



# Responsible Banking Progress Statement for PRB Signatories



# Summary template

## Svenska Handelsbanken AB (publ) 2024

Principle 1: Alignment	Principle 2: Impact & Target Setting	Principle 3: Clients & Customers
<p><b>Content</b></p> <p>Strong and lasting business relationships, low risk-taking and cost-awareness are all cornerstones of Handelsbanken's culture. This long-standing approach to sustainability is deeply embedded in the Bank's way of working and has become second nature. Handelsbanken's financial strength and duty as a responsible tax payer helps ensure that the Bank does not become a burden on society in challenging times. Instead, the Bank contributes positively to society by being financially stable. The Bank's decentralised business model enables it to be close to its customers and, by understanding their needs, can contribute to the development of local communities.</p> <p>The UN global initiatives Principles for Responsible Banking (PRB) and Net Zero Banking Alliance (NZBA), have played important roles in driving the progress of the Bank's sustainability work when developing group-wide targets, and the Bank now sees a need to align its objectives even more with its core values and unique working methods.</p> <p>The business community has a vital role to play in Sustainability Development Goals, as stated in the implementation plan produced by the UN.</p>	<p><b>Content</b></p> <p>Handelsbanken conducted impact analyses in line with the PRB and NZBA during the years 2020-2022.</p> <p>Handelsbanken also initiated its double materiality assessment in line with the CSRD in autumn 2023 and the final results of the assessment were adopted in 2024. The method and implementation were based on the requirements of ESRS and the implementation guide provided by EFRAG, which at the time of conducting the materiality assessment was still a draft. The purpose of the assessment was to identify and understand which sustainability matters are material to the Bank, based on impacts, risks and opportunities.</p> <p>In 2024, Handelsbanken also reviewed and adjusted the current sustainability targets to applicable regulations and reporting requirements, and to the Bank's business model and way of working. The Bank's previous sustainability targets will no longer be separate priorities. Instead, they have been further integrated into the Bank's core business strategy and operations, reflecting a more mature and embedded approach to sustainability.</p> <p>The Bank aims to achieve higher profitability than the average of peer competitors in its home markets. We use two means to achieve this: lower</p>	<p><b>Content</b></p> <p>Handelsbanken has integrated sustainability as a natural part of its operations for a long time, focusing on long-term responsibility and close customer relationships.</p> <p>The Bank's strategy integrates sustainability into a decentralised working method with a focus on risk mitigation and a long-term approach on customer relationships. This includes providing lending, investment and advisory service products and services that are tailored to customers' sustainability requirements.</p> <p>The Bank's ambition is to ensure that its operations can fully support its customers in their transition in line with current science and the climate targets of its home markets and the EU. The Banks aim is to provide capital and liquidity to meet customers' funding needs and to offer products, services and advisory services that enable a sustainable transition. Handelsbanken will thus enhance its ability to integrate sustainability into all customer meetings, regardless of where and how its customers choose to meet Handelsbanken.</p>

<p>Handelsbanken has chosen to focus on six of the sustainable development goals - Gender equality (Goal 5), Decent work and economic growth (Goal 8), Industry, innovation and infrastructure (Goal 9), Sustainable cities and communities (Goal 11), Climate Action (Goal 13) and Peace, justice and strong institutions (Goal 16). Our decision is based on the relevance to the Bank's core business, our degree of influence and risks we have identified.</p> <p>Handelsbanken has published a transition plan, which builds on the Bank's unique corporate culture and ambition to contribute to the achievement of the EU's climate targets, national climate targets in each home market, and the Paris Agreement's goal of limiting global warming to 1.5°C.</p> <p>For 2024, Handelsbanken has chosen to report in accordance with the EU Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD) as specified by the European Sustainability Reporting Standards (ESRS).</p>	<p>costs and more satisfied customers than its competitors. By further integrating sustainability into these pillars, the Bank can contribute to long-term stable and responsible development that benefits customers, society and the environment.</p> <p>The Bank uses science-based decarbonisation pathways to assess how well its portfolio aligns with the 1.5°C goal, and to identify risks and opportunities related to the climate transition, and it is the Bank's ambition is to ensure that its operations can fully support its customers in their transition in line with current science and the climate targets of the Banks home markets and the EU.</p> <p>Handelsbanken Fonder will continue to follow the alignment of the investment portfolios with regards to the targets and transition pathway of the Paris Agreement (net zero GHG emissions by 2040), and the investments' contribution to the 2030 Agenda.</p> <p>The Bank maintains the work on gender equality and financial health within advisory services.</p>	<p>Handelsbanken continues to make progress in advisory services and will focus on enhancing customers' financial literacy. Webinars and customer events were arranged on this subject in 2024. In 2025, the Bank intends to continue to increase advisors' knowledge on the subject and publish additional information for customers. As a financial institution, Handelsbanken can influence its customers' business decisions, including how they approach the transition to net-zero emissions. The Bank has access to several tools, such as advisory services, training and incentives linked to loan terms.</p>
--	---	--

