

# Visa Green Bond Report

AUGUST 2022



**VISA**



# Introduction

Visa is a global payments technology company that connects consumers, businesses, financial institutions and governments in more than 200 countries and territories to fast, secure and reliable electronic payments. At Visa our purpose is to uplift everyone, everywhere by being the best way to pay and be paid. Through our strategic focus, we implement our mission to connect the world through the most innovative, reliable and secure digital payments network, enabling individuals, businesses and economies to thrive.

Visa is committed to being a leader in environmental sustainability and addressing the global challenges of climate change. As we use our electronic payments network to connect consumers, financial institutions, merchants and governments around the world, we recognize the importance of understanding and minimizing the environmental footprint of our business and taking urgent climate action. We are proud of our progress in reducing Visa's environmental impact, including by achieving our goals to use 100% renewable electricity and to be carbon neutral across our operations.

Visa's 2030 science-based climate targets, accepted by the Science Based Target initiative in 2022,

include an ambitious 50% reduction in our Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions and a 42% reduction in Scope 3 including supply chain. The targets build on our achievement in 2020 of carbon neutrality for our operations, our goal of Net Zero emissions by 2040 and our aspiration to be a climate positive company, including by harnessing the global Visa network, as well as our products, services, data, brand and payments expertise, to inspire and empower others and support the transition to a low-carbon economy. Through these, we aim to be an engine of sustainable commerce and to build on our progress to minimize the environmental footprint of our offices, data centers, business travel, employee commuting and procurement activities.

**We are committed to achieve Net Zero emissions by 2040.**

**In support of these goals and initiatives, Visa issued its inaugural Green Bond in August 2020. In July 2021, we reported our progress in the use of those proceeds from the beginning of our lookback period (August 2017) through March 2021. This second Visa Green Bond Report contains additional use of proceeds from the lookback period as well as for the period from April 1, 2021 through March 31, 2022.**

# Visa's Green Bond Framework

In 2020, Visa published our Green Bond Framework to outline our approach to Green Bonds as a mechanism for financing a transition to low-carbon operations and economy. We established our Framework in alignment with the International Capital Market Association's Green Bond Principles (GBP), a voluntary framework that provides guidance and best practices for issuing Green Bonds.

A key focus of our Green Bond Framework is defining the criteria for the use of Green Bond proceeds. Specifically, we intend for our projects to align with the GBP's eligibility categories. In addition, we aim for our Green Bond to support the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals noted below.

- **Green Buildings**
- **Energy Efficiency**
- **Renewable Energy**
- **Sustainable Water and Wastewater Management**
- **Clean and Mass Transportation**
- **Inspiring and Empowering Sustainable Living Behaviors**

For a full description of our eligibility criteria, see pages 4 and 5 of this report.



GBP Eligible Project Category	Eligibility Criteria and Example Projects	SDG Alignment
<p><b>Green Buildings</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expenditures related to new construction, upgrades and build out of properties that have received or are expected to receive:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LEED: Silver, Gold or Platinum</li> <li>BREEAM: Very Good, Excellent or Outstanding</li> <li>Energy Star</li> <li>BCA GreenMark or other equivalent internationally and/or nationally recognized certifications</li> </ul> </li> <li>Expenditures related to lease payments made by Visa where Visa is the sole tenant and buildings were constructed at Visa's request with a specific level of the aforementioned certifications.</li> </ul>	 <p>9 Industry, innovation and infrastructure 11 Sustainable cities and communities 13 Climate action</p>
<p><b>Energy Efficiency</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expenditures related to energy-efficiency projects including equipment, systems, operational improvements and maintenance; examples include:</li> <li>Expenditures in high-efficiency data center operations and equipment including cooling equipment, efficient servers, electrical infrastructure and building management systems that we would reasonably expect to result in 15% or greater improvements in energy efficiency compared to existing equipment, systems or operations</li> <li>Expenditures to improve and maintain energy efficiency in our owned and operated office facilities including HVAC upgrades, LED lighting upgrades, energy storage, transformers and other electrical infrastructure that we would reasonably expect to result in 15% or greater improvements in energy efficiency.</li> </ul>	 <p>7 Affordable and clean energy 8 Decent work and economic growth 9 Industry, innovation and infrastructure 13 Climate action</p>
<p><b>Renewable Energy</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expenditures related to the construction, development, acquisition, maintenance and operation of renewable energy including solar, wind, geothermal with direct emissions of less than 100 g CO<sub>2</sub>/kWh and hydropower (≤25 MW)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On-site renewable energy</li> <li>Sourcing expenditures pursuant to long-term power purchase agreements (PPAs)</li> <li>Differential costs associated with sourcing renewable energy versus nonrenewable sources</li> <li>When other options are not viable or practical, purchases of energy attribute certificates (EACs) or Green-e certified renewable energy certificates (RECs)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	 <p>7 Affordable and clean energy 8 Decent work and economic growth 11 Sustainable cities and communities 13 Climate action</p>

