

FRAMEWORK EXTERNAL REVIEW

SUSTAINABLE LENDING FRAMEWORK

DZ HYP AG
22 May 2026

VERIFICATION PARAMETERS

Covered instruments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Green Loans
Type of framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Sustainable Lending Framework
Scope of verification	<ul style="list-style-type: none">DZ HYP Sustainable Lending Framework (in German language, as of May 12, 2026)DZ HYP's sustainable finance classification system (as of May 12, 2026)
Validity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Valid as long as the Framework remains unchanged

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SCOPE OF WORK

DZ HYP AG (“DZ HYP” or “the Financial Institution” or “the Bank”) commissioned ISS-Corporate to assist with its Sustainable Lending Framework (“SLF” or “the Framework”) by assessing four core elements to determine the quality of its classification system¹ for identifying sustainable financing activities and the sustainability quality of the eligibility criteria:

1. The Sustainable Lending Framework, benchmarked against market practices, guidelines² and approaches for loan markets to environmental and social sustainability (see Annex 1).
2. DZ HYP’s sustainable finance classification system — the soundness of the eligibility parameters to identify eligible sustainable financing activities (see Annex 1).
3. ESG risk management — an overview of DZ HYP’s overarching risk management procedures considered relevant in the context of the Bank’s sustainable finance activities and the underlying Framework (see Annex 1).
4. Overview of DZ HYP’s sustainability strategy, drawing on the key sustainability objectives and priorities defined by the Bank.

¹ The methodology of external reviews provided for sustainable financing, lending and investment strategies has been developed based on our expertise in assessing a range of sustainable finance-related instruments and frameworks. In general, these types of external reviews are not to be treated as a “pass or fail assessment” of the sustainability quality of sustainable financing, lending or investment strategies but rather as an overall assessment. Thus, obtaining an external review of an overarching financing framework does not imply a detailed assessment of the sustainability quality of each underlying transaction. A qualitative assessment of sampled eligible ESG products is not in the scope of the verification procedures.

² The assessment is based on current market practices for sustainable loan markets, referring to different market standards and voluntary guidelines including but not limited to the Loan Market Association’s [Green Loan Principles](#); the [UNEP-FI PRB](#); and the [Climate Bonds Standard Version 4.0](#) (version April 2023) [Guidelines proposed by the European Banking Authority \(EBA\) on loan origination and monitoring](#).

DZ HYP OVERVIEW

DZ HYP AG is a provider of real estate finance and Pfandbrief issuer in Germany, as well as a center of competence for public-sector clients within the Cooperative Financial Network. The bank provides clients in the three business areas of corporate clients, retail customers and the public sector, with products and services in real estate finance and local-authority lending. The company was founded in 1921 and is headquartered in Hamburg, Germany.

ESG risks associated with DZ HYP's industry

DZ HYP is classified in the mortgage and public sector finance industry, as per ISS Sustainability's sector classification. Key sustainability issues faced by companies³ in this industry are sustainability impacts of lending and other financial services/products, customer and product responsibility, statutory ESG-standards linked to the geographical allocation of the lending portfolio and employee relations and work environment.

This report focuses on the sustainability credentials of the classification system. Part IV of this report assesses the consistency between the Framework and the Bank's overall sustainability strategy.

Rationale for the Sustainable Lending Framework

DZ HYP developed its first Sustainable Lending Framework as the foundation for introducing green financing products to its customers.

³ Please note that this is not a company-specific assessment but rather areas that are of particular relevance for companies within that industry.

ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

SECTION	SUMMARY EVALUATION ⁴
<p>Part I:</p> <p>Review of DZ HYP's Sustainable Lending Framework</p>	<p>The Sustainable Lending Framework reflects market practices.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Objectives, targets and progress: The Bank has clearly disclosed the purpose of this sustainable lending framework. It has set climate objectives which are expressed in line with key market guidelines and intergovernmental agreements such as the Paris Agreement and reports annually on its ESG commitments. DZ HYP also commits to disclose a quantified target with a clear scope and action plan in line with the wider strategy in 2027. Where feasible, the Framework may be further improved with regards to disclosing a whether the sustainable lending target will be defined in 1) value and 2) % of total financing portfolio. 2. Definition of sustainable financing activities: DZ HYP has set forth a methodology for defining and classifying loans as sustainable, proposes clear parameters under its Framework and refers to relevant market principles. 3. Evaluation and selection process: Internal procedures defined for selection and evaluation are appropriately documented and transparent. Additionally, the Bank has put in place a process to identify risks of negative social and/or environmental impacts and manage them appropriately. 4. Governance and monitoring: DZ HYP clearly describes how the Management Board and dedicated committees provide oversight of ESG-related issues, including the sustainable finance classification system is. Furthermore, DZ HYP clearly describes the process to monitor if a financial transaction for the corporate segment remains eligible during all its life cycle on a regular basis and explains the data collection, tracking, and reporting mechanisms of the outstanding transactions.

