Climate Strategy

Danske Bank Group developed a climate strategy in 2007, which contains both short- and long-term climate targets.

The strategy is updated regularly and focuses on opportunities to confront the climate challenge in our financial business and operations as well as through dialogue with stakeholders. The strategy focuses on three areas where the Group can have a positive effect on climate: our own operations, our business and the dissemination of knowledge.

Carbon-neutral operations

As a financial services provider, our own carbon emissions are relatively low in comparison with many other industries. With more than 19,000 employees internationally, however, the Group's total emissions are still significant. The emissions come primarily from energy consumption in offices and transport.

The Group aims for carbon neutrality through three activities:

1) **Energy-efficient operations**
   We intend to reach carbon neutrality mainly by reducing the Group's own energy consumption. We will achieve this through an optimisation of energy consumption in buildings, the purchase of energy-efficient IT and office equipment, and improved energy efficiency from behavioural change and a reduction in business travel.

2) **Purchasing renewable electricity**
   For our Group operations, we purchase renewable electricity certified by Guarantees of Origin and International Renewable Energy Certificates. This allows us to eliminate the emissions caused by our electricity consumption. In 2015, Danske Bank became 100% powered by renewable electricity and is now a member of the initiative, RE100.

3) **Offsetting emissions**
   Since it is not possible to operate a business without emitting a certain amount of emissions, for example from heating and transport, it is not possible to eliminate the Group's CO2 emissions entirely. The emissions we cannot eliminate by optimising our operations will be offset by the purchase of carbon credits[1] for projects that guarantee a real reduction of CO2 emissions.

Towards a low-carbon economy

We believe that the financial services sector plays a vital role in providing the financial infrastructure to support a low-carbon economy. The Group therefore gives priority to developing new products and services that support innovation and the reduction of emissions.

Knowledge is the key to change

A transition to a low-carbon future demands first of all a change in our thinking and behaviour in our daily lives. As a large enterprise, Danske Bank Group has the opportunity to engage many stakeholders and share knowledge about how to meet the challenge of climate change.

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[1] Our carbon credit projects are managed by the German-based carbon asset management company, First Climate. The projects are verified according to the Gold Standard, a global benchmark for carbon, or similar international standards. Danske Bank Group has invested in CO2 credits from 1) a drip irrigation project in India, 2) a project that focuses on producing energy from rice husks in India, 3) a biogas project in India, 4) a wind power project in Lithuania, 5) a wind power project in Turkey and 6) a cook stoves project in Uganda.