

#### **Report of Independent Accountants**

To the Board of Directors of Veris Residential, Inc.

We have reviewed the accompanying Veris Residential, Inc. (Veris Residential) management assertion that the environmental and social metrics as of or for the year ended December 31, 2021 in management's assertion are presented in accordance with the assessment criteria set forth in management's assertion. Veris Residential's management is responsible for its assertion and for the selection of the criteria, which management believes provide an objective basis for measuring and reporting on the environmental and social metrics. Our responsibility is to express a conclusion on management's assertion based on our review.

Our review was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) in AT-C section 105, *Concepts Common to All Attestation Engagements*, and AT-C section 210, *Review Engagements*. Those standards require that we plan and perform the review to obtain limited assurance about whether any material modifications should be made to management's assertion in order for it to be fairly stated. The procedures performed in a review vary in nature and timing from, and are substantially less in extent than, an examination, the objective of which is to obtain reasonable assurance about whether management's assertion is fairly stated, in all material respects, in order to express an opinion. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. Because of the limited nature of the engagement, the level of assurance obtained in a review is substantially lower than the assurance that would have been obtained had an examination been performed. We believe that the review evidence obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a reasonable basis for our conclusion.

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

Our firm applies the Statements on Quality Control Standards established by the AICPA and, accordingly, maintains a comprehensive system of quality control.

The procedures we performed were based on our professional judgment. In performing our review, we performed inquiries; performed tests of mathematical accuracy of computations on a sample basis; read relevant policies to understand terms related to relevant information about the environmental and social metrics; reviewed supporting documentation in regard to the completeness and accuracy of the data in the environmental and social metrics on a sample basis; and performed analytical procedures.

Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions quantification is subject to significant inherent measurement uncertainty because of such things as GHG emissions factors that are used in mathematical models to calculate GHG emissions, and the inability of these models, due to incomplete scientific knowledge and other factors, to accurately measure under all circumstances the relationship between various inputs and the resultant GHG emissions. Environmental and energy use data used in GHG emissions calculations are subject to inherent limitations, given the nature and the methods used for measuring such data. The selection by management of different but acceptable measurement techniques could have resulted in materially different amounts or metrics being reported.



The preparation of total energy consumption, total water consumption, waste landfilled, and waste recycled metrics requires management to establish the criteria, make determinations as to the relevancy of information to be included, and make assumptions that affect reported information. The selection by management of different but acceptable measurement techniques could have resulted in materially different amounts or metrics being reported.

As discussed in management's assertion, Veris Residential has estimated waste data for waste landfilled and waste recycled for which no primary usage data is available.

Based on our review, we are not aware of any material modifications that should be made to Veris Residential's management assertion in order for it to be fairly stated.

Prinewaterhanse copers LLP

New York, New York May 26, 2022



# Veris Residential, Inc. Management Assertion

## As of or for the year ended December 31, 2021

With respect to the environmental and social metrics presented in the tables below and reported by Veris Residential, Inc. ("Veris Residential" or the "Company") as of or for the year ended December 31, 2021, Veris Residential's management asserts that such environmental and social metrics are presented in accordance with the assessment criteria set forth below. Management is responsible for the selection of the criteria, which management believes provide an objective basis for measuring and reporting on the environmental and social metrics. Management is responsible for the completeness, accuracy, and validity of the environmental and social metrics.