GBP Eligible Project Category	Eligibility Criteria and Example Projects	SDG Alignment
<p><b>Sustainable Water and Wastewater Management</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expenditures related to water efficiency projects, including waterless cooling, water reuse and innovations in heat rejection in our data centers, as well as sensors on water fixtures and low-flow toilets in our business offices.</li> </ul>	   <p>6 Clean water and sanitation 11 Sustainable cities and communities 12 Responsible consumption and production</p>
<p><b>Clean and Mass Transportation</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expenditures related to transportation programs enhancing a modal shift amongst employees including Visa's Commuter Benefits program, expenditures for infrastructure for bicycle commuting (showers, bike lockers) and Visa's shuttle service in the Bay Area and other key office locations.</li> <li>Expenditures related to facilitating the modal shift by consumers to public transit usage, including through hardware installation and promotion of tap to pay transit digital payment systems.</li> <li>Expenditures related to public and/or employee electric vehicle infrastructure including charging stations.</li> </ul>	  <p>11 Sustainable cities and communities 13 Climate action</p>
<p><b>Inspiring and Empowering Sustainable Living Behaviors</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expenditures related to inspiring and empowering sustainable consumption by consumers and other partners in the commerce ecosystem. Examples include costs related to:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research to expand the understanding of barriers and drivers of sustainable consumer behaviors, for example, Visa's existing and continued participation in the GlobeScan "Healthy &amp; Sustainable Living" research program</li> <li>Development of solutions to help consumers understand and adjust behavior around the footprint of their consumption</li> <li>Development of additional solutions for vertical sectors, for example, Visa's existing work in transit and travel/ tourism (Travalyst)</li> <li>Supporting the broader sustainable living movement across industries and stakeholders, for example, Visa's support of the Brands For Good movement.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	   <p>11 Sustainable cities and communities 12 Responsible consumption and production 13 Climate action</p>

## Visa's Green Bond Governance

Visa maintains protocols for approving the use of our Green Bond proceeds. Our Green Bond Working Group consists of Corporate Real Estate, Finance and Data Center Operations team members, and is responsible for preparing a spend report of our Green Bond eligible projects. For a given reporting period, the Working Group gathers relevant spend data and applies the inclusion criteria outlined in Visa's Green Bond Framework to identify projects eligible for Green Bond spend. The Working Group then shares the results with executive leadership in the key functions and then with Visa's Green Bond Steering Committee, which evaluates the final list of projects to confirm spend alignment with our Green Bond criteria.

Finally, our Green Bond Executive Advisory Group reviews the spend report to confirm the total spend is in accordance with Visa's Green Bond Framework. Once all approvals are in place, allocation of Visa's Green Bond funds may proceed.



# Green Bond Details

On August 10, 2020, Visa issued our inaugural \$500 million 0.75% Senior Notes (the “Green Bond”) due August 15, 2027. In alignment with our Green Bond Framework, we are using our Green Bond to finance the construction and operation of highly efficient buildings with a focus on energy and water efficiency improvements. In addition, the Green Bond will fund the expansion of renewable energy and employee commuter programs and initiatives focused on sustainable consumer behaviors. We anticipate the proceeds will also support investments in products and solutions to catalyze sustainable living in support of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

## Management Assertion

As of March 31, 2022, Visa has allocated an additional \$78.4 million of the proceeds of the Green Bond bringing the total to \$243.3 million in eligible spend on projects that meet the Eligibility Criteria on pages 4 and 5 of this report for the reporting period of August 10, 2017 through March 31, 2022 in accordance with the Use of Proceeds defined in the Green Bond Framework.

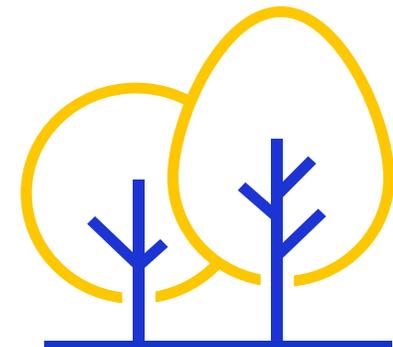
Visa’s allocations during this period have primarily financed green building design, construction and operations, as well as energy efficiency upgrades in infrastructure and equipment in our data centers and in our offices. We also have directed a portion of our initial allocations to programs that improve the sustainability of our employees’ commuting, and to the purchase of renewable energy in support of our commitment to purchase 100% renewable electricity.



