

UN
environment
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finance
initiative

Principles for
Responsible Banking

Responsible Banking Progress Statement

DZ BANK AG



Summary template

DZ BANK AG 2026

Principle 1: Alignment	Principle 2: Impact & Target Setting	Principle 3: Clients & Customers
DZ BANK's sustainability strategy is based on the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Paris Agreement on climate change and other national and international frameworks, such as the UN Principles for Responsible Banking and the Climate Bonds Initiative (CBI). Between 2022 and June 2026, the DZ BANK-wide 'Advancing Sustainability' program drove forward the strategic and operational integration of relevant ESG issues within the organization. Over the past twelve months, DZ BANK has placed particular emphasis on assessing both its impact on nature and its dependencies on ecosystem services within its lending portfolio. To conduct this analysis DZ BANK applied various methodologies such as the ENCORE methodology. The analysis identified freshwater as a key cross-cutting theme, reflecting significant dependencies on water availability and quality, coupled with impacts from water use and pollution. This topic also highlights a range of related financing opportunities. In addition, a nature credit risk score was developed and is currently being finalized before being integrated into the lending process.	In 2020, DZ BANK conducted an analysis of significant impacts in accordance with the PRB requirements. That year, DZ BANK developed its own assessment methodology to analyze and classify the positive and negative impacts of its business activities - such as lending - on the 17 SDGs (SDG classification). Since DZ BANK's first reporting in accordance with ESRS for the 2024 fiscal year, the methodology has also been applied in the annual double materiality assessment specifically to assess impacts. DZ BANK has set ESG targets which are an integral part of its corporate strategy and its internal performance assessment, for example that of the Board of Managing Directors. Its environmental targets include for example increasing the volume of financing for renewable energies to EUR 8.5 billion in fiscal year 2026, as well as decarbonization targets for ten climate-relevant focus sectors (fossil fuels, energy, automotive, steel, cement, aviation, shipping, commercial real estate, residential real estate and chemicals). The decarbonization targets apply at the level of the DZ BANK banking group, of which DZ BANK is a member and described in section 2.2.2 'Climate change in the business portfolio' of DZ BANK's Sustainability Report 2025.	DZ BANK uses a range of dialogue formats to share ideas and information on sustainability with its customers. These include, among others, an annual sustainability conference for cooperative banks, the Central Advisory Council of the DZ BANK Group and an annual Sustainability Day for institutional and corporate customers. Sustainability aspects are integrated into the dialogue with customers across various formats. For instance, an advisory guideline has been developed for customer relationship managers, using the results of the SDG classification. DZ BANK offers a range of sustainability-related financing products, including green bonds, social and sustainability bonds, ESG-linked promissory note loans and ESG-linked loans. In addition, in 2025 DZ BANK established a framework that defines uniform criteria for classifying a product as sustainable. This framework is based on established market standards, in particular the ICMA and LMA principles as well as the EU taxonomy. It has been externally reviewed and assessed by ISS Corporate. At DZ BANK, loan applications are systematically reviewed for relevant sustainability aspects as part of the credit

	In the social dimension, DZ BANK aims to maintain long-term employee satisfaction above 70 percent. Its governance targets include achieving a 25 percent representation of women on the Board of Managing Directors.	process. First, loan applications are reviewed against DZ BANK's exclusion criteria and sector principles. Second, the RepRisk ESG checklist is used to assess potential ESG-related reputational impacts, based on the ten principles of the UN Global Compact. Third, the ESG credit risk score complements the conventional credit assessment by evaluating the potential impact of ESG factors on the credit risk of corporate customers.
Links & references Sustainability Report 2025 in Accordance with ESRS (CSRD Report) - Strategy and business model - p. 204 ff. - Biodiversity and ecosystems - p. 262 ff. Sustainability Website Position Paper Nature	Links & references Sustainability Report 2025 in Accordance with ESRS (CSRD Report) - Materiality assessment - p. 209 ff. - Climate change in the business portfolio - p. 231 ff. - HR strategy - p. 273 ff. ESG Goals SDG Classification	Links & references Sustainability Report 2025 in Accordance with ESRS (CSRD Report) - Strategy and business model - p. 204 ff. - Customer focus - p. 301 ff. - Exclusion Criteria and Sector Principles - p. 243 (section 'Climate policies in the lending business...') Sustainability Website Framework for ESG Products of DZ BANK Our sustainability commitment to our customers Exclusion Criteria and Sector Principles