Metric – Total Portfolio	Definition of Metric and Assessment Criteria	Metric Quantity <sup>1</sup>
Total Energy Consumption <sup>4</sup>	Direct and indirect energy consumed from stationary combustion, mobile combustion, and purchased electricity. <sup>2,6,7,11</sup>	Total Energy Consumption: 407,357,625 Kilo-British Thermal Unit (kBTU)
Total Scope 1 Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions <sup>4</sup>	Direct emissions from stationary combustion, mobile combustion, and fugitive emissions from refrigerant sources. <sup>3,5,6,11</sup>	Total Scope 1 GHG Emissions: 6,261 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents (mtCO <sub>2</sub> e)
Total Scope 2 GHG Emissions <sup>4</sup>	Indirect emissions from the generation of purchased electricity. <sup>3,5,7,11</sup>	Total Scope 2 GHG Emissions (Location-Based): 29,068 mtCO <sub>2</sub> e Total Scope 2 GHG Emissions (Market-Based): 23,813 mtCO <sub>2</sub> e
Total Scope 1 and Scope 2 (Market-Based) Emissions		Total Scope 1 and Scope 2 (Market-Based) Emissions: 30,074 mtCO <sub>2</sub> e

## **Environmental Metrics**



Metric – Total Portfolio	Definition of Metric and Assessment Criteria	Metric Quantity <sup>1</sup>
Total Scope 3 GHG Emissions - Category 6, Business Air Travel <sup>4</sup>	Indirect emissions generated from business air travel. <sup>3,5,8,11</sup>	Total Scope 3 GHG Emissions - Category 6, Business Air Travel: 11 mtCO <sub>2</sub> e
Total Water Consumption <sup>4</sup>	Water consumption by Veris Residential. <sup>9,11</sup>	Total Water Consumption: 736,688 cubic meters (m3)
Waste Landfilled and Waste Recycled <sup>10</sup>	Total waste at property level sent to landfill and waste recycled. <sup>10,11</sup>	Waste Landfilled: 650 tons Waste Recycled: 138 tons

<sup>1</sup> All figures are rounded to the nearest whole number and are for the year ended December 31, 2021.

<sup>2</sup> Veris Residential considers the GRI Sustainability Reporting Standard 302 to guide the criteria to assess, measure, and report total energy consumption. <sup>3</sup> Veris Residential considers the principles and guidance of the World Resources Institute (WRI) and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development's (WBCSD) *The Greenhouse Gas Protocol: A Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard, Revised, GHG Protocol Scope 2 Guidance: An amendment to the GHG Protocol Corporate Standard*, and *Corporate Value Chain (Scope 3) Accounting and Reporting Standard* (together the "GHG Protocol"), to guide the criteria to assess, measure, and report GHG emissions.

<sup>4</sup> Organizational boundary for all environmental metrics, excluding waste, relates to Veris Residential's operating office and multifamily assets over which it has operational control during the year and excludes multifamily resident areas, hotel properties, unconsolidated joint ventures, and other non-strategic properties like parking garages because it does not have operational control. Non-operating developments, redevelopments (including the Harborside Plaza 1 office building) and undeveloped land parcels are also excluded.

<sup>5</sup> Carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e) emissions are inclusive of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O), and methane (CH<sub>4</sub>). The other GHGs, such as hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), sulfur hexafluoride (SF<sub>6</sub>), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), and nitrogen trifluoride (NF<sub>3</sub>) are not emitted by Veris Residential's operations. These carbon dioxide equivalent emissions utilize Global Warming Potentials (GWPs) defined by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) Fifth Assessment Report (AR5 - 100 year) or the California Air Resources Board Refrigerant Management Program (RMP) R-22. Carbon dioxide equivalent emissions are calculated by multiplying actual or estimated energy and fuel usage by the relevant emission factor taking into account the equivalent GWP or the California Air Resources Board RMP R-22. All emission factors are updated annually where applicable. Emissions data by individual gas is not disclosed as a majority of CO<sub>2</sub>e relates to carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>).

