



NORD/LB
Green Funding Framework
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1 NORD/LB ESG strategy

1.1. Introduction

Climate change is one of the most important challenges of our time. The major consequences of global change such as population growth, energy security, loss of biodiversity and insufficient access to drinking water and food are closely linked to climate change. Therefore, the transition to a lower-carbon economy is crucial.

With the signing of the Paris Agreement, the international community has agreed to limit the global temperature rise this century to well below two degrees Celsius compared with the pre-industrial level. With the adoption of the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the global community has given itself a global framework with a common direction and measures to solve global challenges.

The financial sector plays a key role in the transition to a lower-carbon economy. Banks have a social, environmental and economic responsibility regarding the awareness of these issues and address them as part of their business activities. Banks' businesses, products and services have an impact on the environment and society.

1.2. The NORD/LB strategy

1.2.1. Strategy and mission statement

Norddeutsche Landesbank - Girozentrale - (hereinafter referred to as "NORD/LB") accepts these framework conditions and the expectations placed on it in its role as a commercial bank. NORD/LB wants to do its part to ensure that the German government's climate targets can be achieved. Germany has implemented the Paris Climate Agreement through the Climate Protection Act, with the aim of achieving greenhouse gas neutrality by 2045 and reducing emissions by 65% by 2030 compared to 1990 levels⁽¹⁾ ("Federal Climate Protection Act"⁽²⁾). As a bank and institution under public law (so called Anstalt öffentlichen Rechts), NORD/LB bears a special responsibility for economic development and social cohesion. Therefore, NORD/LB is determined to support its customers in preparing for an increasingly low-carbon world.

⁽¹⁾ Climate Protection Act: climate neutrality by 2045 (bundesregierung.de)

⁽²⁾ [Federal Climate Change Act](#)

The NORD/LB Group's strategy compendium consists of the business strategy, the risk strategy and the supplementary functional strategies relating to Environmental, Social & Governance ("ESG"), Information Technology (IT), Human Resources and Trading as well as Non-Performing Loans (NPL). The consistency of these strategies is ensured in accordance with a strategy matrix. The Bank's mission statement is based on the slogan "NORD/LB. Bank of the energy transition." The stronger focus on sustainability in the business strategy and the associated focus on climate and environmental issues will lead to an even more intensive consideration of climate and environmental factors in the future and combines values such as sustainability, partnership and the common good with the aim of shaping the future together with our customers, our employees and society.

NORD/LB has been committed to the principles of the UN Global Compact for more than ten years and implements them in internal guidelines and policies. NORD/LB applies the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the core labour standards of the International Labour Organization (ILO) as overarching principles for all national and international business activities within its sphere of influence. NORD/LB therefore excludes cooperation with companies and institutions that are known to disregard fundamental human rights as well as activities and transactions with a significant negative impact on people and the environment. In addition, NORD/LB signed the United Nations Principles for Responsible Banking in April 2020 with the aim of integrating sustainability into its business model and making the impact of its business activities on the environment and society measurable on the basis of the SDGs. In May 2022, NORD/LB signed the German financial sector's climate commitment, thereby pledging to align its credit and investment portfolios with the goals of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

1.2.2. Guidelines

NORD/LB has published a Code of Conduct⁽³⁾ for the NORD/LB Group in order to combine the bank's claim to legal compliance with ethically correct behaviour and thus to link entrepreneurial success with social responsibility. It forms the framework for integrity, value-conscious and fair behaviour and is binding for all members of the Managing Board, managers and employees. It contains clear obligations to avoid conflicts of interest, to combat corruption and to prevent money laundering, terrorist financing, fraud or other criminal offences.

⁽³⁾ [NORD/LB Code of conduct](#)

In addition, the ESG strategy⁽⁴⁾, which guides and regulates corporate behaviour with regard to economic, ecological and social aspects, also applies. The transformation guidelines are published by NORD/LB in a separate document on its homepage.

With its policies and guidelines, NORD/LB has incorporated the principles of the UN Global Compact into the principles of its own corporate governance. These also regulate the exclusion of business activities that do not comply with the ESG guidelines or the understanding of ethics and sustainability.

