

## SECOND PARTY OPINION (SPO)

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Sustainability Quality of the Issuer and Green Bond Asset Pool

Landesbank Baden-Württemberg  
13 May 2019

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## Overall Evaluation of the Green Bond

Landesbank Baden-Württemberg (LBBW) commissioned ISS-oekom to assist with its Green Bond issuance by assessing three core elements to determine the sustainability quality of the Bond:

1. LBBW's Green Bond framework – benchmarked against the International Capital Market Association's (ICMA) Green Bond Principles (GBPs).
2. The asset pool – whether the projects aligned with ISS-oekom's issue-specific key performance indicators (KPIs) (See Annex 2).
3. LBBW's own sustainability performance, according to the ISS-oekom Corporate Rating.

### ISS-oekom ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

SPO SECTION	SUMMARY	EVALUATION <sup>1</sup>
<b>Part 1:</b>		
<b>Performance against the Green Bond Principles</b>	The issuer has defined a formal concept for its Green Bonds regarding use of proceeds, processes for project evaluation and selection, management of proceeds and reporting. This concept is in line with the ICMA GBPs.	<b>Positive</b>
	The overall sustainability quality of the asset pool in terms of sustainability benefits, risk avoidance and minimisation is good based upon the ISS-oekom Green Bond KPIs.	
<b>Part 2:</b>		
<b>Sustainability quality of the asset pool</b>	The Green Bond KPIs contain a clear description of eligible asset categories which include commercial green buildings; on- and offshore wind power parks and solar power plants.	<b>Positive</b>
	A controversy assessment on underlying assets revealed a controversy related to site selection for a wind park asset.	
<b>Part 3:</b>		
<b>Issuer sustainability performance</b>	The issuer itself shows a good sustainability performance and has been classified as 'Prime' within the methodology of the ISS-oekom Corporate Rating.	<b>Status: Prime</b> <b>Rating: C+</b>
	It is rated 3 <sup>rd</sup> out of 193 companies within its sector as of 13.05.2019.	<b>Prime threshold: C</b>

<sup>1</sup> The ISS-oekom's present evaluation is valid for a single issuance following the SPO release date. The issuer's Corporate Rating has been last modified on the 20.07.2018 and the controversy check on underlying assets has been conducted on the 09.05.2019.

## ISS-oekom SPO ASSESSMENT

### PART I: GREEN BOND PRINCIPLES

#### 1. Use of Proceeds

The net proceeds of Green Bond issuances will be used exclusively to finance or refinance in whole or in part an Eligible Green Loan Portfolio consisting of Eligible Green Loans in the following Eligible Categories:

1. **New, existing and refurbished green commercial and residential buildings** which meet regionally, nationally or internationally recognized regulations, standards or certifications as amended from time to time. Detailed eligibility criteria can be found on LBBW's website<sup>2</sup>.
2. **Renewable energy projects**, defined as the financing or as investments in or expenditures for the acquisition, conception, construction, development and installation of renewable energy production units; as well as the connection of renewable energy production units to the electricity grid and the transportation through the network. These projects include:
  - a. On- and offshore wind energy projects
  - b. Solar energy projects

ASSET CATEGORY	INCLUDED IN GREEN BOND PORTFOLIO	SHARE OF ASSET POOL
1. Green Buildings	✓ Yes	77.50%
2. Renewable Energy	✓ Yes	22.50%
2.1. On- and offshore wind energy	✓ Yes	12.21%
2.2. Solar energy	✓ Yes	10.29%

**Opinion:** ISS-oekom considers the Use of Proceeds description provided by LBBW Green Bond Framework as aligned with the GBPs. Environmental benefits are described and are aligned with the Sustainability Strategy of the Issuer.

#### 2. Process for Project Evaluation and Selection

The Green Bond Committee oversees the entire Green Bond process, including the evaluation and selection of eligible loans originated across relevant business lines. The committee consists of representatives of the Treasury, the Risk department, the Real Estate department and the Sustainability department.

LBBW takes care that all selected Eligible Assets comply with official national and international environmental and social standards and local laws and regulations on a best effort basis. It is part of LBBW's transaction approval process to take care, that all its activities comply with internal

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.lbbw.de/green-bond>

environmental and social directives. LBBW has minimum environmental and social requirements in place for all lending businesses, including those financed with the proceeds of the Green Bonds. These eligibility criteria and minimum requirements and ESG related aspects are continuously developed and renewed in its external and internal policy frameworks. LBBW's environmental and social policies can be found on the LBBW's website<sup>3</sup>.

