

# Sustainability@Commerzbank

Corporate Responsibility Newsletter

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## New coal guideline defines boundaries of business activities

The Paris Agreement on climate change reached at the end of 2015 sets out a plan to limit global warming to well below two degrees Celsius. Commerzbank supports this agreement and the defined target with its climate strategy for reducing the bank's own CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 70% by 2020, among other measures.

The Board of Managing Directors of Commerzbank has now decided on a new guideline for participating in coal-related business transactions, known as the coal guideline, which considers the key elements of the process chain, from coal extraction to coal-fired power generation at power plants. With this new guideline, Commerzbank faces up to its responsibility in dealing with environmental and social risks. At the same time, the bank continues to assist its clients with their strategic deliberations in order to successfully meet the particular challenges of the energy sector.

The guideline regulates which coal deals Commerzbank will and will not assist with in future.

Under this guideline, the bank will not finance projects related to new coal mines or to the controversial mining method known as mountaintop removal (MTR). With the latter method, mountaintops are first removed through the use of explosives. The coal seams underneath are then extracted through surface mining. In addition to the serious changes this causes to local geography, the method is highly controversial due to its negative impact on the water supply and the flora and fauna. Commerzbank also no longer participates in financing the construction of new coal-fired power plants. The modernisation of existing coal-fired power plants is possible in principle, but must first be subjected to a case-by-case assessment, which may result in the rejection of a transaction. Infrastructure projects are likewise reviewed on a case-by-case

basis with regard to environmental and social risks. Such projects include, for example, the expansion of rail networks or ports of loading for the transport of coal.

Commerzbank expects German clients from the energy supply sector to limit the share of electricity generated from coal (based on their production capacity) to below 30% by the end of 2021. For companies outside of Germany, the threshold is 50%. The thresholds have been in effect for new clients since 1 August 2016. Commerzbank assists its clients with this strategic change.

With the transitional period of five years, Commerzbank is signalling the necessity of this strategic change to its clients, while acting as a steadfast partner to them.

### Further information:

- [Commerzbank's Coal Guideline in the Corporate Responsibility Portal](#)
- [Reputational Risk Management at Commerzbank](#)

### Imprint

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## In a nutshell: Sustainability initiatives at Commerzbank

### GRI report on sustainability performance for 2015 published

Commerzbank presented its sustainability performance report for 2015 at the beginning of August, which was once again geared towards the standards of the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI). The topics included in the GRI report were selected based on a materiality analysis conducted during the reporting year. The analysis reveals which sustainability aspects are of the utmost priority for the bank today and will be in the years ahead. In particular, they include questions of integrity, long-term stability, dealing with customers and employees, as well as sustainability criteria for lending, making them issues at the heart of the bank's core business. This GRI report is available online on Commerzbank's sustainability portal. [▶ more](#)

### Successful sustainability week at Commerzbank

The "Deutsche Aktionstage Nachhaltigkeit" (DAN) were established by the German Council for Sustainable Development on the occasion of the United Nations conference on Sustainable Development in 2012. DAN aims to support activities that contribute to sustainable development and to raise awareness of them on a joint platform. In 2016, Commerzbank's contribution to DAN and the European Sustainable Development Week, which took place at the same time, consisted of presentations and campaigns held in the lobby of the bank's headquarters in Frankfurt. The focus on the five event days concerned the basics of nature conservation, climate change and experiences of a life without plastic, for example. [▶ more](#)

### Commerzbank receives award for sustainable working environment

Commerzbank received the German Award for Excellence of the DQS in the Employer Accountability category.



German Awards  
for Excellence

Additional company benefits, such as health management, flexible working time arrangements and activities related to work-life balance, were evaluated. As a result of these efforts, the bank has created a working environment that facilitates sustainable company success. This is the second time that Commerzbank has received the award, as the bank's climate strategy was honoured in 2015. [▶ more](#)

### Commerzbank assists with issuance of a green bond by the Bank of China

The Bank of China issued a green bond in early July consisting of several tranches in EUR, USD and CNY with a total converted volume of some EUR 2.7 billion. Commerzbank served as the joint lead manager and joint bookrunner for the EUR tranche and the three USD tranches. The Bank of China is using the green bond transaction to finance urban rail projects, solar power plants and wind farms, as well as the construction of sewage treatment plants. It is the largest multi-tranche green bond transaction to date and involves the first green bond from a Chinese issuer denominated in euros. [▶ more](#)

### Energy management system certified in accordance with ISO 50001

In addition to its already existing environmental management system, Commerzbank introduced an energy management system last year that has now been certified in accordance with ISO 50001. With its certified energy management system, the bank meets the requirements stipulated by the German Act on Energy Services and Other Energy Efficiency Measures (EDL-G). In addition to the precise recording of energy consumption at all 1,150 Commerzbank locations, an energy target was also set for the certification: 8% less energy consumed by 2020. [▶ more](#)

### Refugee project: deal sealed on three-year partnership with JOBLINGE

For the next three years, Commerzbank will be supporting the establishment and further development of the refugee programme known as "JOBLINGE Kompass". The aim of the programme is to make it easier for refugees between the ages of 18 and 25 to step into working life, thereby ensuring integration on their first job market as soon as possible.

Commerzbank is collaborating with the "JOBLINGE" initiative, which has been supporting young people with difficult starting conditions since 2007. The initiative was named "Integration Project of the Year" in 2014.

"Kompass" has already launched in Munich, Hamburg and Frankfurt. Plans call for expanding the efforts to other JOBLINGE locations to reach as many refugees as possible, who will also receive support from Commerzbank employees volunteering to serve as mentors. Bank employees will be exempted from their regular duties to complete the necessary training. The employees will be released from their duties on full pay. [▶ more](#)