



## THE BAM GREENSTAR DESIGNATION IS A THIRD-PARTY ASSESSMENT OF THE “GREEN” ATTRIBUTES OF A MUNICIPAL BOND ISSUE




Winter 2024



U.S. municipal bond investors continue to show increasing interest in investments that fit socially responsible and Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) related investment strategies. BAM's GreenStar designation has become a meaningful component of the US municipal Green Bond market. To date, BAM has verified more than 320 transactions, totaling more than \$4.9 billion in par. BAM is now the largest provider of third party Green Bond verifications in the U.S. municipal market.

Any existing or new member of BAM is eligible to receive a GreenStar designation on a specific series of their bonds if the bonds are issued for eligible project(s) and if the bonds meet all of the BAM GreenStar Standards outlined below.

The GreenStar program has been designed to close the wide gap between the significant number of municipal bonds that should qualify as Green Bonds and the relatively few that are currently being labeled as such, by addressing:

-  The limited awareness of the benefits of Green Bond issuance among issuers
-  The lack of scale in the number and volume of Green Bond sales in the U.S. municipal sector, which limits the number of investors focused on the sector and imposes friction costs on green bond transactions
-  Perceptions that verification and reporting carry a high cost or burden

*At no additional cost and with no issuer required ongoing reporting, BAM will assess the suitability of every issue that it underwrites for GreenStar eligibility as part of its regular underwriting process.*

*Additionally, at the request of one of its members, BAM will assign a BAM GreenStar to any series of bonds issued by that member for eligible project(s) that meet the BAM GreenStar Standards. BAM will notify its members - the issuers of the bonds - if the bonds being issued are eligible for a BAM GreenStar.*

The BAM GreenStar Standards are aligned with the Green Bond Principles promulgated by the International Capital Markets Association. In addition, BAM GreenStar bonds can only fund projects which are compliant with the Climate Bonds Initiative's ("CBI") criteria for green bonds.

BAM's policies and procedures for GreenStar have been reviewed by CBI and BAM has separately been designated as an Approved Verifier for Certified Climate Bonds. CBI is a leading organization focused on addressing climate change through the financial markets. The overall mission of CBI is to promote the issuance of Green and Climate Bonds, which incorporate a focus on sustainability and combating or adapting to climate change.

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# BAM GREENSTAR STANDARDS

THE BAM GREENSTAR STANDARDS HAVE FOUR PRIMARY COMPONENTS, WHICH MIRROR THE FOUR PRIMARY COMPONENTS OF THE GREEN BOND PRINCIPLES

## 1. USE OF PROCEEDS

The key component of the standards is ensuring that the proceeds are being used for eligible Green Projects (as defined by the GBP). Refundings are eligible if the original bonds financed qualifying projects.

### GBP eligible project categories include:

- a. **Renewable Energy**  
*Including solar, wind and geothermal*
- b. **Energy Efficiency**  
*Projects relating to enhancing the efficiency of new and refurbished buildings, including enhanced infrastructure, energy storage, smart grids*
- c. **Pollution Prevention and Control**  
*Projects focused on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and the amount of waste produced within a community; waste recycling*
- d. **Environmentally Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources and Land Use**  
*Projects that minimize carbon emissions, such as low carbon agriculture and preservation or restoration of natural landscapes*
- e. **Terrestrial and Aquatic Biodiversity Conservation**  
*Projects focused on the protection of coastal, marine and watershed environments*
- f. **Clean Transportation Projects**  
*Electric and hybrid mass transit and infrastructure for rail, non-motorized, or multi-modal transportation projects*
- g. **Sustainable Water and Wastewater Management**  
*Projects that contribute to the development of sustainable infrastructure for clean and/or drinking water, wastewater treatment, systems and flood mitigation*
- h. **Climate Change Adaptation**  
*Resilient infrastructure, and implementation of information support systems, such as early warning systems*
- i. **Green Buildings**  
*Buildings which meet regional, national or internationally recognized standards or certifications for "Green Buildings"*

**NOTE:** In drought-prone areas, the issues relating to Sustainable Water and Wastewater Management must include a focus on the sustainability of the projects, including the degree to which the projects address the impact of drought.

To be eligible, improvements to existing facilities or new facilities need to include features that will help the issuer adapt to or mitigate the impact of drought on water sustainability.

## 2. PROJECT SELECTION

BAM's analysts will confirm that the Use of Proceeds is consistent with one of the eligible project(s) defined above.

Issuers whose transactions are identified as potential BAM GreenStar Bonds will be contacted by BAM prior to assignment of the BAM GreenStar to the bonds. There must be sufficient disclosure about the project specifics to ensure that the project fits within one or more of the eligible project categories noted here.

## 3. ALLOCATION AND MANAGEMENT OF PROCEEDS




To be eligible for a BAM GreenStar, substantially all of the proceeds must be used for Eligible Project(s), net of reasonable and customary costs of issuance.

It is extremely rare for municipal bond proceeds to be used for purposes other than those stated in the Official Statement. To provide green bond buyers with confidence that their investment will be spent as intended, BAM analysts review issuer and transaction level controls that govern the use of funds.

## 4. REPORTING ON THE USE OF PROCEEDS

As part of the initial GreenStar assessment, BAM's analysts will determine the status of the eligible project(s) being financed or refinanced by the proceeds of the GreenStar bonds.