⁴ The evaluation is based on the DZ HYP's Sustainable Lending Framework (May 12, 2026 version), on the analyzed selection criteria as received on May 12, 2026.

	<p>5. Reporting: The Bank commits to report publicly and on a regular basis its sustainable financing. The Bank discloses that its Sustainable Lending Framework will be published on its website.</p>
<p>Part II: Assessment of DZ HYP's sustainable financing classification system</p>	<p>The Bank's sustainable financing classification system reflects market practice.</p> <hr/> <p>DZ HYP has put forth multiple sets of eligibility parameters for its financing activities to be classified as sustainable. The chosen instrument will align with relevant market standards (i.e LMA's GLP).</p>
<p>Part III: DZ HYP's ESG risk management</p>	<p>DZ HYP has defined ESG risk assessment processes applicable to its sustainable lending activities. The Financial Institution has measures and policies in place to address the main ESG risks faced by its sector. Finally, the Bank has committed to public portfolio decarbonization targets and to track its financed emissions across and scale these down.</p>
<p>Part IV: DZ HYP's sustainability strategy</p>	<p>The Sustainable Lending Framework is consistent with the Group's sustainability strategy.</p> <hr/> <p>The Sustainable Lending Framework is considered consistent with the Bank's sustainability strategy. The rationale for developing a Sustainable Lending Framework is described by DZ HYP.</p>

FRAMEWORK EXTERNAL REVIEW ASSESSMENT

PART I: REVIEW OF DZ HYP'S SUSTAINABLE LENDING FRAMEWORK




In its Sustainable Lending Framework, DZ HYP defines its methodology for the classification of eligible financing transactions as sustainable for the purpose of tracking and disclosing the performance against its sustainable lending targets.

This External Review assesses the Framework against current market practices for sustainable loan markets derived from market standards and established guidelines. The assessment focuses on key principles for transparency, public disclosure and non-contamination of sustainable-labeled products, set out in, among other standards, Loan Market Association's Green Loan Principles, and the TEG final report on the EU Taxonomy and its technical annex.

CRITERIA	SUMMARY AND OPINION
<p>1. Objectives, targets and progress</p>	<p>DZ HYP developed a Sustainable Lending Framework to enable classification and tracking of its eligible sustainable loan transactions.</p> <p>DZ HYP, as part of the DZ BANK Group, pursues a climate-neutrality target for its business operations. The target includes all GHG emissions scopes and is in line with the sustainability strategy of the German Federal Government, which mandates climate-neutral operations by 2045. Furthermore, DZ HYP follows the climate strategy set by DZ BANK AG (DZ BANK), the holding company for the DZ BANK Group, including the commitments made to the UN Global Compact, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Paris Climate Agreement, and the German Federal Government's sustainability strategy. DZ HYP reports on progress towards its sustainability-related commitments in its annual reports.⁵</p> <p>DZ HYP commits to establish a sustainable lending target for the year 2027 at the latest and disclose it publicly. The target will include both sustainable retail lending and sustainable corporate lending. The measures to be taken to achieve the targets will be defined as part of the target-setting process. DZ BANK, has also published a Framework for ESG Products which was externally reviewed by ISS-Corporate.</p> <p>DZ HYP is a signatory to the UNEP FI Principles for Responsible Banking.</p> <p>Opinion: <i>The Financial Institution has clearly disclosed the purpose of its Sustainable Lending Framework. In its Framework, DZ HYP puts forth a clear definition of the sustainability objectives and commits to disclose a quantified</i></p>

⁵ DZ HYP annual reports are published on its [website](#).

