project and sector are aggregated at the bond level.
- Emissions (induced and avoided) are provided at the bond-level, thanks to the unique sharpness of our bottom-up analyses.



#### 4. Qualitative assessment on transparency

#### The qualitative score is based on the level of transparency and the quality of the report.



#### 5. Overall rating of the carbon performance

- Carbon performances are rated through the Carbon Impact Analytics (CIA) overall rating.
- The green bond overall rating is a WEIGHTED AVERAGE : the overall rating of each sector is weighted by its share in the total of the Green bond in terms of money.
- For Green Bonds, carbon performances are assessed based on the CIR.
- It allows to compare and understand carbon performances and the "real" contribution of a Green Bond to the lowcarbon transition.





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## **Executive Summary**

Lessons from our analysis

The report highlights several key findings:

- Energy, buildings, and transport are identified as high stakes sectors
- Total emissions savings from these three sectors amount to over 2,600 tCO<sub>2</sub>e per €10m invested

#### We conclude that:

- Increasing renewables capacity should come before building out transmission or storage
- Using and improving existing buildings infrastructure beats adding new green housing stock
- Transportation has high initial induced emissions but large long-term savings





## The top three contributors

Energy, buildings, transport





# Total emission savings\*: 2,638 tCO<sub>2</sub>e

\* For every €10m invested.

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## **Energy contribution**



Energy emissions savings contribution\* 898 tCO<sub>2</sub>e

- The highest carbon impact ratio (CIR) came from renewables, followed by power efficiency
- For every tonne "spent" on renewables development, more than 10 tonnes are avoided
- The importance of establishing new renewable capacity cannot be overemphasized
- Transmission and distribution are small contributors by comparison

## ➔ Increasing renewables capacity is key

\* For every €10m invested.

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## **Buildings contribution**

Construction is a highly energy intensive sector

- Renovating old buildings issues less emissions than building new "green" buildings
- Using existing infrastructure is extremely efficient in keeping emissions down and should be prioritized

## → Modernizing and improving is better than adding



786 tCO<sub>2</sub>e



## **Transport contribution**



Transport emissions savings contribution\*

- Transportation is still responsible for nearly a quarter of 24% of direct emissions
- The production of an electric vehicle is a high-emissions activity, therefore, long-lasting electric vehicles must be built, and battery components and minerals recycled
- Rail transport has extremely high induced emissions, but once the infrastructure is set up, the scalability may lead to an increased CIR over time

## → Long-termism is required due to high initial cost

\* For every €10m invested.

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## The investment strategy

Significant emissions savings

#### The fund:

- Invests at least 75% in labelled green bonds
- For the remainder, we look for bonds that satisfy the following:
  - **1** corporate strategy supportive of a low carbon future
  - good environmental performance to date
  - appropriate governance framework
- Most of the holdings in our Green Bond strategy have disclosed which of the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) their corporate or sustainability strategy aligns to
- There are three central "use of proceeds" or "high stakes sectors" that are most prevalent in the portfolio and are responsible for generating over 70% of global emissions: energy, buildings, and transport
- The total emissions savings of the current portfolio projects amount to over 2,600 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalents (tCO<sub>2</sub>e) per €10m invested



#### TOTAL PORTFOLIO CO<sub>2</sub> PER €10 MILLION



For every  $\in 10$  million invested, a total of 2,638 tCO<sub>2</sub>e are avoided annually.

## **Process and standards**

Reliability and quality



The objectives of the report revolve around **accountability and transparency**, and an **overall better understanding** of how impact reporting is a useful tool in assessing **the role of fixed income in the fight against climate change**.

#### **Understand, Quantify & Observe**

Understand and quantify the environmental impact of our investments and the underlying projects

**Observe** market developments in three key areas:

- Data: quality and consistency
- Methodologies: transparency and comparability
- Best practices: issuers and investors

To achieve this, we have **partnered with experts** to help us deliver an **unbiased and comprehensive review** of our strategy from a sustainability perspective.

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#### **Partners**

- <u>Carbon4Finance</u>: project impact calculation for both the construction and the operational phases of a project
- <u>CICERO Shades of Green</u>: real-life impact assessment that the green bond or project has on climate change





*"Investors need to be aware that not all green bonds are equal—induced emissions need to be considered against avoided emissions to ensure that the net gain from the project is material, enduring, and where possible—scalable."* 

## Key takeaways and issues for investors



- We found a useful allocation across sectors that align with the overall green bond market, focusing primarily on energy, transportation and buildings
- The main challenge for reporting at a fund level is the lack of consistent reporting at the bond level and the quality of the underlying data
- Investors can help by **pushing for a consistent set of metrics** for a given use of proceeds
- Given the reputational benefits of issuing a green bond (the so-called 'halo effect'), investors need to be vigilant
  about probing and verifying the 'positive impact' for themselves
- A healthy green bond market is one where the green investor demands high standards from issuers to ensure that sustainability targets are stretching enough
- We find the EU taxonomy guidance invaluable by providing technical guidance





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