

Press Release – For Immediate Release

Barclays and MSCI announce launch of Green Bond Index family

Innovative new index family will track the growing market of bonds issued to fund projects with environmental benefits

New York, November 13, 2014 – Barclays, a publisher of leading broad market bond benchmarks, and MSCI Inc., a leading provider of investment decision support tools worldwide, announced today the launch of a new green bond index family measuring the global market of fixed income securities issued to fund projects and initiatives with direct environmental benefits. The Barclays MSCI Green Bond Index family complements the existing Barclays MSCI ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) Fixed Income Index family, and is now available to clients.

Eligibility for the Barclays MSCI Green Bond Index family is based on an independent and objective assessment of securities by MSCI ESG Research along four dimensions closely tracked by green bond investors: use of proceeds, project evaluation, management of proceeds, and reporting. Additional fixed income index criteria are then applied to this screened universe to identify index membership on a monthly basis. These assessment criteria and thresholds for eligibility were finalized following a market consultation.

Sean Kidney, CEO of the Climate Bonds Initiative, said, “The green bond market has grown enormously in recent years. The availability of market standard indices is important in establishing clear, broadly accepted guidelines for the new issuers rapidly entering the market. The stature of Barclays and MSCI will help to bring attention to green bonds.”

The indices will be useful benchmarks for both dedicated green investors as well as traditional fixed income investors seeking informational measures of green bond risks and return as part of their broader portfolio allocations. In addition to the flagship multi-currency Barclays MSCI Green Bond Index, sub-indices by currency, maturity, sector, and use of proceeds are available as part of the family.

“According to the Climate Bond Initiative, around US\$30-40bn of green bonds will be issued this year, increasing to around US\$100bn next year,” said Brian Upbin, Head of Benchmark Index Research at Barclays. “The Barclays MSCI Green Bond Index family should prove to be an extremely useful tool for issuers and institutional investors, and its introduction marks an important step in the evolution, transparency, and standardization of the green bond market.”

Remy Briand, Managing Director and Global Head of Equity Research at MSCI, said, “We are pleased to work with Barclays to expand the range of ESG benchmarks for the fixed income market. The Barclays MSCI Green Bond Index family demonstrates how this collaboration can support the development of this important new market and provide investors with benchmarks for performance measurement and investment products.”

The Barclays MSCI Green Bond Index family will be available for institutional clients to license for their index-linked investment products, such as Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs), separately managed accounts, and structured products.

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About Barclays

Barclays is an international financial services provider engaged in personal banking, credit cards, corporate and investment banking and wealth management with an extensive presence in Europe, the Americas, Africa and Asia. Barclays' purpose is to help people achieve their ambitions – in the right way. With over 300 years of history and expertise in banking, Barclays operates in over 50 countries and employs approximately 140,000 people. Barclays moves, lends, invests and protects money for customers and clients worldwide. For further information about Barclays, please visit our website www.barclays.com. Barclays offers investment banking products and services in the US through Barclays Capital Inc.

About MSCI

MSCI Inc. is a leading provider of investment decision support tools to investors globally, including asset managers, banks, hedge funds and pension funds. MSCI products and services include indexes, portfolio risk and performance analytics, and ESG data and research.

The company's flagship product offerings are: the MSCI indexes with over USD 9.5 trillion estimated to be benchmarked to them on a worldwide basis¹; Barra multi-asset class factor models, portfolio risk and performance analytics; RiskMetrics multi-asset class market and credit risk analytics; IPD real estate information, indexes and analytics; MSCI ESG (environmental, social and governance) Research screening, analysis and ratings; and FEA valuation models and risk management software for the energy and commodities markets. MSCI is headquartered in New York, with research and commercial offices around the world.

MSCI ESG Research products and services are designed to provide in-depth research, ratings and analysis of environmental, social and governance-related business practices to companies worldwide. Ratings and data from MSCI ESG Research are also used in the construction of the MSCI ESG Indexes. MSCI ESG Research Inc. is a Registered Investment Adviser under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940. MSCI is a signatory to the United Nations-backed Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI).

¹ As of June 30, 2014, as reported on September 30 2014 by eVestment, Morningstar and Bloomberg. For further information on MSCI, please visit www.msci.com.

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