

Statement on Climate Change

Changes to the climate system are occurring and the link to human influence is clear, as reported by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The IPCC indicates that greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are at their highest levels in history and are “extremely likely” to be the dominant cause of changes to the climate. If left unchecked, the impacts to our economy, environment and society may be significant, representing a global risk to the markets and communities where we do business. To address this, a major shift in technologies will be required to drive substantial and sustained reductions in GHG emissions while adapting to a changing climate system.

Credit Suisse recognizes its share of responsibilities in combating climate change by supporting the transition to a low carbon and climate resilient economy. As a financial institution, we are committed to playing our part in addressing this global challenge through our role as a financial intermediary between the economy, the environment and society.

- We recognize the role we can play in mobilizing the finance needed to promote the transition of the global economy towards low carbon activities.
- As a trusted financial partner to our clients, we are committed to helping them navigate risks and seize opportunities arising from climate change and chart a long-term course to a sustainable future.
- We also manage and minimize our own operational carbon footprint in line with leading industry practice and, where relevant, we share these practices and this knowledge with our colleagues, partners and clients.

Our commitments as a financial institution to addressing the challenge of climate change will be made more effective by the presence of a stable and strong regulatory framework. To this end, we support the efforts being made by governments to provide predictability and clarity in their responses to climate change, thereby enabling a stable business environment in which we can operate most effectively.

I. Our Principles

Our long term success is dependent on managing risks and opportunities, including those presented by climate change, in a disciplined and intelligent way. It is also dependent on ensuring that we have a responsible approach towards the way we run our business. This belief is anchored in our [Code of Conduct](#) as our [Statement on Sustainability](#).

We also embrace selected voluntary initiatives to help define our principles, guide our activities and benchmark our performance. These include our commitments under the UN Environment Programme Finance Initiative ([UNEP FI](#)), the [UN Global Compact](#), the [Equator Principles](#), and other relevant initiatives and standards. Additionally, we are members of a number of climate-related initiatives that help to underline our status as a climate responsible and resilient business (see “Our Approach” section).

The global approach to climate change mitigation and adaptation is still evolving, as is the role that financial institutions can play. Our approach will evolve in conjunction with the global response. Credit Suisse will be guided by its principles in discharging these responsibilities and in fostering an environment for finance to flow where it can be most effective in mitigating and adapting to climate change.

II. Our Approach

To underline Credit Suisse’s commitment, our CEO and the Executive Board are the most senior decision-making authorities on sustainability matters – including climate change. They are supported in this role by our Reputational Risk Sustainability Committee (RRSC), which also determines Credit Suisse’s strategy regarding environmental and social issues. Furthermore, the Risk Committee of the Board of Directors periodically reviews relevant aspects of Credit Suisse’s approach to corporate responsibility.

Our approach distinguishes three levels at which our activities may impact, or be impacted by, climate change:

- A) Managing the risks that arise from climate change as well as the impacts to the climate that arise from our role as a financial services provider
- B) Facilitating the transition to a low carbon and climate resilient world
- C) Reducing the carbon footprint of our own operations

We maintain dialogue and engagement with key external stakeholders to gain insights that ensure our approach remains relevant and effective, and also to share good practice within the financial services sector.

A) Managing Risks

Our clients operate in a range of sectors, some of which have a greater potential for adverse climate (and associated socio-economic) impacts, and some of which will face greater constraints as a result of intergovernmental, regional and national climate-related regulation.

Credit Suisse has identified sensitive sectors which pose greater environmental and social risks (including impacts to the climate) and has developed [policies and guidelines](#) to govern the responsible provision of financial services to clients within these sectors. These policies and guidelines also take into account standards developed by international organizations such as the UN and the World Bank and cover forestry and agribusiness, mining, oil and gas, hydropower and nuclear power. We will regularly review our sector policies and guidelines to ensure that the provision of our financial services remains responsible in the face of climate change.