1.2.3. Organisation and governance

ESG Management coordinates and pools all ESG related issues within the bank. It develops strategic objectives and measures and proposes these to the Managing Board for implementation. ESG Management reports directly to the CFO. In addition to the ESG Management as the central coordination unit, the Sustainability Board has been put in place since 2019. Initially this was set up as an exchange platform and since 2024 it has become a decision-making body upstream of the Managing Board. In addition to the ESG Competence Centres and their divisional management (ESG Management, ESG Risk Centre, ESG Credit Risk Management and ESG Disclosure), the members of this body are cross-divisional managers and experts from the respective specialist areas of the bank (e.g. Structured Finance, Deutsche Hypothekenbank, Capital Markets and Treasury as well as Group organisation and Human Resources). The Sustainability Board's task include the (pre-)adoption of the ESG strategy and in particular to deal with and allocate new regulatory and competitive innovations. The Sustainability Board meets on a quarterly basis. In order to promote the cross-divisional exchange of information and networking across NORD/LB on ESG related issues, the Sustainability Forum was established as a platform that also takes place regularly. All divisions and their representatives are invited to attend.

1.2.4. External reporting

NORD/LB publishes an annual sustainability statement as part of the management report⁽⁵⁾ for the NORD/LB Group in accordance with the current requirements of the European Sustainability Reporting Standards with information a.o. on the environment, social issues, employees, respect for human rights and the avoidance of corruption and bribery. The bank considers to some extent the standard and the requirements of the Task Force for Climate-Related Financial Disclosures (TCFD), an international reporting standard for dealing with climate risks in companies and banks.

An overview of the reports can be found on the NORD/LB website⁽⁶⁾ in the download area of the sustainability page at <https://www.nordlb.com/nordlb/sustainability>.

⁴ NORD/LB ESG Strategy

⁵ NORDLB Group Sustainability Report

⁶ NORD/LB reports: NORD/LB ([nordlb.com](https://www.nordlb.com))

2 NORD/LB Green Funding Framework

NORD/LB has developed its Green Funding Framework (hereinafter "**Framework**", former Green Bond Framework) with the aim of raising funds for the refinancing of suitable green financing that supports the company's strategy and commitment to sustainability. In addition, suitable green assets contribute to the EU's environmental objectives, in particular to mitigating and addressing climate change. By issuing green funding instruments, NORD/LB aims to harmonise the financing of sustainable projects with sustainable refinancing and thus meet the increasing demand from investors for environmentally sustainable investments.

NORD/LB launched its first framework for green funding instruments in 2017 (then under Deutsche Hypothekenbank). In June 2021, the first framework was published under NORD/LB. As part of the continuous effort to adapt the framework to the currently prevailing market standards and to include newly established categories NORD/LB has updated its framework in June 2022. For all outstanding green committed liabilities on the basis of the previously aforementioned frameworks and therefore are based solely on green buildings as eligible assets, NORD/LB will aim to hold a sufficient volume of green buildings (with the eligibility criteria at least based on the framework in force at the time of the respective issue) in the investment pool until the maturity of these Green funding instruments ⁽⁷⁾. In addition, NORD/LB has further adapted its framework to current market standards with this framework.

This framework provides a set of criteria for the green funding instruments issued by NORD/LB and is based on the Green Bond Principles ("**GBP**") 2021⁽⁸⁾ published by the International Capital Market Association ("**ICMA**"). Additionally, the Framework is also aligned, where possible, with the Taxonomy Regulation (see Annex B) as adopted by the European Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2021/2139 of 4 June 2021 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2020/852 of the European Parliament and of the Council by establishing the technical screening criteria for determining the conditions under which an economic activity qualifies as contributing substantially to climate change mitigation or climate change adaptation and for determining whether that economic activity causes no significant harm to any of the other environmental objectives ("**Taxonomy Regulation**").

Under this framework, NORD/LB may issue Green Senior and Subordinated Bonds (Green Bearer or Registered Bonds), Green Covered Bonds, Green Promissory Notes, Green Deposits and Green Commercial Paper (Green Unsecured Short-Term Notes) (together the "**Green Funding Instruments**"). All Green Covered Bonds are so called *Pfandbriefe* (Covered Bonds) within the meaning of section 1 (1) sentence 1 of the German Pfandbrief Act and, as "**Green Covered Bonds**", also fulfil the minimum standard for the "Green Covered Bonds" of the Association of German Pfandbrief Banks ("**vdp**") for Covered

⁽⁷⁾ [NORD/LB Green Bond Reporting](#)

⁽⁸⁾ [Green Bond Principles](#)

Bonds. In addition, NORD/LB's Green Covered Bonds are classified as Secured Green Standard Bonds in accordance with Appendix I of the ICMA Green Bond Principles of June 2022 and all other green funding instruments are classified as Standard Green Use of Proceeds Bonds.