**Opinion:** *ISS-oekom finds that the process for project evaluation and selection is aligned with the GBPs. The criteria for projects eligibility are precisely defined by project category and disclosed in the Green Bond Framework. The process of selection of projects is structured and information is clearly displayed on implications and responsibilities of the relevant stakeholders.*

### 3. Management of Proceeds

The Green Bonds proceeds will be managed by LBBW in a portfolio approach.

LBBW intends to allocate the proceeds from the Green Bonds to a portfolio of loans that meet the use of proceeds eligibility criteria and in accordance with the evaluation and selection process presented above, the Eligible Green Loan Portfolio.

LBBW will strive, over time, to achieve a level of allocation for the Eligible Green Loan Portfolio that matches or exceeds the balance of net proceeds from its outstanding Green Bonds. Eligible Green Loans will be added to or removed from LBBW's Eligible Green Loan Portfolio to the extent required.

While any Green Bond net proceeds remain unallocated, LBBW will hold and/or invest, at its own discretion, in its treasury liquidity portfolio, in cash or other short term and liquid instruments, the balance of net proceeds not yet allocated to the Eligible Green Loan Portfolio.

**Opinion:** *ISS-oekom finds that the management of Proceeds is aligned with the GBPs requirements. The Green Bond Proceeds are allocated within a year to a separated portfolio which outstanding balance must exceed the total balance of all outstanding Green Bonds. There is no indication that when proceeds are unallocated, they will be held in cash or short term and liquid instruments that align with the wider ESG objectives of the bond of the issuer.*

### 4. Reporting

LBBW will make and keep readily available reporting on the allocation of proceeds to the Eligible Green Loan Portfolio after a year from the issuance of the applicable Green Bond, to be renewed annually until full allocation of the respective Green Bond proceeds.

LBBW intends to report the allocation of the Use of Proceeds to the Eligible Green Loan Portfolio at least at the category level and on an aggregated basis for all of LBBW's green bonds and other potential green funding outstanding.

LBBW intends to align the reporting with the portfolio approach described in "Green Bonds- working towards a Harmonized Framework for Impact Reporting (December 2015)"<sup>4</sup>.

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.lbbw.de/en/verantwortung/verantwortung\\_start/verantwortung\\_und\\_nachhaltigkeit.jsp](https://www.lbbw.de/en/verantwortung/verantwortung_start/verantwortung_und_nachhaltigkeit.jsp)

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.ifc.org/wps/wcm/connect/f932dc004ad996538a1fea4fb4720a61/Updated+Logo+FINALPROPOSALIRH+CLEAN.pdf?MOD=AJPERES>

## Allocation Reporting

Allocation reporting will be available to investors within one year from the date of each Green Bond transaction and annually thereafter until the proceeds have been fully allocated. The report will provide, for each Eligible Category:

- the total amount of proceeds allocated to eligible loans,
- the number of eligible loans,
- the balance of unallocated proceeds, and
- the amount or the percentage of new financing and refinancing

Additionally, when appropriate and subject to confidentiality obligations, LBBW may provide concrete examples of eligible assets refinanced through the proceeds of the Green Bonds.

## Impact Reporting

LBBW commits itself on a best effort basis to report yearly and until full allocation on climate benefits associated to the eligible loans, i.e.:

- For Green buildings eligible loans on:
  - Estimated ex-ante annual energy savings in MWh
  - Estimated annual source energy savings
  - Estimated annual GHG emissions reduced/avoided in tons of CO<sup>2</sup> equivalent
- For Renewable Energy eligible loans on:
  - Avoided GHG based on actual/p50 production
  - Annual GHG emissions reduction in tons of CO<sup>2</sup> equivalent

LBBW may appoint specialized consultants to develop a methodology for the estimation and calculation of the impacts that was made publicly available.

Both allocation report and impact report are available via the LBBW's website<sup>5</sup>. To offer maximum transparency to investors LBBW will also strive to deliver such impact estimates in an investor presentation alongside with the issuance of each Green Bond.