In addition, Credit Suisse applies the [Equator Principles](#) to relevant transactions, which ensures that any associated environmental and social risks are managed in line with the International Finance Corporation's Environmental and Social Performance Standards. The Equator Principles require an alternatives analysis for all projects expected to emit over 100,000 tons of CO₂ equivalents annually. Further, such projects are required to publicly report their annual greenhouse gas emissions.

Our [risk management framework](#) incorporates an assessment of whether a transaction or client relationship under review is in line with our sector policies and relevant industry standards and good practice.

B) Facilitating Opportunities

The transition to a low carbon and climate resilient economy will require significant capital markets solutions and new levels of cooperation between the public and private sectors. The International Energy Agency (IEA) estimated (in 2014) that an additional USD 48 trillion of investment is needed to transition to a global low carbon energy system or about USD 2 trillion per annum until 2035. Credit Suisse is committed to playing a part in facilitating such financing solutions, and it is well placed to do so given our capabilities in the market.

In the area of renewable energy, Credit Suisse is involved with a significant number of debt, tax equity and equity financing transactions across our expertise areas including solar, wind, geothermal, biomass, biofuels, fuel cells and energy efficiency.

Credit Suisse is a partner in the [Climate Bonds Initiative](#), which seeks to develop a large and liquid green and climate bonds market, essential for driving down the cost of capital for climate-related projects in both developed and emerging markets. We are also an active supporter of the [Green Bond Principles](#).

Energy efficiency in buildings is also an important component in the global response to tackling climate change – the IEA estimates that buildings account for one third of final energy consumption. We are a member of the [Global Real Estate Sustainability Benchmark](#), an industry-driven organization committed to assessing the sustainability performance of real estate portfolios, and we also offer funds that invest specifically in sustainable real estate.

Ecosystem services are closely linked with climate change: changes in the climate have an impact on ecosystem services, and changes in ecosystems impact on the climate. Recognizing the need for capital in conserving ecosystems, Credit Suisse is developing thought leadership and investment products in [conservation finance](#).

As the climate finance landscape evolves, Credit Suisse remains committed to developing products and providing services that facilitate climate change mitigation and the transition to a low carbon and climate resilient economy.

C) Reducing Our Footprint

We recognize the importance of, and are committed to, minimizing our own climate change impacts, and strive to be among the sector leaders in this field.

The energy use of our buildings and the business travel of our employees are the most important levers for reducing emissions. To this end, we became greenhouse gas (GHG) neutral for our operations globally in 2010 through the “Credit Suisse Cares for Climate” initiative. Our four pillar [GHG neutrality strategy](#) includes optimizing operations, capital expenditure, substitution and compensation.

- By continuously monitoring our energy and materials consumption we identify areas for energy efficiency gains and reduction of energy consumption. We implement measures to optimize our operations such as reduction of operating hours, installation of low-energy devices and motivating our employees to energy efficient usage of their working environment.
- When constructing new premises or renovating existing buildings, we reduce our GHG emissions by investing in energy-saving technologies for our IT infrastructure, heating, air-conditioning and ventilation systems. Where feasible, we strive to achieve high energy efficiency standards and labels.
- We substitute our use of fossil fuel generated energy with certified renewable energy where feasible. We are also continuing to assess and deploy, where feasible, offsetting renewable energy sources such as solar panels on our premises.
- Finally, we compensate for our remaining operational GHG footprint (CO₂ and other greenhouse gases) through the annual purchase and retirement of quality emission reduction certificates.

We also make our employees aware of how they can reduce their GHG emissions both at work and at home, and we cooperate with our peers in the financial services sector in order to promote climate-friendly solutions and standards.

III. Communication, Reporting and Review

This Statement will be regularly reviewed to ensure that it remains accurate and relevant.

We will report on our progress in the implementation of this Statement in our annual reporting processes, and we will measure and compare our performance through appropriate benchmark initiatives using best practice standards.

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