

# Green Bond / Green Bond Programme

# Independent External Review Form

# Section 1. Basic Information

Issuer name: Ricoh Leasing Company, Ltd. Green Bond ISIN or Issuer Green Bond Framework Name, if applicable: The 33rd unsecured bond of Ricoh Leasing Company, Ltd. (Green Bond) Independent External Review provider's name: Japan Credit Rating Agency, Ltd. Completion date of this form: July 26, 2018 Publication date of review publication: July 25, 2018

Section 2. Review overview

#### **SCOPE OF REVIEW**

The following may be used or adapted, where appropriate, to summarise the scope of the review.

The review assessed the following elements and confirmed their alignment with the GBPs:

☑ Use of Proceeds
 ☑ Management of Proceeds
 ☑ Management of Proceeds
 ☑ Reporting

 $\mathbf{X}$ 

Scoring/Rating

#### **ROLE(S) OF INDEPENDENT EXTERNAL REVIEW PROVIDER**

- □ Second Party Opinion □ Certification
- Verification
- □ Other (please specify):

Note: In case of multiple reviews / different providers, please provide separate forms for each review.

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REVIEW and/or LINK TO FULL REVIEW** (*if applicable*)

JCR provides its Green Bond Evaluation to the 33<sup>rd</sup> unsecured bond issued by Ricoh Leasing with the redemption period at five years. The proceeds shall be used exclusively for refinancing the purchased cost of existing solar power generating facilities, acquired as leasing and instalment contract assets. JCR confirmed

that the Ricoh Leasing's department in charge assessed the expected risk of solar power generating facilities and their operations. As a result, JCR resulted that these projects have little possibilities that the negative impacts on the environment may surpass the positive impacts and JCR considered it as a green projects which largely contribute to CO2 emission reduction. JCR also confirmed its solid management and operation system and high transparency in implementing the green projects, as one of its various efforts for environmental issues as a member of Ricoh Group.

As a result, this bond obtained an overall evaluation of "Green 1" based on "JCR green bond evaluation methodology", with the Corporation attaining both "g1" on "Greenness" and "m1" on "management, operation and transparency". Please refer to the next chapter for more detailed descriptions. This bond is considered to qualify on the same standards and quality which were required to be determined as a Green Bond, in line with the Green Bond Principle of ICMA and Green bond Guidelines published by Ministry of Environment of Japan.

Please click the following URL link for full review report. https://www.jcr.co.jp/en/greenfinance/

# Section 3. Detailed review

Reviewers are encouraged to provide the information below to the extent possible and use the comment section to explain the scope of their review.

# **1. USE OF PROCEEDS**

**Overall comment on section** (*if applicable*):

#### a. Environmental Benefits of the Projects

i. 100% of the proceeds are used for refinancing solar power generation facilities, which will bring higher CO2 reduction effect.

ii. The use of proceeds falls under Renewable Energy project listed in ICMA Green Bond Principle and MOE green bond guidelines.

#### **b.** Negative impact on Environment

As a result of the appraisal, no possibility of adverse impact was expected.

#### Use of proceeds categories as per GBP:

$\boxtimes$	Renewable energy	Energy efficiency
	Pollution prevention and control	Environmentally sustainable management of living natural resources and land use
	Terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity conservation	Clean transportation
	Sustainable water and wastewater management	Climate change adaptation
	Eco-efficient and/or circular economy adapted products, production technologies and processes	Green buildings
	Unknown at issuance but currently expected to conform with GBP categories, or other eligible areas not yet stated in GBPs	Other (please specify):

If applicable please specify the environmental taxonomy, if other than GBPs:

#### 2. PROCESS FOR PROJECT EVALUATION AND SELECTION

**Overall comment on section** (*if applicable*):

Ricoh Leasing has clear environmental goal, project selection criteria and process to determine the proceeds, which are publicized in its green bond framework.

# **Evaluation and selection**

- Credentials on the issuer's environmental sustainability objectives
- Defined and transparent criteria for projects eligible for Green Bond proceeds
- Summary criteria for project evaluation and selection publicly available
- Documented process to determine that projects fit within defined categories
- Documented process to identify and manage potential ESG risks associated with the project
   Other (classe specifie)
- Other (please specify):

In-house assessment

## Information on Responsibilities and Accountability

- Evaluation / Selection criteria subject to external advice or verification
- □ Other (please specify):

## **3. MANAGEMENT OF PROCEEDS**

**Overall comment on section** (*if applicable*): The proceeds are used for refinancing of CP issued for purchasing solar power generation facilities. All the proceeds are promptly allocated to the project and there is no unallocated portion.