Prior to the assignment of the GreenStar, the BAM analyst will determine if the eligible project(s) are:

-  Not yet constructed
-  Under construction
-  Completed

In any case, if the Use of Proceeds has changed from that specified in the Official Statement, a GreenStar can only be applied if the actual use of proceeds falls within one of the eligible green project categories.



# FAQ

## 1. WHAT BENEFIT IS THERE TO HAVING A BAM GREENSTAR DESIGNATION ?

The GreenStar designation may widen and deepen an issuer's investor base to include the rapidly expanding group of investors pursuing ESG strategies. Additionally, Green Bond issuance highlights the issuer's leadership role to its local stakeholders, mayors, councils, and voters.

## 2. WHAT IS THE COST OF BAM'S GREENSTAR DESIGNATION ?

BAM does not charge for its GreenStar designation. BAM will assess the suitability of every issue that it underwrites as part of its regular underwriting process and notify the issuer if their bonds are eligible. Additionally, as a service to BAM members, BAM will assign a GreenStar to any series of bonds issued by the member if requested by the issuer and if the bonds meet the BAM GreenStar Standards.

## 3. CAN ISSUERS RECEIVE A BAM GREENSTAR DESIGNATION BY RAISING FUNDS FOR ELIGIBLE PROJECTS IN A SINGLE SERIES OF A LARGER BOND ISSUE ?

Yes, the BAM GreenStar can be assigned at the series level, as long as the proceeds from that series fund eligible projects.

## 4. ARE THERE ANY CONTINUING OBLIGATIONS IMPOSED ON THE ISSUER AFTER CLOSING ?

No. For GreenStar bonds issued for eligible projects that are not complete at the time of issuance, BAM's analysts, as part of our annual ongoing credit surveillance and monitoring will determine if the eligible project(s) are complete. BAM's analysts will use various sources of information to make this assessment including, publicly available information, issue tax opinions and certificates, third party reports or information provided by the issuer or any of the transaction participants.


## 5. WHAT HAPPENS IF THE PROCEEDS ARE NOT UTILIZED IN THE MANNER DESCRIBED IN THE OFFICIAL STATEMENT ?


The BAM GreenStar may ONLY be withdrawn if the bond proceeds are used for non-eligible projects(s) other than the eligible project(s) specified in the bond issuance disclosure documents.

## 6. HOW WILL THE MUNICIPAL ADVISOR, UNDERWRITER AND INVESTORS KNOW THAT A BOND ISSUE HAS THE BAM GREENSTAR DESIGNATION ?

The BAM analyst will work with the Municipal Advisors to confirm eligibility during BAM's underwriting process and to arrange for the GreenStar status to be noted in the Official Statement.

The BAM GreenStar designation will appear:

 **Negotiated Transactions:** In the Preliminary and Final Official Statement and ultimately in descriptive info on Bloomberg and other market information services and the pricing wire, as well as BAM's Credit Profile

 **Competitive Transactions:** The issue will be denoted as "GreenStar eligible" on the pricing sheet BAM distributes on the bid date and if the winning bid utilizes BAM insurance, the status will be included in the Final OS and on Bloomberg as well as BAM's Credit Profile



# BAM GREENSTAR CREDIT PROFILE SUPPLEMENTS

BAM Credit Profiles, which contain credit and demographic information about every transaction BAM insures, will feature a GreenStar supplement for every GreenStar designated transaction (see example).

The cornerstone of the Green Bond Principles is an evaluation of the use of proceeds.

BAM's GreenStar Supplement provides a description of the Use of Proceeds from the Offering Supplement and then maps that use to the Eligible Project Category under the Green Bond Principles classifications and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

BAM's Supplement also identifies the construction status of the Project.

BAM's Credit Profiles are updated annually, and the Supplement will also be updated through project completion.



**BAM**  
— GREENSTAR —

CREDIT  
PROFILE  
SUPPLEMENT

## Reading Area Water Authority, PA, Federally Taxable Water Revenue Bonds, Series of 2020


**FIRST DESIGNATED:** March 26, 2020

**Latest Update:** March 26, 2020

### USE OF PROCEEDS (From the Issuer's Official Statement):

Proceeds of the Bonds will be used, together with other available funds, to: (1) refund all or a portion of the Authority's Water Revenue Bonds, Series of 2011; and (2) pay the costs and expenses related to the issuance of the Bonds. Proceeds of the 2011 Bonds were used for improvements and extensions to the water supply, treatment, pumping and distribution facilities of the Authority.

#### BAM GreenStar Transparency Grid

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>BAM GreenStar Classifications</b>       | Sustainable Water and Waste Management and Pollution Control   |
| <b>ICMA Green Bond Principles Category</b> | Sustainable Water and Wastewater Management  |
| <b>UN Sustainable Development Goals</b>    | Goal 6: Clean water and sanitation  |
| <b>Project Status</b>                      | Complete   |

### BAM GREENSTAR DESIGNATION

This bond series has been designated as a BAM GreenStar Bond by Build America Mutual's Municipal Credit Committee because the issuer's stated use of proceeds aligns with the International Capital Markets Association's Green Bond Principles. The issuer has agreed to provide BAM with regular updates on the status of construction until the designated projects are completed.

*Subject to Limitations on Use set forth in the Credit Profile and the Terms of Use set forth in BAM's website located at <https://buildamerica.com/termsfuse> and incorporated herein by reference.*

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