**Opinion:** ISS-oekom finds that the reporting process is aligned with the GBPs. The Use of Proceeds reporting and the Impact Reporting occur at a portfolio level and information reported, frequency, scope and duration of the reporting are transparently displayed in the Green Bond Framework.

<sup>5</sup> [www.lbbw.de/greenbond](http://www.lbbw.de/greenbond)

## **External review**

### **Second party opinion**

LBBW has commissioned ISS-oekom to obtain an external sustainable verification of its Green Bond Framework. ISS-oekom has reviewed the framework and issued an updated SPO confirming the alignment with the GBPs and the framework's strong environmental credentials. Under this framework the issuance of multiple Green Bonds is possible.

The Climate Bond Initiative (CBI) programmatic certification of LBBW's eligible assets is included in the scope of the work of the SPO.

### **Verification post issuance**

In 2017 LBBW appointed ISS-oekom to perform an annual update of its SPO for three years following the first issuance. The mission of ISS-oekom notably consists in verifying the sustainability soundness (environment and social risk management and potential controversies) of the assets that have been added to the portfolio since first issuance.

At the end of its mission, ISS-oekom will provide an updated version of its SPO report that will be published by LBBW.

## PART II: SUSTAINABILITY QUALITY OF THE ASSET POOL

Evaluation of the assets (The methodology for the asset evaluation can be found in Annex 2.)

### 1. Green commercial buildings

#### Energy Efficiency prerequisites

- ✓ All the assets underwent an appropriate and detailed selection process that ensures good standards regarding energy efficiency.

#### 1.1. Site selection

- ✓ 100% of the assets are developed on brownfield sites (e.g. previously developed land that is not used anymore at the time of construction).
- ✓ 100% of the assets are located within a maximum of 1km from one or more modalities of public transport.

#### 1.2. Construction standards

- ✓ 64 assets, making up 61% of the asset pool, are based in countries with high labour and health and safety standards during construction and maintenance work (e.g. ILO core conventions). The remaining assets are in countries that do not provide high standards.
- For 85 assets, accounting for 80% of the asset pool, no information is available on sustainable procurement measures of building materials (e.g. recycled, certification of wood-based materials). For the remaining assets, basic measures are in place.

#### 1.3. Water use minimization in buildings

- ✓ For 39 assets, accounting for 65% of the asset pool, adequate measures to reduce water consumption are in place (e.g. high-efficiency fixtures and fittings). For the other 55 assets, no information is available.

#### 1.1.4. Safety of buildings users

- ✓ 93 assets, accounting for 99% of the asset pool, underwent certification schemes ensuring that constructional measures provide operational safety for building users (e.g. fire safety, exit routes) or are located in countries for which legislation requires such measures. For the three remaining assets, no information is available.

#### 1.1.5. Sustainability labels / Certificates

- ✓ 47 building projects, accounting for 76% of the asset pool's volume, achieved good scores in green building certificates: BREEAM "Very Good", DGNB "Silver"/ "Gold", LEED "Gold", HQE "excellent" certificate. For the other projects, no information is available.

#### Controversy assessment

- ✓ A controversy assessment on the underlying assets did not reveal any controversial activities or practices that could be attributed to LBBW.

## 2.1. Wind power (on- and offshore)

### 2.1.1. Site selection

✓ 33 of the wind power parks, accounting for 84% of the asset pool, are not located in key biodiversity areas (Ramsar sites, IUCN protected areas I-IV). For the four remaining projects, no information is available on the precise location of the assets.

○ For 26 assets, accounting for 67% of the asset pool, no information is available on whether the assets underwent environmental impact assessments at the planning stage. The 11 remaining assets underwent environmental impact assessment at the planning stage.

✓ For 35 wind power parks, accounting for 85% of the asset pool, a basic environmental screening took place at the planning stage according to European regulation. For the two remaining projects, no information is available on environmental screening at the planning stage.

### 2.1.2. Community dialogue

✓ 35 assets, accounting for 89% of the asset pool, feature community dialogue as an integral part of the planning process. For the two remaining assets, no information is available.