 $\boxtimes$ 

#### Tracking of proceeds:

- Green Bond proceeds segregated or tracked by the issuer in an appropriate manner
- Disclosure of intended types of temporary investment instruments for unallocated proceeds
- □ Other (please specify):

### Additional disclosure:

- □ Allocations to future investments only
- Allocation to individual disbursements
- Disclosure of portfolio balance of unallocated proceeds
- Allocations to both existing and future investments
- □ Allocation to a portfolio of disbursements
- Other (please specify):Allocations to existing investments

#### 4. REPORTING

**Overall comment on section** (*if applicable*):

- Reporting on proceeds allocation
  Since the proceeds are promptly allocated to redemption of the commercial papers, JCR confirmed that it would be enough to track the account of the proceeds only one time, when it would be used for CP redemption.
- b. Impact reporting for environmental benefits

# Use of proceeds reporting:

$\boxtimes$	Project-by-project		On a project portfolio basis				
	Linkage to individual bond(s)		Other (please specify):				
	Information reported:						
	☑ Allocated amounts		Green Bond financed share of total investment				
	□ Other (please specify):						
	Frequency:						
	🖂 Annual		Semi-annual				
	⊠ Other (please specify):						
	All the proceeds will be allocated to the projects promptly after issuing the bonds.						
Impa	ct reporting:						
$\boxtimes$	Project-by-project		On a project portfolio basis				
	Linkage to individual bond(s)		Other (please specify):				
	Frequency:						
	🛛 Annual		Semi-annual				
	□ Other (please specify):						
	Information reported (expected or ex-post):						
	⊠ GHG Emissions / Savings		Energy Savings				
	□ Decrease in water use		Other ESG indicators (please specify):				
Mean	s of Disclosure						
	Information published in financial report		Information published in sustainability report				
	Information published in ad hoc documents		Other (please specify):				
$\boxtimes$	Reporting reviewed						
	Yes, both use of proceeds and impact reporting are subject to external review.						

Where appropriate, please specify name and date of publication in the useful links section.

# USEFUL LINKS (e.g. to review provider methodology or credentials, to issuer's documentation, etc.)

Ricoh Leasing Company's website about CSR efforts <u>http://www.r-lease.co.jp/csr/index.html</u> (Provided in Japanese only)

JCR's website about green bond evaluation methodology https://www.jcr.co.jp/en/greenfinance/

# SPECIFY OTHER EXTERNAL REVIEWS AVAILABLE, IF APPROPRIATE Type(s) of Review provided:

Second Party Opinion	Certification
Verification	Scoring/Rating

- Other (please specify):

**Review provider(s):** 

Date of publication:

Japan Credit Rating Agency, Ltd.

July 26, 2018

# ABOUT ROLE(S) OF INDEPENDENT REVIEW PROVIDERS AS DEFINED BY THE GBP

- 1. Second Party Opinion: An institution with environmental expertise, that is independent from the issuer may issue a Second Party Opinion. The institution should be independent from the issuer's adviser for its Green Bond framework, or appropriate procedures, such as information barriers, will have been implemented within the institution to ensure the independence of the Second Party Opinion. It normally entails an assessment of the alignment with the Green Bond Principles. In particular, it can include an assessment of the issuer's overarching objectives, strategy, policy and/or processes relating to environmental sustainability, and an evaluation of the environmental features of the type of projects intended for the Use of Proceeds.
- 2. Verification: An issuer can obtain independent verification against a designated set of criteria, typically pertaining to business processes and/or environmental criteria. Verification may focus on alignment with internal or external standards or claims made by the issuer. Also, evaluation of the environmentally sustainable features of underlying assets may be termed verification and may reference external criteria. Assurance or attestation regarding an issuer's internal tracking method for use of proceeds, allocation of funds from Green Bond proceeds, statement of environmental impact or alignment of reporting with the GBP, may also be termed verification.
- 3. **Certification**: An issuer can have its Green Bond or associated Green Bond framework or Use of Proceeds certified against a recognised external green standard or label. A standard or label defines specific criteria, and alignment with such criteria is normally tested by qualified, accredited third parties, which may verify consistency with the certification criteria.
- 4. **Green Bond Scoring/Rating**: An issuer can have its Green Bond, associated Green Bond framework or a key feature such as Use of Proceeds evaluated or assessed by qualified third parties, such as specialised research providers or rating agencies, according to an established scoring/rating methodology. The output may include a focus on environmental performance data, the process relative to the GBP, or another benchmark, such as a 2-degree climate change scenario. Such scoring/rating is distinct from credit ratings, which may nonetheless reflect material environmental risks.