

Williams Caribbean Capital

PRE-ISSUANCE VERIFICATION LETTER

SOLAR ENERGY CRITERIA OF THE CLIMATE BONDS STANDARD

Type of engagement: Assurance Engagement Period engagement was carried out: May 2019 Approved verifier: Sustainalytics Contact address for engagement: 125 Maiden Lane, Suite 602, New York NY 10038, U.S.A. Pre-Issuance Engagement Leader: Ankita Shukla, <u>ankita.shukla@sustainalytics.com</u>, +1 (617) 603 3329 Pre-Issuance Engagement Support: Mayur Mukati, <u>mayur.mukati@sustainalytics.com</u>, +1 (647) 936 5656

Scope and Objectives

Williams Caribbean Capital ("WCC", or the "company") has engaged Sustainalytics to review and verify that WCC's green bonds meet the requirements under the Solar Energy criteria of the Climate Bonds Standard.

Williams Caribbean Capital is an investment and business development company formed in 2017 as a joint venture between Williams Industries Inc., a diversified Caribbean corporation, and an investment business, New Caribbean Capital Partners. The company is headquartered in Barbados. The company's primary focus is on the expansion (or deployment) of commercial solar photovoltaic (PV), and has created a special purpose entity, Williams Renewable Energy Limited, for the construction and operation of commercial rooftop solar installations in Barbados that were financed through two separate local bond issuances in 2018.

WCC has committed to expand commercial solar PV through issuance of green bonds and to use the proceeds to finance or refinance, in whole or in part, existing or new solar PV projects on commercial rooftops and lands. The Framework defines eligibility criteria in the following area:

Renewable Energy: solar PV deployment on commercial rooftops and land¹

Climate Bonds Standards Criteria

Pre-issuance requirements under Climate Bond Standards Version 2.1:

- Solar Energy²
 - Onshore solar electricity generation facilities;
 - Wholly dedicated transmission infrastructure and other supporting infrastructure for onshore solar electricity generation facilities including inverters, transformers, energy storage systems and control systems.

Issuing Entity's Responsibility

WCC was responsible for providing information and documents relating to:

- The details concerning the selection process for the eligible green projects;
- The details of the eligible green projects;
- The management systems for internal processes and controls for eligible green projects, including: tracking of proceeds, managing unallocated proceeds and Earmarking funds to eligible green projects;
- The details of commitments for reporting prior to issuance, including: investment areas, management of unallocated proceeds and frequency of periodic Assurance Engagements.

¹ WCC has included potential Nominated Projects in Schedule 1. The company may apply for CBI programmatic pre-issuance for its existing and new solar PV projects.

² Climate Bond Standards, Solar Energy Criteria: <u>https://www.climatebonds.net/files/files/Sector%20Criteria%20-%20Solar%20v2_1.pdf</u>

Independence and Quality Control

Sustainalytics, a leading provider of ESG and corporate governance research and ratings to investors, conducted the verification of WCC's green bonds, issued to finance Nominated Projects, and provided an independent opinion informing WCC as to the conformance of the green bond with the Pre-Issuance requirements and Solar Energy criteria of the Climate Bonds Standard.

Sustainalytics has relied on the information and the facts presented by WCC. Sustainalytics is not responsible if any aspect of the Nominated Projects referred to in this opinion including estimates, findings, opinions, or conclusions are incorrect. Thus, Sustainalytics shall not be held liable if any of the information or data provided by WCC management and used as a basis for this assessment were not correct or complete.

Sustainalytics makes 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 bond.

Verifier's Responsibility

The work undertaken as part of this engagement included conversations with relevant WCC employees and review of relevant documentation to confirm the green bonds' conformance with the Climate Bonds Certification Pre-Issuance Requirements, which include:

- Conformance of WCC's green bonds with the Climate Bonds Standard Version 2.1;
- Conformance with the Technical Criteria on Solar Energy criteria;
- Conformance with the Internal Processes & Controls requirements;
- Conformance with Reporting Prior to Issuance requirements.

Basis of the Opinion

Sustainalytics conducted the verification in accordance with the Climate Bond Standard Version 2.1 and with International Standard on Assurance Engagements 3000 – Assurance Engagements other than Audits or Reviews of Historical Information.

Sustainalytics planned and performed the verification by obtaining evidence and other information and explanations that Sustainalytics considers necessary to give limited assurance that the Nominated Projects meets the requirements of the Climate Bond Standard. Upon reviewing evidence and other information, Sustainalytics is of the opinion that WCC will ensure compliance with Climate Bond Standard requirements.