In the case of any outstanding green funding instruments, the green financing in the green asset pool fulfils the requirements/suitability criteria of the framework applicable at the time of issue or conclusion of the liability transaction (e.g. overnight money, term money, promissory note loans, registered securities, bearer bonds) and, in the case of Covered Bonds, also the vdp's minimum standard for Green Covered Bonds applicable at the above-mentioned time of issue or conclusion of the transaction. The green asset pool consists of loans to and investments in companies, assets or projects that support the transition to a clean, energy-efficient and environmentally sustainable global economy and meet the requirements of this Framework ("**Eligible Green Assets**").

This framework relates to the 2021 version of the ICMA GBP by following the key recommendations for increased transparency and includes a chapter on external verification. This also means that the following core components are part of this framework:

- // Use of Proceeds
- // Process of Evaluation and Selection
- // Management of Proceeds
- // Reporting



2.1. Use of Proceeds

An amount equal to the proceeds of the green funding instruments will be used to partially or fully refinance new and/or existing green assets, loans and investments in the categories of green buildings, renewable energy and energy efficiency. Eligible green assets must fulfil the "**Eligibility Criteria**" listed in the table below. Eligible green assets will also be measured against the relevant United Nation's SDGs and the technical screening criteria set out in the Taxonomy Regulation.

| Category GBP & UN SDGs | Eligibility criteria | Taxonomy Regulation |
|---|--|--|
| <p>Green Buildings</p>  | <p>New and existing residential and commercial buildings, including investments in buildings under construction and building acquisitions that fulfil one of the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Energy-efficient buildings (residential and commercial properties) in Germany and other EU countries <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) New buildings ⁽⁹⁾ and existing buildings fulfil the requirements of the Taxonomy Regulation. b) New buildings whose primary energy demand in kWh/m² per year, as stated in the energy performance certificate, is at least 10 % below the threshold set for the national requirements for nearly zero-energy buildings (NZEB). c) The existing building has at least a class A energy certificate or is among the top 15 % ⁽¹⁰⁾ of the national/regional building stock in terms of energy consumption/demand. d) Residential properties that are co-financed via KfW subsidy programmes for energy-efficient construction or renovation. 2) Existing building with sustainability certificate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> // BREEAM: Very good or better // LEED: Gold or better // HQE: Very good or better // DGNB: Gold or better 3) Renovations/refurbishments <p>The renovation/refurbishment of a building leads to an improvement in energy consumption/demand of at least 30 % compared to the previous energy consumption/demand.</p> 4) Buildings outside the EU <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) The nationally applicable energy efficiency standards are met for new buildings. b) The existing building has at least a class A energy performance certificate or is in the top 15 % ⁽¹⁰⁾ of the national/regional building stock in terms of energy consumption/demand. | <p>7.1 New construction</p> <p>7.2 Renovation of existing buildings</p> <p>7.7 Acquisition and ownership of buildings</p> |

⁽⁹⁾ New buildings are buildings for which the building application was submitted as of 1 January 2021, all remaining buildings are existing buildings.

⁽¹⁰⁾ The composition of this top 15 % is dynamic, as properties become increasingly energy-efficient over time. The vdp commissioned Drees & Sommer to calculate these top 15 % for Germany, which are available to NORD/LB via the vdp. For foreign markets, threshold values calculated by Drees & Sommer or by an expert third party are also used for the respective countries, which NORD/LB obtains either via vdpResearch GmbH or directly from Drees & Sommer.

| Category GBP & UN SDGs | Eligibility criteria | Taxonomy Regulation |
|--|---|--|
| <p>Renewable energy</p>   | <p>Investments and expenditures related to the generation of renewable energy and related technologies to support the energy transition, including the generation of renewable energy:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Solar photovoltaic projects. Onshore and offshore wind projects. Energy storage solutions such as batteries that optimise the use of the renewable energy generated. | <p>4.1 Electricity generation from photovoltaics 4.3 Electricity generation from wind power 4.10 Storage of electricity</p> |

As part of its business activities, the NORD/LB Group defines minimum requirements, exclusion criteria and sector principles in its transformation guidelines (the "Transformation Guidelines").

The following is an extract from these transformation guidelines (not an exhaustive list). The full document is published on the [NORD/LB website](#).