<p><b>Links &amp; references</b></p> <p>Annual and Sustainability Report 2024, pages 256, 285 and 372</p> <p><a href="https://vp292.alertir.com/afw/files/press/handelsbanken/202502273426-1.pdf">https://vp292.alertir.com/afw/files/press/handelsbanken/202502273426-1.pdf</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.handelsbanken.com/en/sustainability/our-role-in-society">https://www.handelsbanken.com/en/sustainability/our-role-in-society</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.handelsbanken.com/en/sustainability/sustainable-development-goals">https://www.handelsbanken.com/en/sustainability/sustainable-development-goals</a></p> <p>Handelsbanken Transition Plan</p> <p><a href="https://www.handelsbanken.com/tron/xgpu/info/contents/v1/document/72-157096">https://www.handelsbanken.com/tron/xgpu/info/contents/v1/document/72-157096</a></p>	<p><b>Links &amp; references</b></p> <p>See section Impact analysis in the PRB reports 2021, 2022 (included in the respective Sustainability Factbooks) and 2023 (separate report)</p> <p>Sustainability Factbook 2021, pages 18-23</p> <p><a href="https://vp292.alertir.com/sites/default/files/report/sustainability_factbook_2021_eng_0.pdf">https://vp292.alertir.com/sites/default/files/report/sustainability_factbook_2021_eng_0.pdf</a></p> <p>Sustainability Factbook 2022, pages 20-30</p> <p><a href="https://vp292.alertir.com/sites/default/files/report/sustainability_factbook_2022_1.pdf">https://vp292.alertir.com/sites/default/files/report/sustainability_factbook_2022_1.pdf</a></p> <p>PRB Assessment Report 2023</p> <p><a href="https://vp292.alertir.com/sites/default/files/report/prb_self-assessment_2023.pdf">https://vp292.alertir.com/sites/default/files/report/prb_self-assessment_2023.pdf</a></p> <p>Annual and Sustainability Report 2024, pages 256, 273-278 and 289</p> <p><a href="https://vp292.alertir.com/afw/files/press/handelsbanken/202502273426-1.pdf">https://vp292.alertir.com/afw/files/press/handelsbanken/202502273426-1.pdf</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.handelsbanken.se/sv/om-oss/svenska-dotterbolag/handelsbanken-fonder/vara-hallbarhetsmal">https://www.handelsbanken.se/sv/om-oss/svenska-dotterbolag/handelsbanken-fonder/vara-hallbarhetsmal</a> (in Swedish)</p> <p><a href="https://www.handelsbanken.se/tron/public/info/contents/v1/document/32-215572">https://www.handelsbanken.se/tron/public/info/contents/v1/document/32-215572</a> (in Swedish)</p> <p><a href="https://www.handelsbanken.se/sv/ekonomi-i-livet/privatekonomi/vardagshjalp/vardagsekonomi/finansiell-halsa">https://www.handelsbanken.se/sv/ekonomi-i-livet/privatekonomi/vardagshjalp/vardagsekonomi/finansiell-halsa</a> (in Swedish)</p>	<p><b>Links &amp; references</b></p> <p>Annual and Sustainability Report 2024, pages 256-258, 266, 278 and 288-289</p> <p><a href="https://vp292.alertir.com/afw/files/press/handelsbanken/202502273426-1.pdf">https://vp292.alertir.com/afw/files/press/handelsbanken/202502273426-1.pdf</a></p>
--	---	---

