



**Green Covered Bond Allocation Report** 

**Financial Year 2020** 

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### 1. Introduction

We are pleased to present our first Green Covered Bond Allocation Report (the Report), for the financial year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020. NORD/LB CBB published its Green Bond Framework in 2019 followed by the issuance of the worldwide first green covered bond based on legislation - Lettre de Gage énergies renouvelables - in January 2020.

NORD/LB Group – including Norddeutsche Landesbank – Girozentrale – (NORD/LB), NORD/LB Luxembourg S.A. Covered Bond Bank (NORD/LB CBB) and Deutsche Hypothekenbank (Deutsche Hypo) - has been a vocal proponent of the UN Global Compact and its principles for many years and strives to implement these principles within its sphere of influence. Upholding these principles represents a key element for NORD/LB of its responsibility towards customers and employees in the capacity of financial service providers, and towards society as a whole in the capacity of a corporate citizen. For NORD/LB and its subsidiaries, it means that, in line with the ten principles relating to human rights, environmental protection and the fight against corruption, that these issues are firmly entrenched within the guidelines and policies of the Banks and, in doing so, enabled them guide them in their day-to-day activities.

The NORD/LB Group has had a sustainability strategy to serve as a strategic foundation since 2013. Therefore NORD/LB Group believes that sustainability is first and foremost a question of attitude: it is a part of the Bank's public mandate to support sustainable development directly and indirectly through its own business activities. The NORD/LB Group is convinced that many aspects of global change result in opportunities and risks for its customers and will therefore also affect its business activities.

NORD/LB CBB as a competence centre for funding by means of Lettres de Gage publiques and Lettres de Gage Renewable Energy (*Lettres de Gage énergies renouvelables*), intends to make its contribution to achieving the climate targets set by the German Federal Government and contributes to the transition to a more environmentally friendly and sustainable European Economy. NORD/LB CBB is fully committed to supporting the development of the market for sustainable bonds. We believe that issuing green bonds will help provide the necessary resources to fight climate change.

## 2. Green Covered Bond Approach

NORD/LB CBB's Green Bond Framework is aligned with the Green Bond Principles as well as with the provisions related to renewable energies of the Luxembourg Financial Sector Act.

#### Use of proceeds

The use of proceeds will be allocated towards eligible assets according to the GBP, and according to the definition in the Luxemburgish Covered Bond Law.



#### Luxemburgish Covered Bond Law

The requirements for the ordinary collateral acc. to Art. 12-3 (2) f for the new asset class Renewable Energy fulfill the GBP use of proceeds criteria

# Project evaluation and selection

Selection criteria are established by NORD/LB CBB for the appropriate project evaluation and selection.



# Luxemburgish Covered Bond Law

The covered bond law sets prudent and strict criteria for eligible renewable energy assets based on EU directive 200/28 Art. 2 (a)

# Management of proceeds

NORD/LB CBB will ensure a constant monitoring of renewable Energy projects for Green Bonds proceeds and replacement of unsuitable green assets.



# Luxemburgish Covered Bond Law

The renewable energy assets form a separate cover pool, independent from other assets of the bank, according to covered Bond law Art. 12-6 (1)

#### Reporting

NORD/LB CBB will provide a regular Cover Pool Reporting, Allocation Reporting and Green Covered Bond Impact Reporting.



# Luxemburgish Covered Bond Law

Reporting requirements according to covered bond law Art. 12-6 (2), which are defined in a separate Transparency Circular

NORD/LB CBB's Green Bond Framework is confirmed by a Second-Party Opinion from Sustainalytics. Additional information can be found on the NORD/LB CBB Green Covered Bond webpage.

In addition, NORD/LB CBB publishes an annual Impact Report that is also available on the NORD/LB CBB Green Covered Bond webpage.

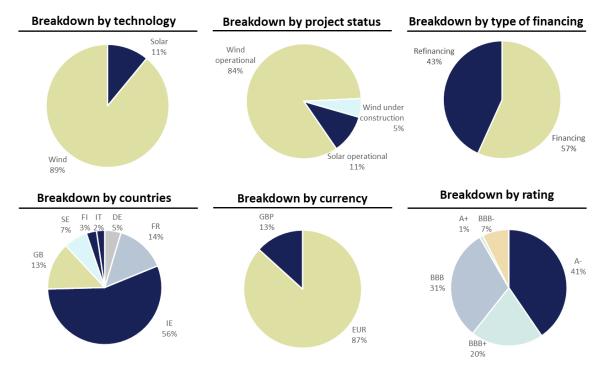
## 3. Inaugural Green Covered Bond

NORD/LB CBB issued its first green covered bond (Lettres de Gage Renewable Energy) in January 2020.

| Lettres de Gage Renewable Energy in brief |                                   |  |  |
|---|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| Green Covered Bond volume:                | 300.0 €m                          |  |  |
| Issue date:                               | 28 Jan 2020                       |  |  |
| Maturity date:                            | 28 Jan 2025                       |  |  |
| Use of proceeds:                          | Solar- and windprojects (onshore) |  |  |
| Second Party Opinion:                     | Sustainalytics                    |  |  |
| ISIN / Coupon / Moody's rating:           | XS2079316753 / 0.05% / Aa2        |  |  |

