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Understanding the New Wave of Green Debt.

Municipal debt markets can cater to everyone from a conservative investor looking for principal protection while earning enough to keep up with inflation to a moderate risk-taker who might be looking for high returns.

The new wave of green municipal debt instruments has many investors talking and potentially looking to make them part of their portfolio. The Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board (MSRB) states that green bonds are fixed-income debt instruments like any other bond. They offer a stated return and a promise to use the proceeds to finance or refinance, in part or fully, new or existing sustainable projects.

Generally, green bonds fund environmental, social and governance improvements or projects, and are issued by the public, private or multilateral entities to finance projects related to a more sustainable economy and that generate identifiable climate, environmental or other benefits. These projects may include renewable energy and energy efficiency projects, clean public transportation, pollution prevention and control, conservation, sustainable water and wastewater management, and green buildings that meet internationally recognized standards and certifications.

In this article, we will take a closer look at the rise of green debt issuance by public agencies and how an investor can meet his/her long-term investment goals while staying environmentally responsible and aligning with their social values.

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by Jayden Sangha

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