### 2.1.3. Environmental aspects of construction and operation

✓ For 29 assets, accounting for 67% of the asset pool, specific environmental measures (e.g. noise mitigation, measures to protect birds and sea mammals) are in place at construction and operation phase. 6 other assets, accounting for 18% of the asset pool, have basic environmental standards in place during the construction phase (e.g. minimization of environmental impact of construction phase). For the two remaining projects, no information is available.

### 2.1.4. Working conditions during construction and maintenance work

✓ 35 assets, accounting for 89% of the asset pool, are located in countries that provide for high labour and health and safety standards for construction and maintenance work (e.g. ILO core conventions). The two remaining assets are located in countries that do not provide for such high standards.

### Controversy assessment

A controversy assessment on the underlying wind assets revealed one controversial activity in one wind farm located in Turkey. A lawsuit was filed by the Ankara 8<sup>th</sup> Administrative Court against the wind farm to be built in the Karaburun Peninsula, a protected area with a rich terrestrial and marine ecosystem. The case was also brought to Parliament by a local deputy, Tacettin Bair. After a first interruption of construction of the wind farm, the court allowed the development of the farm under a reduced wind turbine capacity.

## 2.2. Solar power (photovoltaic)

### 2.2.1. Site selection

- ✓ 22 assets, accounting for 67% of the asset pool, are not located in key biodiversity areas (e.g. Ramsar sites, IUCN protected areas I-IV). For the ten remaining projects, no information is available on the precise location of the assets.

### 2.2.2. Supply chain standards

- 17 assets, accounting for 54% of the asset pool, only provide for poor labour and health and safety standards in the supply chain of solar modules (e.g. ILO core conventions). For 13 other assets, accounting for 36% of the asset pool, no information is available on the application of such standards along the supply chain. The 2 remaining projects provide for high labour and health and safety standards in their supply chain.

### 2.1.3. Environmental aspects of solar power plants

- For 22 solar projects, accounting for 76% of the asset pool, no information is available on conversion efficiency of the solar modules. Among the remaining assets, 9 projects accounting for 20% of the asset pool feature a conversion efficiency of at least 15% and one project feature a conversion efficiency below 15%.

- ✓ 25 assets, accounting for 83% of the asset pool, provide for high environmental standards regarding take-back and recycling of solar modules at end-of-life stage (in line with WEEE requirements). For the remaining assets, no information is available on such standards.

- No information is available on whether the assets voluntarily fulfil the requirements of the European Directive on Restriction of the use of certain hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment (RoHS directive).

### 2.1.4. Working conditions during construction and maintenance work

- ✓ 29 assets, accounting for 98% of the asset pool, are located in countries that provide for high labour and health and safety standards for construction and maintenance work (ILO core conventions). The other assets are in country that does not provide high standards.

### Controversy assessment

A controversy assessment on the underlying assets did not reveal any controversial activities or practices that could be attributed to LBBW.

## PART III: ASSESSMENT OF LBBW'S SUSTAINABILITY PERFORMANCE

The ISS-oekom Corporate Rating comprises a rating scale from A+ (excellent) to D- (poor).

COMPANY	RATING	STATUS
<b>LANDESBANK BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG</b>	<b>C+</b>	<b>PRIME</b>

This means that the company performed well in terms of sustainability, both compared against others in the industry and in terms of the industry-specific requirements defined by ISS-oekom. In ISS-oekom's view, the securities issued by the company therefore all meet the basic requirements for sustainable investments.

As of 13.05.2018, this rating places LBBW 3<sup>rd</sup> out of 193 companies rated by ISS-oekom in the Financials/Public and Regional Banks sector.

Key Challenges facing companies in term of sustainability management in this sector are:

- Sustainability impacts of lending and other financial services/products
- Customer and product responsibility
- Sustainable investment criteria
- Labour standards and working conditions
- Business ethics

In all of the key issues, LBBW rates above the average for the sector. A very significant outperformance was achieved in "Customer and product responsibility", "Sustainable investment criteria" and "Sustainability impacts of lending and other financial services/products".

The company has a minor controversy level which is in line with the sector risk.

Details on the rating of the issuer can be found in Annex 1.