Conclusion

WCC's green bonds will finance or refinance, in whole or in part, Nominated Projects related to Renewable Energy (specifically solar energy). Based on the limited assurance procedures conducted, nothing has come to Sustainalytics' attention that causes us to believe that, in all material aspects, WCC's climate bonds are not in conformance with the Solar Energy Criteria of the Climate Bond Standard Pre-Issuance Requirements.



Schedule 1: Detailed Overview of Nominated Projects and Assets

Williams Caribbean Capital's model is to raise funds by issuing green energy bonds to fund the deployment of PV solar on commercial rooftops and land. The projects are therefore PV Solar deployments on commercial rooftops and land which are leased from businesses

Presently Williams Caribbean Capital is in discussions with multiple organisations to lease their rooftops or land; hence, projects will be nominated in due course.

Examples of Potential Projects to be nominated include:

- 2 MWp of PV Solar systems to be installed on rooftops owned by the Government Agency, Barbados Investment & Development Corporation,
- 5 MWp of PV Solar on land at Foursquare Estate on which water pumps owned by the Barbados Water Authority are installed.

Example Project Nominated in 2018

Funding by Williams Caribbean Capital 2018 green bond program, Williams Caribbean Capital deployed PV Solar on over 250,000 square feet of commercial rooftops owned by Williams Industries in Barbados. The electrical output from these PV Solar systems is 3.5 MWp which is enough to offset the entire electricity usage of the Williams Industry Group.



Schedule 2A: Pre-Issuance General Requirements

| Selection of Nominated Projects and Assets: | 1.1 Statement on the environmental objectives of the bond 1.2 Confirmation that Nominated Projects and Assets meet the Climate Bonds criteria 1.3 Document a list of Nominated Projects and Assets 1.4 Confirmation that Nominated Projects and Assets will not be nominated to other Climate Bonds |
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| | <i>1.5</i> Confirmation that Net Proceeds of the Green Bond shall not be greater than the value of the Nominated Projects and Assets |
| Internal Processes and Controls | 2.1.1 Tracking of proceeds 2.1.2 Managing of unallocated proceeds 2.1.3 Earmarking funds to Nominated Projects and Assets |
| Reporting Prior to Issuance | 3.1.1 Investment area of Nominated Projects and Assets 3.1.2 Intended types of temporary investments for the management of unallocated proceeds 3.1.3 Approach of Verifier 3.1.4 Whether periodic Assurance Engagement will be undertaken, and the expected frequency of any periodic Assurance Engagements |

Schedule 2B: Conformance to the Pre-Issuance Requirements

| Procedure Performed | Factual Findings | Error or Exceptions Identified |
|---|---|--------------------------------------|
| Verification of requirements specified under Selection of Nominated Projects and Assets | 1.1 The objective of the bond is to primarily use proceeds for solar PV deployment on commercial rooftops and land. 1.2 The Nominated Projects and Assets meet the Solar Energy criteria of the Climate Bond Standard. 1.3 The Nominated Projects and Assets may include: 2 MWp of PV Solar systems to be installed on rooftops owned by the Government Agency, Barbados Investment & Development Corporation, 5 MWp of PV Solar on land at Foursquare Estate on which water pumps owned by the Barbados Water Authority are installed. 1.4 WCC's management confirms that the projects shall not be nominated to other Climate Bonds. 1.5 WCC's management confirms that the net proceeds of the bond shall not be greater than the value of the projects. | None |
| Verification of requirements specified under Internal Processes and Controls | 2.1.1 WCC's management confirms that proceeds will be segregated and tracked in a systematic manner and will be exclusively used to finance Nominated Projects. 2.1.2 WCC's management confirms that the planned allocation of the funds and such proceeds are collected by the Trustee and held in bank accounts until fully allocated. 2.1.3 WCC's management has confirmed that the proceeds from the bond will be held in bank accounts until fully allocated. | None |
| Verification of requirements specified under Reporting Prior to Issuance | 3.1.1 WCC's management confirms that the proceeds of the transaction will primarily be used for solar PV deployment on commercial rooftops and land. 3.1.2 WCC's management confirms that unallocated proceeds shall be held in bank accounts until fully allocated. 3.1.3 The bond's offer letter confirms that an approved third-party verifier has been appointed to confirm the bond's conformance with pre-issuance requirements of the Solar Energy criteria of the Climate Bonds Standard. 3.1.4 The bond's offer letter confirms that an approved third-party verifier will be engaged to conduct post-issuance assurance exercise within a year's of installation to reaffirm conformance of the bond with the Solar Energy criteria of the Climate Bonds Standard. | None |

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Sustainalytics

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