## 4. Cover pool reporting - renewable energy loans

| Cover pool - renewable energy loans as of 31st December 2020 1, 2, 3 |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
| Total volume (balance sheet) renewable energy financings:            | 546.0 €m                                       |  |  |
| Cover pool volume (RE loans only / total including bonds):           | 355.2 €m / 372.1 €m                            |  |  |
| Unallocated proceeds:  | None, full allocation of the issuance proceeds |  |  |
| Number of projects:  | 23   |  |  |



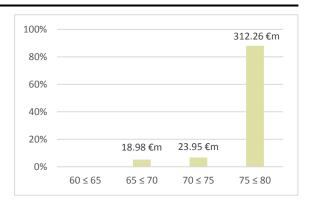
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Total differences are rounding differences

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Internal Ratings based on DSGV Basel III compliant rating tool

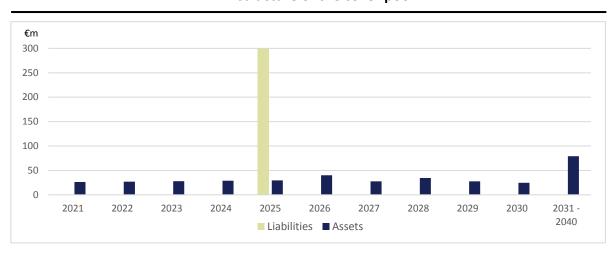
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Financing = financing of new exposure/projects; Refinancing = financing of existing projects

## Unindexed Loan to Value (LTV) buckets

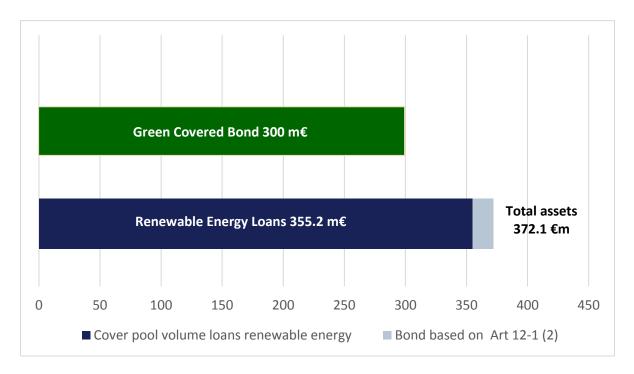
| Scope (in %) | Loan balance in €m | %    |
|--------------|--------------------|------|
| 60 - ≤ 65    | 0                  | 0%   |
| > 65 - ≤ 70  | 18.89              | 5%   |
| > 70 - ≤ 75  | 23.95              | 7%   |
| > 75 - ≤ 80  | 312.26             | 88%  |
| Total        | 355.19             | 100% |



### ALM structure of the cover pool



## 5. Green Covered Bond Allocation



All figures as of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020. The funds raised from the Green Covered Bond serve exclusively to finance and refinance renewable energies in accordance with the NORD/LB CBB Green Bond Framework. The proceeds from the issue of the first NORD/LB CBB Green Covered Bond have been fully allocated.

### 6. External Review



## NORD/LB CBB

Type of Engagement: Annual Review
Date: January 28, 2021
Engagement Team:
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#### Introduction

In 2020, NORD/LB Luxembourg S.A. Covered Bond Bank ("NORD/LB CBB") issued green covered bonds aimed at financing wind and solar energy, energy transmission, and energy storage projects. In January 2021, NORD/LB CBB engaged Sustainalytics to review the projects funded through the issued green covered bonds and provide an assessment as to whether the projects met the Use of Proceeds criteria and the Reporting commitments outlined in the NORD/LB CBB Green Bond Framework.<sup>1</sup>

#### **Evaluation Criteria**

Sustainalytics evaluated the projects and assets funded in 2020 based on whether the projects and programmes:

- Met the Use of Proceeds and Eligibility Criteria outlined in the NORD/LB CBB Green Bond Framework;
   and
- Reported on at least one of the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for each Use of Proceeds criteria outlined in the NORD/LB CBB Green Bond Framework.

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

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

| Use of<br>Proceeds                    | Eligibility Criteria  | Key performance indicators (KPIs)   |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| Renewable<br>Energy                   | Financing of the purchase, design, construction, development and/or installation of the generation of renewable energy from the following renewable energy sources:  - On and offshore wind power - Solar power | <ul> <li>Installed Capacity in MW</li> <li>Annual Estimated Production of<br/>Renewable Energy in kWh</li> <li>Annual estimated CO<sub>2</sub> avoidance in t<br/>as per EUR 1 mn</li> <li>Total capacity of renewable energy<br/>facilitated trough connection.</li> </ul> |
| Transmission<br>and Energy<br>Storage | Financing for the connection, transmission,<br>transformation, and storage of renewable<br>energy <sup>2</sup>  | transmission, transformation and storage (in MW)  |

#### Issuing Entity's Responsibility

NORD/LB CBB 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.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The NORD/LB CBB Green Bond Framework can be accessed at:

https://www.nordlbcbb.lu/page/docManager/docs/579/NORDLB%20CBB%20Green%20Bond%20Framework%20as%20of%2030%20Sep%202019.pdf 
<sup>2</sup> Regarding energy storage and transmission equipment: Art. 12-3(2) prescribes that more than 50 per cent of its effective activity is used in connection with renewable energy.