	<p><i>target with a clear scope and action plan in line with the wider strategy latest for the year 2027. The Financial Institution has disclosed its climate objectives which are expressed in line with key market guidelines and intergovernmental agreements such as the Paris Agreement. DZ HYP is reporting annually on its progress against ESG commitments. DZ HYP is a member of various industry associations.</i></p> <p><i>Where feasible, the Framework may be further improved by disclosing whether the intended sustainable lending target(s) will be defined in 1) value and 2) % of total financing portfolio.</i></p>
<p>2. Definition of sustainable financing activities</p>	<p>Under DZ HYP' Sustainable Lending Framework, "sustainable lending" is understood as green finance and includes financings of expenditures tied to a specific purpose.</p> <p>DZ HYP bases its definition of sustainable lending on established national and international standards, frameworks and principles. These include LMA's Green Loan Principles (GLP) and the EU Taxonomy. The Framework defines the structural elements to ensure that the sustainable lending products comply with the four pillars of GLP. First of all, the use of proceeds defined are eligible under the category "Green Buildings" of the GLP. Further, the Framework describes the evaluation system put in place by DZ HYP to determine the eligible loans and describes the environmental and social risk management process. DZ HYP controls the use of funds by integrating it in the contractual agreement with the borrower. DZ HYP confirms that borrowers are either required to submit proof of use to DZ HYP pre-disbursement or post-disbursement within one year from obtaining the loan.</p> <p>Eligible type of financing</p> <p>DZ HYP's Sustainable Lending Framework sets out type of lending that the Bank sets as eligible for tracking and disclosing its performance against its public targets. This is limited to dedicated purpose financing, where the use of proceeds satisfies the green eligibility criteria.</p> <p>In addition to the above requirements, lending will not be eligible as sustainable lending if it is part of DZ BANK's exclusion criteria, which are systematically applied by DZ HYP for all lending.</p> <p>Classification of sustainable financing</p>

	<div style="border: 1px solid blue; padding: 10px; text-align: center;">  Green Financing Products </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 10px;"> <div style="border: 1px solid orange; padding: 10px; text-align: center; width: 45%;"> <p>DZ HYP Green Loan</p>  <p>Financing for Corporate Clients</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid orange; padding: 10px; text-align: center; width: 45%;"> <p>DZ HYP Eco Loan</p>  <p>Financing for Privat Customers</p> </div> </div> <p>Instrument scope</p> <p>The Bank will apply the classification system for new facilities. The green loans will be originated either by the corporate clients or the private clients business units. The green loans will be eligible for the purchase of properties in Germany. The products will be made available by DZ HYP directly and through intermediary banks/cooperative banks. The product offering consists of:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr style="background-color: #4a4a8a; color: white;"> <th>PRODUCT</th> <th>DESCRIPTION</th> <th>CRITERIA</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Green loans</td> <td>Term lending with a dedicated purpose that falls within the green eligibility criteria.</td> <td>LMA's Green Loan Principles</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Table 1. DZ HYP's products scope</p> <p>Opinion: <i>The Sustainable Lending Framework clearly defines the financial institution's classification system, outlining transparent criteria for its financing approach, specifying the business scope, and referring to relevant market principles. The sustainability quality of the eligibility parameters to identify eligible sustainable financing activities is further analyzed in Part II of this report. The Sustainable Lending Framework defines exclusion criteria.</i>⁶</p>	PRODUCT	DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA	Green loans	Term lending with a dedicated purpose that falls within the green eligibility criteria.	LMA's Green Loan Principles
PRODUCT	DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA					
Green loans	Term lending with a dedicated purpose that falls within the green eligibility criteria.	LMA's Green Loan Principles					
<p>3. Evaluation and selection process</p>	<p>DZ HYP has defined the process for evaluation and selection for loans originated within both the corporate clients and private clients business units. Common features of the process include an eligibility check against the defined eligibility criteria of the product, a screening against the exclusion list and an ESG risk evaluation (including climate risks screening).</p>						

⁶ DZ HYP implements the exclusion criteria set by DZ BANK, which can be accessed [here](#).

The information used in this process is collected directly from the borrowers by front office employees and documented in the internal core banking system. Third-party documents, such as EPC certificates, are used in this process. All new lending also follows DZ HYP's internal anti-money-laundering review processes as part of the credit evaluation process. The credit decision involves the decision of whether the loan is classified as green or not, which is performed by employees from the front or the back office on basis of the data collected and stored in the core banking system and the eligibility criteria for the green loans, also available in DZ HYP's core banking system. Green loans are tagged to enable separate tracking of green loans from other loans.

For corporate clients, DZ HYP put in place internal instructions that dictate the requirements for the ESG risk assessment for the new and existing portfolio. At the start of a new business relationship, front office employees perform a reputational risk evaluation⁷ from an ESG perspective, in relation to the borrower, the property and the intended project. Further, physical climate risks, transition risks, and CO₂ emissions are assessed. If risks are identified, they must be taken into account during the credit decision process and mitigation measures need to be defined, for example, through establishing a plan for structural measures to be taken to safeguard the property or ensuring that appropriate insurance coverage is in place.⁸ Further, ESG risk triggers are in place for DZ HYP's outstanding loan portfolio, which consider significant changes in the business environment, regulatory requirements, or adjustments to the business model or portfolio. This may lead to mitigation measures to be taken during the duration of a loan, which require assessment, tracking, and documentation in monitoring reports.

