



ASN Bank **Our vision on Climate Change**

A livable planet for everyone

How ASN Bank seeks to contribute to
a safe, stable and livable climate for
everyone

summary

March 2013

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In our climate change policy, we have laid down the criteria against which we test all our activities. These relate to investments in companies and government bonds, for example, but also to our own operations - for example, our selection of suppliers and our dealings with customers and staff. Before approving an activity, we first determine to what extent our sustainability criteria in the areas of human rights, climate change and biodiversity are satisfied. In other words: our policy on climate change is a key pillar of our sustainability policy. The common ground beneath these three pillars is the concept of justice. This is the essence of ASN Bank's sustainability vision.

In April 2013 we will publish our revised climate change policy, which is based in part on a broad crowdsourcing initiative.

Crowdsourcing

Via crowdsourcing, ASN Bank asked people for views and contributions with regard to its updated climate change policy. Through our online sustainability platform 'Voor de Wereld van Morgen' ('For Tomorrow's World'), we asked customers and other interested parties to consider four statements regarding the bank's role in climate change: knowledge about climate change, climate-neutral measures, renewable energy production and energy conservation. We invited a large audience to join the debate via Twitter and LinkedIn. The event encouraged almost two thousand people to visit 'Voor de Wereld van Morgen'. We received a total of 97 substantive replies that helped us to fine-tune our policy.

The climate has changed regularly throughout Earth's history. Currently, however, climate change is mainly induced by human activity. Global warming is brought about by greenhouse gas emissions. As a sustainable bank, ASN Bank aims to:

- contribute to preserving a safe, livable and stable climate, and
- limit the – now inevitable – impact of climate change.

The guiding principle in our policy is the report drafted by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) about the scientific substantiation for global warming as a result of man's activities.

In our policy, we have translated these data into criteria that help us make sustainable choices.

We have already passed the dangerous climate-change threshold - the tipping point - of an increase in Earth's temperature of about 1.5 degrees Celsius, or a CO₂ concentration in the atmosphere of approximately 350 ppm. Global carbon emissions are increasing faster every year. There is no sign of any reduction as yet.

In ASN Bank's view, the problem of climate change is a very urgent matter. It requires all of us to do whatever we can to contribute to a solution. ASN Bank itself is committed to doing so, and wants to serve as a role model for other organisations.

For this reason, we have made it our goal to achieve net carbon neutrality in our investments by 2030.

Today, some banks occasionally measure their impact on climate change. As far as we are aware, however, there is not a single bank in the world that has formulated a goal like ours. We, however, believe it is high time to do so. Moreover, many studies have revealed that the transition to a carbon-neutral economy is feasible. We already have a variety of instruments at our disposal to achieve that goal. For example, we do not invest a penny in the extraction and production of fossil fuels or activities that consume much fossil energy, but we invest as much as possible in energy conservation and renewable energy. We have formulated a climate change objective for our equity funds. We also assess countries as to their climate change performance, and that performance carries weight in our selection of government bonds.

In addition, we are collaborating with partners to step up the introduction of solar energy in the Netherlands and the use of energy conservation measures in residential construction. Going forward we will also develop and deploy new instruments, such as a method for measuring the carbon footprint of all our lending activities.

ASN Bank wants to contribute to solving the problem of climate change - primarily as an investor, but also in other ways. For example, as activist, lobbyist, advocate and employer.

In this process, mitigation has a higher priority than adaptation. In the first place, by helping to curb climate

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change, we want to maximise the chances of conserving a climate that is habitable for both people and wildlife. In the second place, many reports show that mitigation is significantly less expensive than adaptation. However, adaptation – adjusting to the effects of climate change – will also become vital. That is why our climate change policy also addresses the absorption of climate change effects, such as drought, flooding and the loss of biodiversity.

We use three strategies to achieve our mitigation and adaptation goals:

- A. **Selection:** we avoid financing and investing in activities that are major contributors to greenhouse gas emissions. Instead, we focus our investments on activities with low greenhouse gas emissions.
- B. **Engagement:** we engage with companies in the ASN Investment Universe with lagging climate change performance to encourage them to improve their performance. We also seek to encourage companies in the universe to utilise opportunities for adaptation.
- C. **Voting:** at shareholders' meetings, we vote in favour of companies' measures to improve their climate change performance, in favour of relating remuneration to climate change performance, and in favour of the implementation of adaptation measures.

More information

Our climate change policy is available at:
<http://www.asnbank.nl/index.asp?NID=10737>

For more information, please contact:
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