Robert Hassler, Head of ISS-oekom  
London/Munich/Rockville/Zurich

## DISCLAIMER

1. Validity of the SPO: For LBBW's first issuance following the SPO release date.
2. ISS-oekom uses a scientifically based rating concept to analyse and evaluate the environmental and social performance of companies and countries. In doing so, we adhere to the highest quality standards which are customary in responsibility research worldwide. In addition, we create a Second Party Opinion (SPO) on bonds based on data from the issuer.
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4. All statements of opinion and value judgements given by us do not in any way constitute purchase or investment recommendations. In particular, the SPO is no assessment of the economic profitability and credit worthiness of a bond but refers exclusively to the social and environmental criteria mentioned above.
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## ANNEX 1: ISS-oekom Corporate Rating

The following pages contain extracts of LBBW's ISS-oekom Corporate Rating.

# ISS-oekom Corporate Rating

## Landesbank Baden-Württemberg

Industry **Financials/Public & Regional Banks**

Status

**Prime**

Corporate Responsibility **Prime**

Country **Germany**

Rating

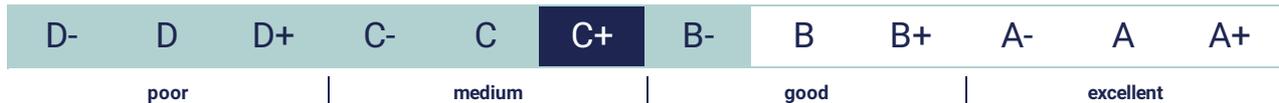
**C+**

rated by **ISS-oekom**

ISIN **DE000LBW6CZ6**

Prime Threshold

**C**



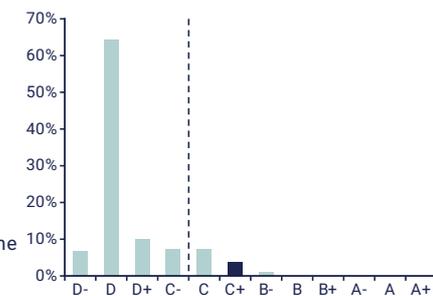
The assessment of a company's sustainability performance is based on approximately 100 criteria, selected specifically for each industry. A company's failure to disclose, or lack of transparency, regarding these matters will impact a company's rating negatively.

### Industry Leaders

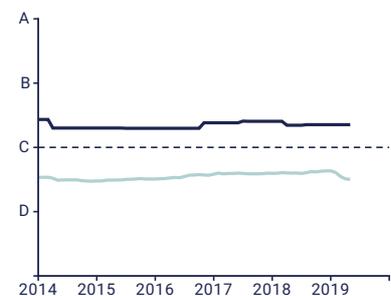
Company name (in alphabetical order)	Country	Grade
Deutsche Kreditbank AG	DE	B-
La Banque Postale S.A.	FR	B-
Landesbank Baden-Württ...	DE	C+

### Distribution of Ratings

193 companies in the industry



### Rating History



### Key Issue Performance



### Strengths and Weaknesses

- + reasonable policy on responsible marketing and transparent contracts
- + reasonable measures taken to grant access to financial services without discrimination
- + reasonable integration of environmental and social aspects into the lending business
- + reasonable range of sustainable investment products and services
- no indication of measures regarding responsible treatment of customers with debt repayment problems
- no comprehensive strategy concerning the integration of environmental and social aspects into the company's investment portfolio

### Controversy Monitor

Company		Industry	
Controversy Score	0	Maximum Controversy Score	-16
Controversy Level	Minor	Controversy Risk	Minor



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Please note that all data in this report relates to the point in time at which the report was generated.  
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# Landesbank Baden-Württemberg

## Analyst Opinion

Annette Gregori  
Sector specialist



### Sustainability Opportunities

Landesbank Baden-Württemberg (LBBW) is a public bank providing all kinds of financial services to retail and corporate clients, savings banks, institutional clients and high net worth clients. As a consequence, the company's opportunity is to focus on the provision of financial services with high social and/or environmental benefit. LBBW offers a basic banking account with moderate terms and conditions as well as some further inclusive financial services. Moreover, the company provides some financial services for charitable organisations. LBBW provides a broad range of socially responsible investment products and services applying several best-in-class and exclusion criteria. Among these are SRI funds (e.g. LBBW Nachhaltigkeit Aktien, LBBW Nachhaltigkeit Renten) as well as theme funds and sustainable mandates for institutional customers. These products, however, do not constitute the main business of the company.