For real estate financing for private clients, EPC certificates are mandatory for an Eco-Loan. When a building is undergoing energy efficiency improvements or is still under construction, the loan would still qualify as Eco-Loan on basis of alternative documentations such as architects' confirmation or confirmation of energy consultants. Nevertheless, an official EPC certificate will be required to be submitted by the borrower, after completing the measure (i.e. completion of construction/ renovation). The loan is de-classified in the internal core banking system if such proof is not obtained.

DZ HYP discloses that internal controls are in place to ensure compliance of the process with the internal guidelines governing these processes.

The responsibility for monitoring the evolution of the sustainable lending portfolio (including the reporting about additions and removals of

⁷ Information about this evaluation is disclosed in the Sustainable Lending Framework, section II.

⁸ For more details please refer to Part III, Integration of ESG guidelines into the financing process.

	<p>sustainable loans) rests with the Committee for Sustainable Products (Gremium für nachhaltige Produkte or NHP), which is also in charge of the further development of the eligibility criteria, in line with market standards and developments. The Bank discloses that members of the NHP committee are representatives from the front office and back office, treasury, sustainability (chair), and public sector clients, as well as the legal department. and that the committee meets every two months.</p> <p>Opinion: <i>The process for sustainable finance transaction evaluation and selection is defined based on the eligibility criteria and structured in a congruous manner. Responsibilities across different departments are described. A designated committee from various business units has been put in place to be responsible for periodic review of the eligible portfolio. ESG risks associated with sustainable activities to be financed are identified, managed through an appropriate process. DZ HYP implements systematically the exclusion criteria defined by DZ BANK for controversial transactions. The FI clearly discloses the sources of data used in the evaluation and selection process.</i></p>
<p>4. Governance and monitoring</p>	<p>DZ HYP's management of sustainability matters is embedded within its governance structure. The Management Board has overall responsibility and is regularly informed about relevant developments. To steer the implementation of the sustainability agenda, a Sustainability Committee was established, consisting of the members of the Management Board, Division heads and the Sustainability Officer. This committee fulfills the central decision and coordination role.</p> <p>The Management Board receives regular reports on overall risks and portfolio evolution, including the distribution of energy efficiency by asset class, the distribution of property exposure across environmental hazards, as well as analyses of changes over time and by region.</p> <p>To oversee the further development of its Sustainable Lending Framework and the evolution of the sustainable portfolio, DZ HYP established the NHP committee. This committee reports to the Sustainability Committee and contributes to the regular risk and portfolio reports submitted to the Management Board. Furthermore, any changes to the Sustainable Lending Framework must be submitted to the relevant decision-makers including the Management Board for approval, thus ensuring ongoing Board oversight.</p> <p>Additionally, at the operational level, a Sustainability coordination group formed of sustainability experts from various departments is in place. It</p>

	<p>meets monthly to align and work through the various sustainability-related activities.</p> <p>For monitoring purposes, DZ HYP has established a separate classification for sustainable lending in its core banking system. For sustainable loans extended to corporate clients, monitoring is performed by front-office and back-office units on an ongoing basis, based on monthly reports on the validity of the evidence used to classify the loans as “green”. This process aims to ensure that the eligibility criteria remains fulfilled for the entire loan term. The internal core banking system tracks the expiration date of relevant loan documentation, such as that of energy performance certificates (EPC), as well as any energy-efficiency measures agreed with the borrowers. Renewed documentation is requested at the respective due dates and added to the electronic records. Failure to provide updated evidence of compliance with the eligibility criteria triggers the declassification of that loan. Sustainable loans extended to retail borrowers are not monitored for ESG aspects.⁹</p> <p>Opinion: <i>The eligible financial instrument is subject to the Bank’s overarching sustainability criteria, which consider DZ HYP’s wider sustainability risk management processes. DZ HYP clearly describes how the Management Board and dedicated committees provides oversight of ESG-related issues, and specifically the sustainable finance classification system. DZ HYP clearly describes the process to monitor if a financial transactions remains eligible during all its life cycle on a regular basis and explains the data collection, tracking and reporting mechanisms of the current sustainable lending transactions for the corporate segment. No monitoring is performed for sustainable lending to the retail segment.</i></p>
<p>5. Reporting</p>	<p>DZ HYP commits to include reporting on the sustainable lending volumes in its Annual Sustainability Report, which is publicly available on its website. The first reporting period will cover the financial year 2027. Reporting will be based on the volume of outstanding lending at the end of the respective financial year, for as long as sustainable loans are outstanding. The Annual Sustainability Report is currently subject to external audit.</p> <p>The Bank commits to disclosing its Sustainable Lending Framework publicly on its website.</p>

⁹ The green component of the retail loan is screened at origination through the review of the EPC certificate; this characteristic is not expected to change during the tenor of the instrument.