GBP Eligible Project Category	Allocations* April 1, 2021 – March 31, 2022	Environmental Impacts
Green Buildings	<b>\$54.7M<sup>8</sup></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facility square footage certified as LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) or similar certification during report period (FY2021): 297,000 sq. ft.</li> <li>Total facility square footage certified as LEED or similar in Visa buildings<sup>2</sup> (FY2021): 3,572,000 sq. ft.</li> <li>YOY change between FY2020 and FY2021: 9% increase<sup>7</sup></li> </ul>
Energy Efficiency	<b>\$17.4M</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Energy saved due to data center efficiency: 3,230,000 kWh<sup>3</sup> (FY2021 compared to FY2020)<sup>7</sup></li> <li>Emissions avoided from energy efficiency improvements: 1,070 metric tons CO<sub>2</sub>e<sup>4</sup> (FY2021 compared to FY2020)<sup>7</sup></li> </ul>
Renewable Energy	<b>\$4.6M</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GHG emissions avoided from renewable electric purchase: 59,190 metric tons CO<sub>2</sub>e<sup>6</sup> (FY2021)</li> </ul>
Clean and Mass Transportation	<b>\$1.7M</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GHG emissions avoided from Visa employee shuttle use: 510 metric tons CO<sub>2</sub>e<sup>5</sup> (April 2021 – March 2022)</li> </ul>

\*Data as of March 31, 2022.

- This value was determined by taking the total facility square footage certified as LEED or equivalent in FY2021 and subtracting the total facility square footage certified as LEED or equivalent in FY2020. This assumes that all facilities that reported being LEED certified or equivalent during the FY2021 annual data collection process but did not indicate as such in FY2020 received this certification during the reporting year, and not due to other potential reasons.
- The total facility square footage that has been certified as LEED or equivalent is sourced from Visa's annual environmental data request, where facility or office managers indicate if the space that Visa occupies is LEED certified or equivalent, and which type of certification the space is certified as. This value is current as of the end of Visa's FY2021.
- Energy savings between FY2020 and FY2021 are calculated based on data center Power Usage Effectiveness (PUE) and annual reported total electricity use. Using FY2020 and FY2021 PUE and reported total electricity data, IT electricity use in each data center is estimated. With the estimated IT electricity use in FY2021, total data center electricity use in FY2021 is estimated as if PUE had remained constant at the 2020 value, totaling -116 million kWh. Actual reported electricity use in FY2021 is subtracted from this calculated figure to determine the total electricity savings (116.09 million kWh - 112.86 million kWh = 3.23 million kWh).
- Specific emission factors for each data center location (IEA United Kingdom for UK data center, EPA eGRID RMPA for Central U.S. data center and EPA eGRID SRVC for Eastern U.S. data center) were used to calculate emissions savings associated with the electricity reduction during FY2021.
- Shuttle emissions are sourced from the shuttle provider's annual reports supplied to Visa. Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, based on shuttle route lengths and assuming employees would otherwise be driving to work alone, shuttles were calculated to replace -7.5 million vehicle miles per year. Shuttles did not run for much of the reporting period due to Covid-19, a consideration incorporated into the analysis. Passenger vehicle emission factors from the EPA were used to estimate total emissions had employees commuted as single drivers. Reported shuttle emissions were then subtracted from estimated single driver emissions to determine total emissions savings in the reporting period, in which shuttles were operational for approximately four months.
- Visa purchased renewable electricity to cover 100% of global operations during FY2021. Emissions savings from renewable electricity consumption over this time period are calculated by subtracting Visa's Scope 2 market-based emissions (0 metric tons CO<sub>2</sub>e) from Scope 2 location-based emissions (59,190 metric tons CO<sub>2</sub>e). Market-based emissions consider voluntary renewable electricity purchases, and therefore the difference between these numbers represents the emissions saved from renewable procurement.
- Year on year comparative data is based on Visa's ESG report fiscal year (FY) FY2021 vs. FY2020.
- Green Buildings amount include \$7.3M use of proceeds from the lookback period.



## Green Bond Project Highlights

Visa is committed to reducing the environmental impact of our facilities and data centers by focusing on green building design and operation. This includes obtaining LEED or equivalent certifications for our new construction projects and using green building standards and guidelines to increase resource use efficiency within our existing buildings. Additionally, we continue to pursue initiatives to empower our 21,500 employees worldwide to be sustainability stewards in the workplace, at home and in our communities.

The next pages show highlights of select Green Bond projects.





### **Data Center Modular Upgrade**

Visa deployed a 1MW modular data center unit at our central U.S. data center, part of a longer-term strategy for capacity additions at this location. The modular data center unit has a PUE of 1.19, significantly lower than Visa’s existing data centers and is also water efficient.



