

ASB Environment Policy

1.	Context and purpose
1.1	ASB recognises that our operations have direct and indirect impacts on the environment. Our objective is to manage these impacts so that we can better manage the costs of doing business and the risks to our brand and portfolios, while enhancing long term shareholder returns.
1.2	The purpose of ASB's Environment Policy is to create a framework for understanding and managing our direct and indirect environmental impacts, risks and opportunities.
2.	Scope
2.1	This policy covers the operations of ASB Bank Limited and its subsidiaries.
3.	Position on Climate Change
3.1	Climate change could have a significant environmental, economic and social impact, presenting both risks and opportunities for our business. As a financial intermediary we can play a role in addressing climate change.
3.2	ASB is committed to measuring and reducing our own greenhouse gas emissions.
3.3	We will engage our stakeholders to encourage the understanding and management of climate change issues.
4.	Environmental compliance
4.1	ASB is committed to complying with relevant New Zealand environmental legislation.
5.	Management of direct environmental impacts
5.1	<p>ASB is committed to reducing direct environmental impacts through the implementation of the following practices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring and reducing our greenhouse gas emissions, including energy use and business travel. • Investing in energy efficient technologies, where better cost effective solutions are available. • Reducing the environmental impact of our fleet. • Reducing our water usage, where possible. • Minimising waste through recycling and efficient use of resources. • Ensuring a sustainable procurement approach is in place, which sets out environmental requirements for our supply chain partners. • Ensuring the new space we occupy is designed, occupied and operated with the objective of being fit for purpose, best practice with cost effective environmental design.

6.	Management of indirect environmental impacts
6.1	ASB acknowledges that the companies we lend to and invest in may have an impact on the environment. Our lending policy requires that environmental risks be considered at deal initiation, risk assessment and annual review for relevant credit applications. As our understanding of environmental risk grows we will continually seek to enhance our governance processes, reporting practices and the training of our staff to ensure we strengthen our risk management policies and procedures.
6.2	ASB will identify opportunities to provide our customers with sustainable choices through the financial products and services we offer. This includes meeting the financial needs of our customers captured by the NZ Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS).
6.3	Our investment management business has a published policy for responsible investment. ASB offers New Zealand investors access to a specific fund that focuses on investments in global equities with sustainability as an overriding focus, incorporating environmental, social and governance considerations when making investment decisions.
7.	Stakeholder Engagement and Reporting
7.1	ASB will engage with interested stakeholders on environmental issues relevant to our business.
7.2	We will raise and maintain staff awareness about the environmental impacts of our operations and empower them to consider the environment in their daily business activities.
7.3	ASB will report annually on key environmental measures.
7.4	We will consider providing support to selected organisations that are actively working to educate the community about environmental issues.
8.	Governance
8.1	The accountability for our Environment Policy is assigned as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Board of Directors are responsible for approval and compliance with the policy. – Executive Leadership Team are responsible for integrating the Policy into business and risk management processes and for ensuring relevant governance processes are embedded. – Sustainable Business Manager is responsible for supporting ASB's implementation of this policy, monitoring and reporting to the Executive Leadership Team and the Board on progress.
9.	Implementation process
9.1	A 12 month transition period will commence following adoption of the policy, during which time business units are required to implement any actions required for their unit to become compliant.
10.	Policy Review
10.1	This policy will be reviewed annually.

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