	<p>Furthermore, DZ HYP signed the Principles for Responsible Banking (PRB) at the beginning of 2026 and confirms that it will report on the impacts of its banking activities according to the PRB requirements starting 2027.</p> <p>Opinion: <i>DZ HYP will report on its sustainable lending annually, as part of its Annual Sustainability Report. The Sustainable Lending Framework will be published on the Bank’s website. Additionally, the Bank will report on impacts of its banking activities starting 2027.</i></p>
<p>6. External review</p>	<p>DZ HYP appointed ISS-Corporate to provide an external review on the Sustainable Lending Framework and its alignment with the Bank’s overall sustainability strategy.</p> <p>The Bank’s NHP Committee is responsible for the further development of the eligibility criteria for sustainable lending, in line with market standards and developments. Significant changes will trigger an update of the Sustainable Lending Framework.</p> <p>Opinion: <i>DZ HYP has sought an external review to verify the reported transaction information for all sustainable finance instruments, in line with best market practices. DZ HYP has sought an external review of the Sustainable Lending Framework at its launch, in line with best market practices. The Framework will be publicly available.</i></p>

PART II: ASSESSMENT OF DZ HYP'S SUSTAINABLE FINANCE CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

A. ASSESSMENT OF THE CRITERIA OUTLINED IN CLIENT_NAME'S SUSTAINABLE FINANCE CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

To provide an opinion on the sustainability credibility of each of the key sets of criteria defined by DZ HYP, this review evaluates the prevalence and robustness of the selection parameters, taking into account market practices across different sustainable finance asset classes.

DZ HYP has set forth the following sets of eligibility criteria for its financing activities to be classified as sustainable¹⁰:



Figure 1. DZ HYP's sustainable financing classification system

The assessment process and criteria implemented under DZ HYP's Sustainable Lending Framework are outlined below. The evaluation is based on criteria derived from market practices.¹¹

PARAMETER	CRITERIA	ASSESSMENT OF DZ HYP'S SUSTAINABLE FINANCE CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM
Dedicated purpose financing (standard approach)	Dedicated purpose financing contributes to sustainability objectives if proceeds are	Under the dedicated purpose approach, the Bank classifies green loans as sustainable. The Financial Institution defines eligibility criteria for green buildings, which are described in the Framework in Chapter I. Based on its proprietary SDG Solutions Assessment

¹⁰ The green Pfandbrief instrument is governed by DZ HYP's [Green Bond Framework](#), which was [externally reviewed by ISS-Corporate](#) as of December 4, 2024.

¹¹ These include but are not limited to the LMA's Green Loan Principles, the UNEP FI PRB; and the EBA Guidelines on loan origination and monitoring.

	<p>exclusively allocated to activities that are subject to specific and credible ESG-related eligibility criteria.</p>	<p>(SDGA) methodology, 100% of the eligibility categories have a contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals. 100% of the proceeds are used for green projects. According to DZ HYP's Framework, for transactions that follow the requirements and process described therein will be automatically judged as aligned with LMA's Green Loan Principles. Specifically, DZ HYP will ensure that the loan purpose fulfills the eligibility criteria during the loan appraisal process. Only loans that have undergone eligibility screening, the exclusion list screening and the ESG risk management assessment positively are intended to receive the green label. The management of proceeds is controlled by DZ HYP through clearly establishing the permitted use of funds in the loan contract and requiring borrowers to proactively submit proof of use documentation. Reporting by the borrowers on how the proceeds are allocated is either provided pre-disbursement or post-disbursement within one year,</p> <p>When acquiring a portfolio of assets, DZ HYP confirms to segregate the eligible from ineligible assets and provide financing in tranches. Only the tranches used entirely for eligible real estate under its Framework will be classified as sustainable; these tranches are appropriately tracked In DZ HYP's core banking system.</p> <p>Opinion: <i>The Bank provides a set of eligibility criteria in their Framework and ensures that 100% of the sustainable lending is used only for green eligibility activities. The chosen eligibility criteria are assessed to contribute towards the U.N. SDGs, as assessed by ISS-Corporate. It is noted that DZ HYP refers to relevant</i></p>
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		<p><i>market standards (i.e LMA's GLP) to define its eligibility criteria. The alignment check is based on internal verification. For transactions with partial eligibility, DZ HYP has a system in place to distinguish between the eligible and ineligible amounts, which enables pro-rated accounting of the green component.</i></p> <p><i>Where feasible, the Framework may be further improved by ensuring alignment of private instruments with market standards (i.e. LMA GLP) through an external verification process</i></p>
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B. ASSESSMENT OF THE CONTRIBUTION TO THE SDGS²⁸



Financial Institutions can contribute to the achievement of the SDGs by financing eligible services/products which help address global sustainability challenges, and by being responsible actors, contributing to minimize negative externalities in their operations along the entire value chain.