### **Central U.S. Data Center Cooling Tower Replacement**

Visa replaced existing cooling infrastructure with two 3-stage cooling towers that are expected to provide more than 30% improvements in efficiency. The new cooling towers are projected to reduce water use by almost 5% by being able to operate in dry mode when conditions permit.



### **Bellevue, WA Office Facility**

The 53,000 sq. ft. office tower located in Bellevue, Washington received a LEED Gold certification and Visa’s interior build out received LEED certification. LEED and other green building certifications are a key element of Visa’s approach to reducing the footprint from our offices and data centers.

**Our goal is to use 100% renewable electricity and to be carbon neutral across our operations.**





### **UK Renewable Energy with British Gas**

For Visa’s UK offices and data centers, Visa has entered into a new agreement with British Gas for the purchase of renewable electricity and green gas. The renewable energy mix includes UK wind and solar and bio-based renewable electricity with certification provided by British Gas and accredited by The Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem).



### **Dubai, UAE Regional Headquarters**

Visa’s construction of a new 79,000 sq. ft. regional headquarters in Dubai followed the stringent Dubai Green Building Regulations and Specifications (DGBR) which entails energy and water efficiency as well as other aspects of sustainable construction and operations. The office anticipates LEED certification in late 2022.

**Visa is committed to being a leader in environmental sustainability.**



# Independent Accountants' Report

## Visa Inc.'s Management:

We have examined management of Visa Inc.'s ("Visa") assertion on page 7 of the Visa Green Bond Report dated August 2022 (the "Report") that as of March 31, 2022, Visa has allocated an additional \$78.4 million of the proceeds of the Green Bond, as defined on page 7 of the Report, bringing the total to \$243.3 million in eligible spend on projects that meet the Eligibility Criteria on pages 4 and 5 of the Report (the "Allocation") for the reporting period of August 10, 2017 through March 31, 2022 in accordance with the Use of Proceeds defined in Visa's Green Bond Framework ("Use of Proceeds"). Visa's management is responsible for its assertion. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on management's assertion based on our examination.

Our examination was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Those standards require that we plan and perform the examination to obtain reasonable assurance about whether management's assertion is fairly stated, in all material respects. An examination involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about management's assertion. The nature, timing, and extent of the procedures selected depend on our judgment, including an assessment of the risks of material misstatement of management's assertion, whether due to fraud or error. We believe that the evidence we obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

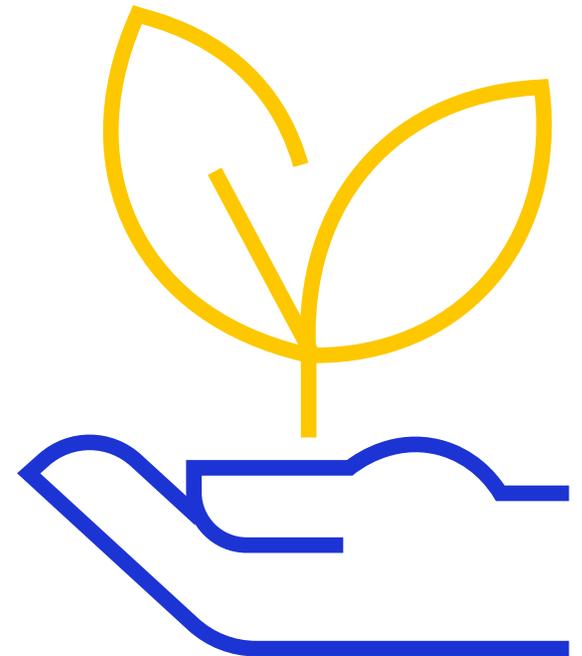
We are required to be independent and to meet our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with relevant ethical requirements relating to the examination engagement.

Our examination was limited to the Allocation in accordance with the Use of Proceeds. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion or any other form of assurance other than on the Allocation in accordance with the Use of Proceeds.

In our opinion, management's assertion that as of March 31, 2022, Visa has allocated an additional \$78.4 million of the proceeds of the Green Bond bringing the total to \$243.3 million in eligible spend on projects that meet the Eligibility Criteria on pages 4 and 5 of the Report for the reporting period of August 10, 2017 through March 31, 2022 in accordance with the Use of Proceeds defined in Visa's Green Bond Framework, is fairly stated, in all material respects.

**KPMG LLP**

San Francisco, California  
August 2, 2022





# Summary

Visa's use of proceeds from our Green Bond has continued to support the financing of projects across our global operations in line with our Visa Green Bond Framework, helping us achieve our goals around carbon neutrality and renewable electricity. Looking ahead, we will identify additional projects for the Green Bond use of proceeds that can help us achieve continued environmental sustainability objectives including our 2030 science-based GHG reduction goals, our long-term goal of Net Zero emissions by 2040 and our aspiration to operate as a climate positive company.

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