- 1) **Minimum standards:** *In addition to the legal requirements of the respective countries, NORD/LB has also defined generally applicable minimum standards for all business activities, which include, among others:*
 - Compliance with internationally recognised human rights standards
 - Compliance with the principles of the UN Global Compact
- 2) **Fundamental exclusion of business relationships:**
 - No business relationships with companies that produce or trade in pornography or with companies that have any connection with prostitution
 - No business relationships with companies involved in the manufacture, trade, transport, storage or repair of controversial weapons (as described in more detail in the transformation guidelines)

The transformation guidelines are regularly reviewed and amended as necessary. Updates are published on our website.

As part of its ESG strategy and the internal Sustainable Loan Framework (SLF), NORD/LB will review other asset classes regarding their suitability for this framework. This statement is based on NORD/LB's business model and is intended to emphasise that the bank sees itself as a partner to its customers towards greater sustainability. As the market for green finance is constantly evolving, NORD/LB's framework can and must be regularly revised or updated to remain consistent with new suitable asset classes - as mentioned above - changing expectations, best market practices and the regulatory environment for future financing. In the event that the framework is updated, NORD/LB commits to have it reviewed again by an external expert or third party.

2.2. Process for Project Evaluation and Selection

When evaluating and selecting projects for eligible green assets, the credit process first ensures that the asset does not fulfil any of the transformation guidelines. If this is confirmed positively, the use of proceeds is then checked. If the use of proceeds is environmentally and/or sustainable, the asset is categorised accordingly. Annex A on sustainable financing at NORD/LB applies additionally to the eligible green assets named in the framework. In the further process, a comparison is made with the eligibility criteria listed in section 2.1. If the asset fulfils the criteria defined there, the project can be allocated to the green asset pool as an eligible green asset.

In addition, eligible green assets must comply with the respective local laws and regulations, including all applicable environmental and social regulations. Our customers are therefore obliged to comply with given laws such as existing building laws (and operating licences where applicable). In addition, NORD/LB's standard credit requirements, ESG strategy and risk policy apply, as for any other NORD/LB lending business. The resulting requirements for acquisition, credit processing, valuation management (regarding real estate) and Treasury are binding for all employees in terms of processes.

Compliance with environmental and social regulations and the application of internal guidelines ensure high sustainability standards and aim to fulfil the environmental objectives, the "Do No Significant Harm" criteria (DNSH) and the minimum safeguard standards of the Taxonomy Regulation to the best of our ability. In addition, economic activities must fulfil a minimum level of social measures for social protection.

The Green Asset Committee (GAC) is responsible for defining the minimum criteria for green assets. The GAC reports to NORD/LB's ESG management and is made up of representatives from the following areas:

- // ESG-Management (Chair)
- // Treasury
- // Evaluation management
- // Markets
- // Structured Finance
- // Deutsche Hypo (commercial real estate)
- // Credit risk management

The business divisions summarise potential lending transactions based on the eligibility criteria and make these available to Treasury on request. At least once a year, Treasury requests an updated list of existing and potentially suitable green assets that comply with the eligibility criteria of this framework in accordance with section 2.1 and the additional assessment and selection criteria in this section.

The GAC defines the current eligibility criteria for the selection of eligible green financing and decides on the inclusion of new asset classes. In regular meetings, which take place at least once a year, the GAC reviews the standards prescribed in the target markets and thus ensures that the selection process for projects (financing) complies with current market practices and regulatory requirements. The GAC continuously decides on the composition of the green asset pool of eligible assets based on the eligibility criteria.

2.2.1. ESG aspects in the credit risk process

As part of a holistic approach, the Bank has included ESG factors and associated risks in its risk strategy, in which it defines its strategies for dealing with credit risks and other types of risk that are material for NORD/LB. ESG scores are used for the aggregated categorisation of ESG risk in lending decisions. Such **ESG scores** take ESG-specific risk factors into account and are systematically summarised to form a combined ESG score. ESG risks relevant to creditworthiness are taken into account indirectly via credit risk parameters such as probability of default, ratings, loss given default or property and collateral values in risk provisioning.

The NORD/LB Group has already developed a concept for financed CO₂ emissions in the lending business in some sectors and plans to develop further methods.

An asset is considered an eligible green asset within the meaning of this framework if it fulfils the eligibility criteria defined above in section 2.1. The following also applies:

- // The part of the loan that was refinanced by third parties (e.g. KfW) is not eligible.
- // Multiple use of eligible green assets for the issue of green funding instruments is not permitted.