The assessment of eligible categories for (re)financing products and services are based on a variety of internal and external sources, such as the ISS ESG SDG Solutions Assessment (SDGA), a proprietary methodology designed to assess the impact of products or services on the UN SDGs, as well as other ESG benchmarks (the EU Taxonomy Climate Delegated Acts, the ICMA Green and/or Social Bond Principles and other regional taxonomies, standards and sustainability criteria).

The assessment of eligible categories for (re)financing specific products and services is displayed on 3-point scale (see Annex 1 for methodology):



Each of the eligible categories has been assessed for its contribution to, or obstruction of, the SDGs:

ELIGIBLE ENVIRONMENTAL CATEGORIES	CONTRIBUTION OR OBSTRUCTION	SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
<p>Green Buildings</p> <p><i>Construction of residential and commercial buildings</i></p> <p><i>The primary energy demand of the building is at least 10% below the threshold values defined in national measures for implementing Directive 2010/31/EU on nearly zero-energy buildings (NZEB). This is proven by presenting the building's overall energy efficiency (EPC), or by providing other documentation showing that the building contractor has submitted evidence of the building's overall energy efficiency.</i></p>	Contribution	 

Green Buildings

Acquisition of ownership of residential and commercial buildings before 31 December 2020:

The building has an energy performance certificate showing at least energy efficiency class A.

or

The building is among the top 15% of the national or regional building stock in terms of energy demand or consumption. The results of the study by Drees und Sommer on the top 15% of the German real estate market are used as proof, which has been recognised and published by the Association of German Pfandbrief Banks (vdp).

Green Buildings

Acquisition of ownership of residential and commercial buildings before 31 December 2020:

The building is certified by the German Sustainable Building Council (DGNB) with Gold or Platinum.

Green Buildings

Acquisition of ownership of residential and commercial buildings built after 31 December 2020:

The primary energy demand of the building is at least 10% below the threshold values defined in national measures for implementing Directive 2010/31/EU on nearly zero-energy buildings (NZEB). This is proven by presenting the building's overall energy efficiency (EPC), or by providing other documentation showing that the building contractor has submitted evidence of the building's overall energy efficiency.



Green Buildings

Eco-Loan - financing energy-efficient properties primarily used for residential purposes. A prerequisite is the submission of a valid, officially registered energy performance certificate documenting energy efficiency class A (final energy demand or energy consumption of max. 50 kWh/(m²a)) or better.

Contribution



PART III: DZ HYP'S MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISK

Financial institutions are exposed to E&S risks through their financing of economic activities that impact E&S factors and, to a lesser extent, through their own operations and impacts they themselves generate on the environment and society in which they operate.

The table below describes sustainability-related risks considered relevant to the Bank's operations and the types of projects (re)financed via the Framework.

The assessment covers the business lines and locations relevant for DZ HYP's Framework.¹²

Integration of ESG guidelines into the financing process

In the EU, the European Banking Authority (EBA) issued several guidelines to credit institutions, as mandated through the [Capital Requirements Directive \(CRD\)](#) and the [Capital Requirements Regulation \(CRR\)](#), stating minimum standards for the identification, measurement and management of E&S risks, as well as disclosure requirements regarding their E&S risk management systems. Furthermore, the European Central Bank (ECB), through the [Guide on climate-related and environmental risks](#), requires banks in the euro area to integrate climate and environmental risks into their business strategies, risk management, and governance by the end of 2024.

For credit institutions, E&S risks manifest through credit, market and operational risks. Of particular relevance is the manifestation through credit risk, as emphasized by regulators and supervisors.

Pursuant to the relevant regulation, DZ HYP integrates E&S risks across the different stages of the credit lifecycle, from transaction approval, risk classification, transaction monitoring, collateral valuation and portfolio analysis.

In the context of new lending, DZ HYP assesses clients and projects for specific exclusion criteria, reputational risks and sustainability metrics. Energy performance certificates are systematically collected for financed properties. Physical risks (e.g., natural hazards) are evaluated based on the geographic coordinates of the property. For properties that also serve as collateral, further building performance certificates (such as DGNB certificates) are obtained. Where applicable, natural hazard insurance may also be obtained.

For existing loans, the Bank reassesses physical risks as part of the collateral review process. This includes validating the current sustainability data of properties and renewing energy performance certificates if they are expired.

¹² While the Bank's operation covers corporate clients outside of Germany (i.e., in France, the Netherlands, Austria, the U.K. and Northern Ireland), the Bank confirms that all assets relevant to the Framework will be located in Germany.