<b>Principle 4:</b> <b>Stakeholders</b>	<b>Principle 5:</b> <b>Governance &amp; Culture</b>	<b>Principle 6:</b> <b>Transparency &amp; Accountability</b>
<p><b>Content</b></p> <p>Mapping and understanding the company's value chain is crucial in the context of sustainability, particularly for double materiality under the CSRD. This assessment identifies impacts, risks and opportunities both upstream, downstream and own operations, and the effects this has on the company's stakeholders.</p> <p>Handelsbanken's principal stakeholders are customers, co-workers, owners and investors, trade unions, and the rest of society, including special interest organisations, public authorities and legislators. These stakeholder groups have been identified on the basis of their significant impact on, or impact from, the Bank's activities. The Bank also maintains continual dialogue with other stakeholders, such as equity research analysts, trade associations, sustainability analysts, non-profit organisations, international organisations, municipalities and regions, suppliers, press and media, students and educational establishments, including schools and universities.</p>	<p><b>Content</b></p> <p>The Board stipulates in Handelsbanken's policy for sustainability that responsible actions are essential to long-term value creation at Handelsbanken and for maintaining confidence in the Bank. Integrating a sustainability perspective throughout the operations ensures that the Group conducts operations that are financially sound, environmentally and socially sustainable, and that contribute to sustainable development. Sustainability risks are to be managed in line with Handelsbanken's generally low risk tolerance and comply with the risk tolerance for the risk classes in which sustainability risks are an integral part of the risk assessment.</p> <p>The Board's policy forms the basis for a number of guidelines issued by the Chief Executive Officer that regulate in more detail how the Handelsbanken Group is to act in relation to environment and climate change, forestry and agriculture, human rights and labour, the weapons and defence industry, the tobacco industry, financial crime, supplier arrangements, tax management, and security and data protection.</p> <p>The Board has access to relevant sustainability expertise through the specialists employed in the organisation, including a dedicated sustainability and climate unit. This enables the Board to understand the strategic and operational challenges of the business operations and to make informed decisions on sustainability matters. The skills and expertise available to address sustainability matters are directly related to the Bank's operations and material sustainability risks and opportunities.</p>	<p><b>Content</b></p> <p>This report has is based on the Annual and Sustainability Report 2024, which has been subject to limited assurance review by Handelsbanken's auditors PricewaterhouseCoopers AB (PwC).</p> <p>In addition, references have been made to Handelsbanken's home page.</p>

<p><b>Links &amp; references</b></p> <p>Annual and Sustainability Report 2024, pages 267-268</p> <p><a href="https://vp292.alertir.com/afw/files/press/handelsbanken/202502273426-1.pdf">https://vp292.alertir.com/afw/files/press/handelsbanken/202502273426-1.pdf</a></p>	<p><b>Links &amp; references</b></p> <p>Annual and Sustainability Report 2024, pages 262-263</p> <p><a href="https://vp292.alertir.com/afw/files/press/handelsbanken/202502273426-1.pdf">https://vp292.alertir.com/afw/files/press/handelsbanken/202502273426-1.pdf</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.handelsbanken.com/en/about-the-group/corporate-governance/policy-documents-and-guidelines">https://www.handelsbanken.com/en/about-the-group/corporate-governance/policy-documents-and-guidelines</a></p>	<p><b>Links &amp; references</b></p> <p><a href="https://vp292.alertir.com/afw/files/press/handelsbanken/202502273426-1.pdf">https://vp292.alertir.com/afw/files/press/handelsbanken/202502273426-1.pdf</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.handelsbanken.com/en/">https://www.handelsbanken.com/en/</a></p>
---	--	--