Principle 4: Stakeholders	Principle 5: Governance & Culture	Principle 6: Transparency & Accountability
DZ BANK uses various formats to engage with its stakeholders to identify their interests, expectations and suggestions. Stakeholders are defined as individuals, companies and organizations that influence DZ BANK's business activities – economically, environmentally or socially – or are affected by them. These include shareholders, retail and business customers, employees, institutional investors, service providers and suppliers, representatives from academia and politics, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), rating agencies, media representatives, and the public. As part of the double materiality assessment, DZ BANK involves internal representatives for each stakeholder group. These representatives contribute their expertise on the (sustainability) interests of their respective stakeholder group. This method is used to assess impacts and opportunities. The sustainability topics assessed as material are disclosed in the sustainability report. Cooperative banks form an important stakeholder group. DZ BANK provides actionable recommendations and guidelines on sustainability issues, particularly for smaller institutions. It also offers various forums for dialogue and work shadowing - opportunities to share experiences and gather feedback from stakeholder groups. In general, DZ BANK is actively involved in initiatives, associations and committees addressing	DZ BANK implements the Principles for Responsible Banking through a clear governance structure: Responsibility for sustainability lies with the Chief Executive Officer and Employee Relations Director. Climate-related and environmental risks are overseen by the responsible member of the Board of Managing Directors, whose remit includes risk control and risk management. Sustainability management lies within the Strategy and Group Development division. This division acts as a driving force and central coordination point for a range of tasks, such as further development of DZ BANK's sustainability strategy and governance for sustainability issues. The division represents sustainability interests through dialogue with relevant stakeholders and addresses them in both internal and external sustainability reporting. The implementation of sustainability issues in the financing business and in banking operations is the responsibility of the respective market units and corporate functions. Sustainability key performance indicators (KPIs) and regular reporting, including DZ BANK's internal ESG Management Report which is used as a Management Information System (MIS), ensure transparency for the Board of Managing Directors and the Supervisory Board regarding progress and the achievement of targets. DZ BANK fosters a culture of responsible banking by training employees, the Board of Managing Directors and the Supervisory Board, and by embedding the ten principles of the UN Global Compact into its Code of Conduct. Since 2023, a regularly updated basic training course on sustainability has been	Since 2008, DZ BANK has published an annual sustainability report. The non-financial statement (NFRD) of the DZ BANK Group, which was required by law for the first time for the 2017 fiscal year, has since been audited annually by an auditing company ('limited assurance'). Beginning with the 2024 fiscal year, sustainability reporting has been carried out in accordance with the European Sustainability Reporting Standards (ESRS) and is also subject to a limited assurance engagement.

sustainability-related topics, such as the Sustainable Finance Cluster. Further voluntary commitments and memberships can be found on DZ BANK's sustainability website under "Voluntary Commitments and Memberships". In 2026, reflecting its broader and growing focus on nature-related topics, DZ BANK joined the German TNFD (Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures) Consultation Group.	mandatory for all DZ BANK employees. ESG targets also form part of the variable remuneration of DZ BANK's Board of Managing Directors (see Principle 2). The Supervisory Board assesses the achievement of the quantitative and qualitative sustainability targets.	
Links & references Sustainability Report 2025 in Accordance with ESRs (CSRD Report) - Engaging with the DZ BANK Group's stakeholders - p. 210 f. Treffpunkt Nachhaltigkeit (German only) Voluntary Commitments and Memberships Position Paper Nature	Links & references Sustainability Report 2025 in Accordance with ESRs (CSRD Report) - ESG governance and ESG organization - p. 200 ff. - Governance - p. 310 ff.	Links & references Sustainability Report 2025 in Accordance with ESRs (CSRD Report) Annual Report 2025