For retail lending within the small loan limit,¹³ including those involving an intermediary, ESG factors are indirectly accounted for within collateral valuations, considering the location, condition and features of the property. For loans that exceed a small loan threshold, including those involving an intermediary, additional ESG risk assessments are included in the collateral valuation via the ESG appendix of the VR WERT report. Building insurance coverage is required for all financed properties to address ESG-related risks.

During the loan decision process for all clients in the corporate lending business, DZ HYP assesses the energy efficiency of the building based on a conversion scale,¹⁴ physical risks using the K.A.R.L. application (Köln Assekuranz Risiko Lösungen), and the buildings' CO₂ footprint. The latter is examined by assessing both the deviation from the existing portfolio (asset class comparison) and the deviation from the DZ HYP climate target pathway. In cases where significant physical risks are identified, structural solutions are evaluated. If the assessment reveals a poor energy efficiency, clients are required to submit a renovation plan. Additional reputational risks are individually assessed to ensure acceptability.

Per its Code of Conduct and the work instructions for the prevention of money laundering and terrorist financing, DZ HYP does not provide finance to controversial business areas such as arms trading, weapons manufacturing (e.g., mines/anti-personnel mines, nuclear/biological/chemical weapons, uranium-containing ammunition/scatter bombs), pornography and prostitution, and controversial gambling. Furthermore, controversial business practices, which may include significant human rights violations and significant environmental violations, are excluded from lending.

Due diligence measures for labor, health, safety, biodiversity, community dialogue

All assets that are currently relevant for the Sustainable Lending Framework are located in Germany, where aspects related to human rights, non-discrimination, health and safety standards, biodiversity protection and participation of affected communities are subject to strict laws and policies.

Germany is also classified as an Equator Principles Designated Country, indicating its strong environmental and social governance frameworks, legal systems and institutional capacity aimed at safeguarding both people and the natural environment.

Germany has ratified 89 ILO Conventions and two protocols, with 62 of these still in effect and through the applicable law, all DZ HYP borrowers are required to comply with the ILO Core Conventions; DZ HYP does not perform additional verification in this sense.

German law allows stakeholders, such as neighboring communities, the right to appeal building permits (per Section 42 of the [Code of Administrative Court Procedure](#)).

¹³ Threshold of EUR 600,000 applies.

¹⁴ This conversion scale is based on an internally developed tool that enables classification of non-residential buildings which don't have an energy class level displayed on the energy performance certificate.

Additionally, recognized environmental conservation organizations have established rights to appeal within public participation frameworks in building planning (as outlined in Article 64 of the [Federal Nature Conservation Act](#) and Article 2 of the [Environmental Appeals Act](#)).

As part of the financing process for newly built properties, the Bank requires the following documents:

- A building permit or, alternatively, the corresponding partial building permit including annexes, as well as a written confirmation from the municipality stating that nothing stands in the way of granting the final building permit.
- Construction plans and the construction description that form the basis for the building permit of the mortgaged property.
- Consideration of biodiversity-enhancing measures in the valuation (e.g., green roofs).

DZ HYP maintains a dedicated complaints management system to address customer and other stakeholders' concerns.

Governance over ESG topics

The Management Board of DZ HYP is responsible for the management and monitoring of ESG risks and opportunities and for allocating risk capital. It decides upon individual loan exposures. Supporting the integration of sustainability topics across all management levels and departments, three committees were created - the Sustainability Coordination Committee, the Sustainability Committee and the Sustainable Products Committee.

The Management Board is advised and monitored by the Supervisory Board and its committees on topics business, risk strategies and the Bank's performance and risk management. To this end, the Supervisory Board appoints the Nomination Committee, the Remuneration Control Committee, the Audit Committee and the Risk Committee. The chairpersons of these committees report directly to the Supervisory Board. The Risk Committee is responsible for risk management, including ESG risks, which are evaluated on a yearly basis and integrated across various types of risks: credit risk, operational risk and reputational risk. The Audit Committee monitors the effectiveness of the risk management system, and the Remuneration Control Committee monitors the appropriate structure of the remuneration systems for members of the Management Board and employees.

Organizationally, ESG risks of financial and non-financial risk types are integrated into the organizational structure following the three lines of defense model, including the Compliance function as part of the second line of defense, and Internal Audit (third line of defense).

Furthermore, the variable component of the members of the Management Board remuneration is linked to strategic sustainability targets. These targets consist of

environmental, social, and governance components. The environmental component includes the further development of DZ HYP's sustainable orientation.

Other elements of the risk management framework

DZ HYP integrates additional elements into its risk management framework, including a defined risk appetite statement for ESG risks with early warning indicators and escalation protocols. In close cooperation with DZ BANK, the institution conducts regular stress tests on ESG exposures and incorporates these risks into its internal capital adequacy assessment process (ICAAP) and internal liquidity adequacy assessment process (ILAAP). DZ HYP is also subject to the Risk Appetite Framework Policy (Group Risk Manual of the DZ BANK Group). The ICAAP report (Regulatory Risk Report (Pillar 3)) of the DZ BANK banking group also includes DZ HYP (Supervisory Risk Report of the DZ BANK Group).

