

Rabobank & Climate Change

Our approach: Where are we now, and where we are headed

The biggest problems that threaten our planet are related to climate change, as the World Economic Forum in Davos noted at the beginning of this year. In order to achieve the climate aims of the United Nations' SDGs, and the Paris Agreement goal of staying below 2 degrees of warming, our emissions must be reduced substantially. In the Netherlands and Europe, this equates to roughly halving our greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 (compared to 1990). This requires a huge effort from all of us – Rabobank included. We will therefore continue to make our own business operations greener. However, our greatest contribution lies in financing our clients. In this climate publication, we focus on six strategic themes. Below are the most important highlights. For more details, see our [climate publication](#).

1.

Sustainable living: We make it financially simple and attractive to make your own home more sustainable

In 2024, the houses in our portfolio will have an average energy label of B. By 2030, the average will be A. Currently, the average energy label is C.

Rabobank is an important player in the mortgage market. Therefore, we can help a significant number of homeowners to make their homes carbon neutral. We are doing this through various green solutions and financing such as the HuisScan, a tool through which customers can receive concrete offers to make their homes more energy efficient. We also offer the GroenHypotheek (a green mortgage with a lower interest rate) and the GroenDepot facility through which customers can borrow extra for a heat pump or solar panels, for example. We also bring together parties that develop sustainable housing solutions. Our takeover of The Sustainables is an important step in this.

2.

A sustainable food and agri sector: We stimulate production with low emissions and less impact on natural resources

In the Dutch Climate Agreement, the agriculture and horticulture sector has committed itself to an emissions reduction of 6 megatonnes between 1990 and 2030. Rabobank supports its clients in achieving this ambition.

3.

We help our Dutch SME customers to achieve their sustainable goals. And we already have €10 billion in loans outstanding with sustainable frontrunners

We want 100,000 Dutch SME customers to use our sustainable products by 2024.

We are convinced that a circular economy is essential for our prosperity and well-being. We also see that SMEs that do business sustainably tend to be more innovative and more resilient. We support this by sharing knowledge, with networks and through financing, such as innovation, green and social impact loans. For example, with Rabo Groenbank: The largest green bank in the Netherlands, with a current volume of almost €2 billion in green loans. Together with partners, we help SMEs to draw up circular action plans. They can contact our [Circular Business Desk](#) for advice on a daily basis.

4.

Sustainable funds for the assets under management of private clients are the norm for us

By 2024, 100% of our Beheerd Beleggen (managed investment) products will be sustainable.

All our investment products will consist of sustainable funds. Our funds will be less carbon intensive than other funds worldwide. Our Rabo Beheerd Beleggen Basic funds have already reached this stage, and the other two – Active and Exclusive funds – will follow in the coming years.

5.

Solutions with leasing will support the climate transition

By 2023, at least 10% of our new lease business will be sustainable.

Leasing can make an important contribution to the climate transition, because not every company has the space to invest in new, lower carbon technologies, or because leasing is financially more attractive. Our subsidiary DLL contributes to this with [products](#) that close the entire lifecycle of products as well as with so-called [clean tech products](#) that enable innovative, sustainable developments.

6.

We are accelerating the energy transition with investments in hydrogen and geothermal energy and with more renewable energy

We are mainly active in renewable energy and our financing is therefore far ahead of the sustainable scenarios of the International Energy Agency (IEA). We will continue to ensure our portfolio remains strong.

The energy sector plays a key role in the transition to a climate neutral society. We are therefore ambitious when it comes to our portfolio in the energy sector. This is evident from our investments in innovative technologies such as hydrogen and geothermal energy and our financing the use of renewable energy. Since renewable electricity is an important part of our portfolio, we are already outperforming the market. When it comes to reducing emissions, the most can be achieved in upstream activities (generating energy). We also encourage our customers to participate in local energy projects (solar panels, biomass, geothermal energy and wind turbines). As a major financier in the agricultural sector, we are involved in 90% of all geothermal heat projects in the Netherlands, mostly in horticulture in the Westland.

We are happy to answer your questions, feel free to ask them via:
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For more details, see our [climate publication](#).