<sup>6</sup> Related to total Scope 1 GHG emissions and total energy consumption:

- Includes (i) stationary combustion from natural gas used for heating at Veris Residential's operating offices and multifamily properties and distillate fuel oil used for generators, (ii) mobile combustion from gasoline and diesel fuel used for Company vehicles, and (iii) leaks of refrigerants in common areas.
- Activity data is sourced from (i) direct measurements or third-party invoices for stationary combustion from natural gas, (ii) internal measurements for stationary combustion from distillate fuel oil, (iii) mileage data for mobile combustion from gasoline and diesel, as well as (iv) manufacturer capacity data for fugitive emissions from unit refrigerators and air conditioner (PTAC and HVAC units) gas loss.
- Emission Factors:
  - The emission factors for Scope 1 were obtained from the following sources:



- Stationary Combustion (Natural Gas, Distillate Fuel Oil #2): United States (US) Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), "Emission Factors for Greenhouse Gas Inventories," Table 1 Stationary Combustion Emission Factors, updated on April 1, 2021.
- Mobile Combustion (Gasoline and Diesel): United States (US) Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), "Emission Factors for Greenhouse Gas Inventories," Table 2 Mobile Combustion and Table 4 Mobile Combustion, updated on April 1, 2021.
- Refrigerant and Air Condition Gas Loss (HFC-134a, R22, R410a): US EPA, "Emission Factors for Greenhouse Gas Inventories", Table 11 and Table 12 Global Warming Potentials, updated April 1, 2021.
- Estimates:
  - Stationary Combustion:
    - For operating office properties sold during the year, if actual natural gas consumption data was available for a date more than 5 days before the sale date, an estimate of the missing days was made based on the actual usage for a comparable period for the operating office property.
    - Consumption of distillate fuel oil used for the multifamily properties (generators) was estimated based on the full load burn per hour based on the manufacturers specifications assuming a run rate of 15 minutes per week for 52 weeks and adding a 20% factor for power outages.
  - o Mobile Combustion: Consumption of gasoline and diesel from mobile vehicles was estimated based on actual purchase receipts for similar assets.
  - o Refrigerant data: Refrigerant leakage from in unit refrigerators and HVAC units was calculated by applying an operating emissions factor (i.e., leak rate) of 0.5% or 10% (sourced from US EPA's Direct Fugitive Emissions from Refrigeration, Air Conditioning, Fire Suppression, and Industrial Gases) to the total system capacity across all units. The number of refrigerators was based on an estimate of 1 per multifamily unit plus 3 in each common area. The number of multifamily Packaged Terminal Air Conditioner (PTAC) units was based on an estimate of 3 PTACs per multifamily unit plus 2 in living rooms of 2 and 3-bedroom units and 1 in studio and 1-bedroom units. The type of refrigerant was estimated as 80% r410a and 20% R22 as Veris Residential is phasing out the R22 in the portfolio. The capacity of each unit is determined by the product plate. For buildings with central air conditioning that is serviced by a third party vendor, Veris Residential obtained the actual Air Condition (A/C) gas purchased from the third-party vendor. Veris Residential services central air conditioning for multiple buildings in its multifamily portfolio and tracks actual gas purchased for the Port Imperial portfolio. A per unit A/C factor was derived based on actual A/C purchased gas at the Port Imperial portfolio divided by the number of units in the portfolio. For buildings where A/C purchased gases were not tracked, a per unit factor was applied to determine the total gas consumption at each building.
- Estimated emissions and energy consumption from the sources above account for less than 1% of total Scope 1 GHG emissions and Total Energy consumption.

<sup>7</sup> Related to total Scope 2 GHG emissions and total energy consumption:

- Activity data for purchased electricity consumed is sourced from monthly third-party invoices.
- Emission Factors (Scope 2):
  - Location-Based: US EPA Emissions & Generation Resource Integrated Database (eGRID) subregion emission factors for electricity purchased in the U.S. 2019 (Release: February 2021).
  - Market-Based: Emission factors hierarchy used to determine site-specific emission factors is as follows (from highest to lowest priority and precision to lowest):
    - Electricity Contracts: Veris Residential uses Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) as contractual instruments for renewable electricity procurement. The RECs were applied to the multifamily portfolio by location (i.e., New York, Massachusetts, New Jersey) and the remaining credits were applied to The Upton, a building put into service in the current year. RECs applicable to the 2021 reporting year have been contracted and retired.