### Sustainability Risks

LBBW has set up guidelines for its lending business covering areas such as human and labour rights, and excluding financing of controversial weapons, amongst others. The company further provides credit guidelines for some high-risk sectors such as forestry and paper. LBBW excludes the construction and expansion of coal fired power plants (unless fuel efficiency is improved or emissions are reduced) from financing as well as projects relating to the construction or expansion of nuclear power plants and mountain top removal. Yet, an approach covering all relevant aspects or sectors is missing, and there is no indication for a comprehensive application process including e.g. relevant client monitoring. LBBW integrates sustainability issues into its mainstream asset management through the exclusion of weapons and through the provisions of ESG information to its investment managers. It also works with an external research provider to monitor its portfolio. Moreover, the company has taken steps to integrate environmental and social criteria into its own investments. In addition, LBBW actively engages with investees in case those violate the company's principles. Most client-related risks are well-managed by the implementation of a policy on responsible marketing, procedures to ensure responsible sales practices, and steps to ensure tax compliance by clients. Furthermore, business ethics risks appear to be comparably well managed by the implementation of a comprehensive code of conduct supported by various compliance measures. Finally, LBBW has set up comparably good measures with regard to labour rights of its employees. There are reports that the company plans to reduce its workforce by 830 positions until 2020. However, it was estimated that almost all of the planned job cuts will occur in Germany, where affected staff members benefit from high legal standard on workforce restructuring. In addition, the company has implemented some measures to avoid compulsory redundancies.

### Governance Opinion

LBBW is not publicly listed and has a stable ownership structure through its major owners being the Savings Bank Association of Baden-Württemberg owning 40.53% of total share capital and the State of Baden-Württemberg, directly holding 24.98% and indirectly owning 40.53% of total share capital (as at July 2018). Regarding LBBW's governance structure, the chairman of the board of directors is independent but 38% of the board members are not (as at July 2018). Moreover, the company has set up committees in charge of audit and remuneration, but it remains unclear whether committee members are independent. The company does not provide individual compensation schemes of its executives but confirms that long-term incentives are part of its remuneration policy. Yet, detailed insight into those objectives is not provided.

Regarding the company's governance of sustainability, there is no indication for an independent sustainability board committee. The company states that sustainability performance objectives are part of its remuneration policy. Furthermore, business ethics risks appear to be comparably well managed by the implementation of a comprehensive code of conduct supported by various compliance measures.

# Landesbank Baden-Württemberg

## Methodology - Overview

**ISS-oekom Corporate Rating** - The ISS-oekom Universe comprises more than 3,900 companies (mostly companies in important national and international indices, but also small and mid caps drawn from sectors with direct links to sustainability as well as significant non-listed bond issuers).

The assessment of a company's social & governance and environmental performance is based on approximately 100 environmental, social and governance criteria, selected specifically for each industry. All criteria are individually weighted and evaluated and the results are aggregated to yield an overall score (rating), in which the key issues account for at least 50 per cent of the total weight. In case there is no relevant or up-to-date company information available on a certain criterion and no assumptions can be made based on predefined standards and expertise, e.g. known and already classified country standards, the criterion is graded with a D-.

In order to obtain a comprehensive and balanced picture of each company, our analysts assess relevant information reported or directly provided by the company itself as well as information from independent sources. In addition, our analysts actively seek a dialogue with the assessed companies during the rating process and companies are regularly given the opportunity to comment on the results and provide additional information.

An external rating committee assists the analysts at ISS-oekom with the content-related design of industry-specific criteria and carries out a final plausibility check of the rating results at the end of the rating process.

**Controversy Monitor** - The Controversy Monitor is a tool for assessing and managing reputational and financial risks associated with companies' negative environmental and social impacts.

The controversy score is a unit of measurement for the number and severity of a company's current controversies. All controversial business areas and business practices receive a negative score, which can vary depending on the significance, number and severity of the controversies. Both the company's score and the maximum score obtained in the industry are displayed.

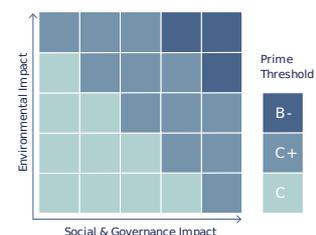
For better classification, the scores are assigned different levels: minor, moderate, significant and severe. The industry level relates to the average controversy score.