<sup>©</sup> Sustainalytics 2021

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#### Independence and Quality Control

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

Sustainalytics has relied on the information and the facts presented by NORD/LB CBB 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 NORD/LB CBB.

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,<sup>3</sup> nothing has come to Sustainalytics' attention that causes us to believe that, in all material respects, the reviewed bond projects, funded through proceeds of NORD/LB CBB's Green Covered Bond, are not in conformance with the Use of Proceeds and Reporting Criteria outlined in the NORD/LB CBB Green Bond Framework. NORD/LB CBB has disclosed to Sustainalytics that the proceeds of the green covered bond were fully allocated as of 31st December, 2020.

#### **Detailed Findings**

Table 2: Detailed Findings

| Eligibility<br>Criteria        | Procedure Performed   | Factual Findings  | Error or<br>Exceptions<br>Identified |
|--------------------------------|---|---|--------------------------------------|
| Use of<br>Proceeds<br>Criteria | Verification of the 18 wind and 5 solar<br>energy projects funded by the green<br>covered bond in 2020 to determine if<br>projects aligned with the Use of Proceeds<br>Criteria outlined in the NORD/LB CBB Green<br>Bond Framework and above in Table 1.   | All projects reviewed complied with the Use of Proceeds criteria.                         | None                                 |
| Reporting<br>Criteria          | Verification of the 18 wind and 5 solar<br>energy projects funded by the green<br>covered bond in 2020 to determine if impact<br>of projects was reported in line with the KPIs<br>outlined in the NORD/LB CBB Green Bond<br>Framework and above in Table 1. For a list<br>of KPIs reported please refer to Appendix 2. | All projects reviewed<br>reported on at least one<br>KPI per Use of Proceeds<br>criteria. | None                                 |

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Sustainalytics limited assurance process includes reviewing the documentation relating to the details of the projects that have been funded, including description of projects, estimated and realized costs 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.

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## **Appendices**

## Appendix 1: Allocation Reporting by Eligibility Criteria

| Allocation Reporting by<br>Eligibility Criteria                        | Onshore Wind | Solar | Total |
|--|--------------|-------|-------|
| Total volume of assigned assets/loans (EUR in mn)                      | 487          | 59    | 546   |
| Share of NORD/LB CBB<br>allocated to green covered<br>bond (EUR in mn) | 316          | 39    | 355   |

## Appendix 2: Impact Reporting by Eligibility Criteria

| Environmental Impact Reported by Eligibility Criteria                         | Onshore Wind | Solar | Total |
|---|--------------|-------|-------|
| Total installed capacity (in MW)  | 624          | 50    | 674   |
| Total annual estimated production of Renewable Energy in 2020 (in mn kWh)     | 1,841        | 53    | 1,895 |
| Annual estimated CO <sub>2</sub> avoidance in t as per EUR 1 mn loan in cover | 459          | 61    | 416   |

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#### Named

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



## 7. Appendix

The Luxembourg Financial Sector Act<sup>1</sup> is the basis for the business model of NORD/LB CBB. Since 22 June 2018, the asset class renewable energies (Art. 12-3 (2) f) has been part of the defined cover pool for the "Lettres de Gage" debt instruments issued by a Covered Bond bank.

The definition of the asset class renewable energies in Luxembourg law is based on EU Directive 2009/28 Art. 2 (a) and includes:

- Energy produced from non-fossil, renewable energy sources, i.e. wind, solar, aerothermal, geothermal and hydrothermal energy, ocean energy, hydropower, biomass, landfill gas, sewage gas and biogas, and energy from similar energy sources
- Generation,
- Storage and
- Transmission (including electricity storage facilities, transformers and electrical wiring) (whether under construction or completed) of energy from renewable sources, provided that
  - such equipment is used exclusively in connection with renewable energies,
     and
  - the storage and transmission equipment is used for storage and transmission related to renewable energy for more than 50 per cent of its actual use.

 $\begin{array}{ll} \text{Art.} & \text{article} \\ \text{acc.} & \text{according} \\ \text{CO}_2 & \text{carbon dioxide} \end{array}$ 

CSSF Commission de Surveillance du Secteur Financier

EEA European Economic Area

EU European Union

ESG Environmental, Social and Governance

LTV loan-to-value max. maximum

MW, MWh megawatt, megawatt hour NGO non-governmental organisation

OECD Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

SDG Sustainable Development Goal

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Source: http://www.cssf.lu/fileadmin/files/Lois\_reglements/Legislation/Lois/L\_050493\_lsf\_upd160719.pdf

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