- Other grid-average emission factors: Same as location-based.
- Estimates:
  - For The Upton property, electricity consumption data from the third-party vendor was not available from March through October 2021. An estimate for this period was calculated using the average actual electricity consumed for the period of November 2021 through February 2022.
  - For operating office properties sold during the year, if the actual electricity consumption data was available for a date more than 5 days before the sale date, an estimate of the missing days was made based on the actual usage for a comparable period for the operating office property.
- Estimated emissions and energy consumption from purchased electricity account for approximately 2% of total Scope 2 GHG emissions and Total Energy consumption.

<sup>8</sup> Related to total Scope 3 GHG emissions - category 6: business air travel:

- Activity data:
  - GHG emissions for business air travel are based on the distance between the origin and destination airport included on the expense reports from the employee reimbursement system and validated using the distances between origin and destination airports using AirportDistanceCalculator.com to calculate the Great Circle Distance. Veris Residential recognizes that business air travel remains an estimate since unforeseen circumstances can occur (e.g., different routes due to adverse weather, or aircraft fleet changes), however, the figure presented follows GHG Protocol methodology.
- Emission factors:
  - United States (US) Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), "Emission Factors for Greenhouse Gas Inventories," Table 10 Scope 3 Category 6: Business Travel, updated on April 1, 2021.

<sup>9</sup> Related to total water consumption:

- Activity data:
  - Water consumed is sourced from monthly third-party invoices.
- Estimates:
  - For operating office properties sold during the year, if the actual water consumption data was available for a date more than 5 days before the sale date, an estimate of the missing days was made based on the actual usage for a comparable period for the operating office property.
- Estimated water consumption accounts for less than 1% of total water consumption.

<sup>10</sup> Related to waste landfilled and waste recycled:

- Reporting boundary relates to Veris Residential's Jersey City Waterfront office properties and excludes Harborside Plaza 6 due to lack of data available.
- Activity data:
  - o Waste landfilled and waste recycled is sourced from monthly third-party invoices.
- Estimates:
  - For Harborside Plaza 5, waste data from the third-party vendor was not available for the period January through July 2021. An estimate for this period was calculated using the average actual waste generated for the period of August through December 2021.
- Estimated waste accounts for approximately 20% and 16% of total waste landfilled and waste recycled, respectively.

<sup>11</sup> GHG emissions quantification is subject to significant inherent measurement uncertainty because of such things as GHG emissions factors that are used in mathematical models to calculate GHG emissions, and the inability of those models, due to incomplete scientific knowledge and other factors, to accurately measure under all circumstances the relationship between various inputs and the resultant GHG emissions. Environmental and energy use data used in GHG emissions



calculations are subject to inherent limitations, given the nature and the methods used for measuring such data. The preparation of total energy consumption, total water consumption, waste landfilled, and waste recycled metrics requires management to establish the criteria, make determinations as to the relevancy of information to be included, and make assumptions that affect reported information. The selection by management of different but acceptable measurement techniques could have resulted in materially different amounts or metrics being reported.

### **Social Metrics**

Metric – Full Time <sup>1</sup> Employees	Definition of Metric and Assessment Criteria	Metric Quantity <sup>2</sup>
Gender and Ethnic Diversity of the Company's Full Time Employees	Gender and ethnicity distribution of the Company's full time employees as self- reported by the employee and reported in the Company's Human Resources System as of December 31, 2021.	Gender: - 38% female - 1% non-binary <sup>3</sup> - 58% male - 3% not self-reported Ethnicity:
		<ul> <li>48% white</li> <li>49% diverse<sup>4</sup></li> <li>3% not self-reported</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Full time employees are employees who work more than 30 hours per week.

<sup>2</sup> All figures are rounded to the nearest whole number and are as of December 31, 2021.

<sup>3</sup> Non-binary includes transgender, non-binary, and gender fluid.

<sup>4</sup> Diverse employees include Hispanic or Latino, Black or African American, Asian, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, North African Middle Eastern, American Indian or Alaskan Native, and two or more races.