Only controversies for which reliable information from trustworthy sources is available are recorded. In addition to proven misconduct and activities of companies, alleged misconduct and activities are also assessed when the facts and circumstantial evidence provided by those sources, taking into account the experience of specialised analysts for each topic, is estimated to be sufficiently reliable. It should be noted that large international companies are more often the focus of public and media attention. Thus, the information available on those companies is often more comprehensive than for less prominent companies.

**Distribution of Ratings** - Overview of the distribution of the ratings of all companies from the respective industry that are included in the ISS-oekom Universe (company portrayed in this report: dark blue).

**Industry Classification** - The social and environmental impacts of industries differ. Therefore, based on its relevance, each industry analysed is classified in a Sustainability Matrix.

Depending on this classification, the dimensions of the ISS-oekom Corporate Rating, the Social & Governance Rating and the Environmental Rating, are weighted and the sector-specific minimum requirements for the ISS-oekom Prime Status (Prime threshold) are defined (absolute best-in-class approach).



**Industry Leaders** - List (in alphabetical order) of the top three companies in an industry from the ISS-oekom Universe at the time of generation of this report.

**Key Issue Performance** - Overview of the company's performance with regard to the key social and environmental issues in the industry, compared to the industry average.

**Rating History** - Development of the company's rating over time and comparison to the average rating in the industry.

**Rating Scale** - Companies are rated on a twelve-point scale from A+ to D-:

A+: the company shows excellent performance.

D-: the company shows poor performance (or fails to demonstrate any commitment to appropriately address the topic).

Overview of the range of scores achieved in the industry (light blue) and indication of the grade of the company evaluated in this report (dark blue).

**Status & Prime Threshold** - Companies are categorised as Prime if they achieve/exceed the minimum sustainability performance requirements (Prime threshold) defined by ISS-oekom for a specific industry (absolute best-in-class approach) in the ISS-oekom Corporate Rating. Prime companies rank among the sustainability leaders in that industry.

**Strengths & Weaknesses** - Overview of selected strengths and weaknesses of a company with regard to the key issues of the industry from a sustainability point of view.

## ANNEX 2: Methodology

### ISS-oekom Green Bond KPIs

The ISS-oekom Green Bond KPIs serves as a structure for evaluating the sustainability quality – i.e. the social and environmental added value – of the use of proceeds of LBBW's Green Bond.

It comprises firstly the definition of the use of proceeds category offering added social and/or environmental value, and secondly the specific sustainability criteria by means of which this added value and therefore the sustainability performance of the assets can be clearly identified and described.

The sustainability criteria are complemented by specific indicators, which enable quantitative measurement of the sustainability performance of the assets and which can also be used for reporting.

To review the KPIs used in this SPO, please contact Federico Pezzolato (details above) who will send them directly to you.

### Asset evaluation methodology

ISS-oekom evaluates whether the assets included in the asset pool match the eligible project category and criteria listed in the Green Bond KPIs.

All percentages refer to the amount of assets within one category (e.g. wind power). Additionally, the assessment "no or limited information is available" either indicates that no information was made available to ISS-oekom or that the information provided did not fulfil the requirements of the ISS-oekom Green Bond KPIs.

The evaluation was carried out using information and documents provided to ISS-oekom on a confidential basis by LBBW (e.g. Due Diligence Reports). Further, national legislation and standards, depending on the asset location, were drawn on to complement the information provided by the issuer.

## About ISS-oekom SPO

ISS-oekom is one of the world's leading rating agencies in the field of sustainable investment. The agency analyses companies and countries regarding their environmental and social performance.

As part of our Sustainable (Green & Social) Bond Services, we provide support for companies and institutions issuing sustainable bonds, advise them on the selection of categories of projects to be financed and help them to define ambitious criteria.

We assess alignment with external principles (e.g. the ICMA Green / Social Bond Principles), analyse the sustainability quality of the assets and review the sustainability performance of the issuer themselves. Following these three steps, we draw up an independent SPO so that investors are as well informed as possible about the quality of the bond / loan from a sustainability perspective.

Learn more: <https://www.isscorporatesolutions.com/solutions/esg-solutions/green-bond-services/>

For Information about SPO services, and this Green/Social Bond, contact:

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