2.3. Management of proceeds

NORD/LB allocates the net proceeds from the issued green funding instruments on an aggregated basis for several green funding instruments (**portfolio basis**). The allocation of the net proceeds from the issued green funding instruments to the eligible green assets is reviewed and decided by the GAC until the full allocation of the net proceeds from the issued green funding instruments or, in case of a material change, at least once a year thereafter. NORD/LB intends to fully allocate the proceeds within 24 months of issuance.

If NORD/LB adjusts the eligibility criteria, these will not be applied retroactively to the existing Green Asset Portfolio. This means that existing eligible green assets that do not fulfil the new eligibility criteria will not lose their status as eligible assets for already issued green funding instruments (as long as they continue to fulfil the eligibility criteria from the framework valid at the time of issue) if they no longer fulfil the new eligibility criteria. However, these assets will not be allocated to the new green funding instruments issued in the future.

If assets in the portfolio prove to be unsuitable for reasons other than a change in the suitability criteria or do not fulfil other criteria defined in this framework, they will be removed from the portfolio of suitable green assets. NORD/LB intends to replace these assets over time with new suitable green assets - if available - that fulfil the suitability criteria defined in section 2.1.

NORD/LB aims to ensure that the nominal volume of the portfolio of suitable green assets is at least equal to the nominal volume of the green funding instruments placed or to be placed. In the event that net proceeds from green funding instruments cannot be fully allocated to refinance eligible green assets in accordance with this framework, these unallocated net proceeds will be temporarily utilised in accordance with NORD/LB's regular liquidity

management criteria, with the clear aim of reallocating them to the portfolio of eligible green assets as quickly as possible.

2.4. Reporting

The reporting consists of an allocation report and an impact report. These reports essentially comprise the following points:

2.4.1. Allocation reporting

NORD/LB intends to report to investors annually on the allocation of net proceeds from issued green funding instruments to its portfolio of eligible green assets until full allocation or in the event of material changes. In doing so, NORD/LB follows the ICMA guidelines and templates for impact reporting. The report contains the following information, among others:

- // An overview of the green financing instruments issued under the framework and their total amount outstanding (in EUR)
- // Maturity profile of eligible green assets compared to green financing instruments (in years)
- // The allocation of the net proceeds of all green funding instruments issued to a portfolio of eligible green assets, including information on
 - The performance of the portfolio of eligible green funding
 - The allocation of the portfolio by type of eligible green assets for each category (e.g. real estate, wind, solar)
 - The geographical distribution
 - Breakdown by new financing versus follow-on financing
 - The amount of unallocated proceeds, if any
- // Proportion of eligible green assets that are EU taxonomy eligible

2.4.2. Impact Reporting

NORD/LB intends to prepare and publish an annual report on the environmental impact of the portfolio of eligible green assets to which the proceeds from the issued green funding instruments have been allocated. Examples of items that could be included in the impact reporting (subject to the availability of relevant data) are:

Green buildings

- // An overview of the eligible green assets and a breakdown by eligibility criteria (e.g. Energy Performance Certificate or Building Certificate), including classification level where applicable (e.g. "Class A Energy Performance Certificate", "Excellent", NZEB-10 %)
- // Estimated avoided CO₂ emissions of the suitable green assets compared to government regulations and/or reference buildings
- // For commercial property:
 - Distance to public transport
 - Breakdown by type of soil sealing

Renewable energy

- // Capacity of renewable energy installed on site in MW
- // (Estimated) on-site renewable energy production in MW per year
- // Estimated avoidance of CO₂ emissions

Energy storage solutions

- // Electricity storage capacity in MWh

The calculation method underlying the individual performance indicators is determined by the national regulations and standards and/or by the sustainability labels used for the certification of a project in order to enable comparability and benchmarking with other projects.

In the case of national regulations and standards, the calculation method is checked by the authorities before the building permit is issued. In the case of sustainability quality seals, the calculation method is validated by an independent external expert.

NORD/LB undertakes to disclose the methodology, assumptions and results for the above parameters in the annual impact reporting.

The allocation and impact reporting is made publicly available to investors via the [NORD/LB website](#).

2.5. External Review

NORD/LB intends to engage one or more external auditors or other third party, to review the framework and the subsequent allocation of the issue proceeds.

The review of the framework by second party opinion will confirm that the green funding instrument(s) comply with one or more of the usual standards in the green bond market (such as the Green Bond Principles and/or the regulation (EU) 2023/2631 of the European parliament and of the council of 22 November 2023 on European Green Bonds and optional disclosures for bonds marketed as environmentally sustainable and for sustainability-linked bonds, depending on the applicability or choice of the issuer). The allocation report is reviewed after the issue proceeds have been fully allocated (post-issuance report). This involves checking whether all issue proceeds have been used exclusively for suitable assets. The results of the external audits are published on the NORD/LB website⁽¹¹⁾.

⁽¹¹⁾ [NORD/LB Green Bonds](#)

Appendix A: Sustainable financing at NORD/LB

Sustainable financing at NORD/LB

NORD/LB defines sustainable financing in its internal Sustainable Loan Framework, where it describes, among other things, the methodology and associated procedures for classifying financial products and services as "Sustainable Loan" or "Green Loan".

Sustainable real estate financing business

In the commercial real estate financing business segment, NORD/LB supports the spatial development of many cities as a financing partner. Quality, professionalism and sustainability of the financing project play a major role in the selection of projects. The bank has set itself the goal of helping to shape the real estate industry in an ecologically suitable manner. The financing of energy-efficient buildings is the essential core aspect.

By granting green loans in the commercial real estate financing business segment, the necessary sustainability aspects in NORD/LB's business activities are also promoted on the assets side and thus also ensured. The focus is on the following objectives:

- // Improving the portfolio quality
- // Implementation of the ESG strategy
- // Completion of the green value chain

Suitable properties are identified on the basis of data in the bank's IT systems, from which the degree of sustainability of a financing can be determined. This opens up the possibility of promoting particularly sustainable financing, possibly also by reducing the customer margin requirement (= incentivisation). The data is based on the selection criteria from chapter 2.2, supplemented by additional criteria:

- // Energy consumption
- // Year of manufacture
- // Certification
- // Distance to local public transport
- // Soil sealing ("brownfield" vs. "greenfield")

If the use of renewable energies reduces the primary energy demand or energy consumption (heat) and is below the final energy value, the primary energy demand or energy consumption is used for the assessment.

In principle, NORD/LB's real estate customers are requested to resubmit the energy performance certificate or building sustainability certificate before it expires. NORD/LB grants green buildings characterised by expired energy performance certificates or building sustainability certificates a period of one or three years until they are removed from the pool of suitable assets. NORD/LB thus offers property customers sufficient flexibility when reissuing energy performance certificates and building sustainability certificates.

A further prerequisite for the use of green buildings is that the financed properties are not let to main tenants from controversial business sectors. A tenant is considered a main tenant if he pays at least 10 % of the property's total rental income. If the bank becomes aware of the controversial nature of a main tenant's business sector, the property will be removed from the Green Buildings portfolio.

Sustainable financing of renewable energy projects

The transformation guidelines set standards for the financing of projects that may harbour significant ESG risks due to their structure and scope. The exact additional regulations for project financing can be found in the transformation guidelines.

In addition, exclusion criteria are defined to ensure that financed projects do not cause significant damage to other environmental goals. NORD/LB uses established evaluation methods to ensure a holistic assessment of the projects.

Appendix B: Alignment with the Taxonomy Regulation

By financing eligible green assets, the bank actively contributes to the reduction of greenhouse gases. NORD/LB is aware that its actions have an impact on various stakeholders. By supporting the reduction of CO₂ emissions in this way, the bank fulfils its responsibility to customers, employees, owners and society. In doing so, NORD/LB contributes in particular to the EU's goal of climate neutrality by 2050 and endeavours not to significantly hinder any of the other environmental goals of the Taxonomy Regulation ("**Do No Significant Harm**").

As explained in section 2.1, NORD/LB is already partially guided by the technical assessment criteria of the Taxonomy Regulation in the context of the suitability criteria for real estate.

In the area of renewable energies, solar and wind power as well as battery storage projects fulfil by definition the technical assessment criteria for climate change mitigation described in Annex 1 of the Taxonomy Regulation.

All sustainable financing provided by NORD/LB (including onshore/offshore wind, solar and battery storage projects) must be structured as part of the financing documentation in such a way that local legislation is complied with. They must also comply in all material respects with all applicable laws and regulations of the respective country (e.g. climate protection laws such as the BImSchG in Germany, comparable EU directives, laws and regulations for construction and operation, WEEE Directive, etc. where applicable).

Disclaimer

This Green Funding Framework is intended to provide non-exhaustive, general information.

This Green Funding Framework does not constitute investment advice or any other recommendation or offer to purchase securities or to make specific investments. This statement also applies if individual issuers or securities are mentioned. It cannot replace investment and asset-related advice tailored to the individual circumstances of the investor. If required, please contact your NORD/LB advisor for personalised advice.

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