A materiality analysis carried out as part of the annual risk inventory and includes a differentiation by short-, medium-, and long-term time horizons for material ESG risks. The Risk Management function monitors E&S factors across material credit and other risks, submitting regular reports with ESG aspects to the board.

Inclusion (non-discrimination)

DZ HYP confirms that all assets that are currently relevant for the Sustainable Lending Framework are located in Germany, where aspects related to human rights and non-discrimination are subject to strict laws and policies.

The Bank outlines in its [Code of Conduct](#) that it has a zero-tolerance policy for discrimination and is committed to providing equal treatment to all third parties, including customers and business partners, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, nationality, religion, political beliefs, ideology, race, disability or sexual identity.

Responsible lending practices

In terms of responsible lending practices, financial institutions in the EU are required through guidance issued by EBA to implement responsible sales and marketing practices, with due care for customer protection.

Sales practices

The initiation of the loan process of private customer loans is carried out exclusively through intermediary banks/cooperative banks. Accordingly, there is no active public advertising of loans. The Bank's relationships with the intermediary banks/cooperative banks are either governed by a master agreement or without (under the VR-BaufiComfort product). Irrespective of the cooperation model, defined credit lending guidelines and standards apply. It is unclear whether any mechanism exists at the level of DZ HYP to ensure that sales

targets at the respective partner institutions are appropriately set to mitigate the risk of predatory sales practices.

DZ HYP provides all intermediary or cooperative banks with training materials that cover product costs and risks, as well as aggressive sales to vulnerable customers. The intermediary banks/cooperatives are legally obliged to implement a systematic monitoring process for the agents. The Bank confirms that this is also reflected in the agreements with the intermediary banks/cooperatives.

Any additional costs, such as agent commissions for new transactions, are transparently disclosed to customers in writing and in the European Standardised Information Sheet.¹⁵ Furthermore, the Bank maintains a complaints management system for evaluating and recording customer complaints.

Responsible marketing

DZ HYP does not actively market loans directly to private customers. Instead, loan arrangements for private customers are facilitated exclusively through intermediary banks and cooperative banks, which may conduct their own independent marketing activities.

The intermediary banks are regulated by the [Markets in Financial Instruments Directive II](#), which requires financial service providers to thoroughly inform customers about the risks associated with their products, ensuring the information is clear and understandable. Moreover, the [Act Against Unfair Competition](#) mandates that advertisements must be clear, comprehensive and not misleading (including not concealing important information in fine print).

The pricing of the financing is agreed between DZ HYP and the customer in accordance with consumer protection requirements. This information is communicated to customers through the European Standardised Information Sheet, ensuring clear and accurate pricing with no hidden costs. In cases where credit is rejected, the Bank confirms that customers will receive written explanations from the intermediary banks detailing the reasons for the rejection.

Responsible treatment of customers with debt repayment problems

DZ HYP has implemented a comprehensive approach to responsibly manage borrowers experiencing debt repayment challenges. To prevent financial distress, the Bank applies conservative risk parameters in new business dealings with private customers. This includes maintaining a low loan-to-value ratio on collateral to ensure sustainable financial commitments. Similar measures are also in place for the corporate clients' segment, where

¹⁵ These requirements and the standard forms are relevant for all partner/cooperative banks, irrespective of the type of business contract that governs that relationship.

requirements in terms of the acceptable loan-to-value ratio or the debt-service-coverage are in place; specific covenants form part of the loan agreements.

For both corporate and retail segments, the Bank identifies potentially risky exposures through ongoing early detection procedures, which enable timely intervention. Exposures identified by the early detection procedures are individually assessed in terms of risk and regulatory requirements as part of intensive analysis and support measures carried out by specially assigned credit analysts (intensive support staff). If restructuring is necessary, the case is forwarded to specialists in the restructuring and liquidation department, who develop a tailor-made restructuring/liquidation strategy.

The bank confirms that it offers debt restructuring solutions on individually negotiated terms which do comply with internal guidelines as well as applicable law and regulatory requirements. These solutions aim to fairly reflect the individual circumstances and economic capacities of the borrower, to stabilize the loan and promote economic recovery and therefore aim to avoid detrimental measures such as foreclose or enforcement proceedings. There is no information available to ISS-Corporate on the cost of debt post-restructuring and how it compares to the previous cost of credit.

DZ HYP handles enforcement actions with prudence, adhering to the European Banking Authority's guidelines¹⁶ to ensure appropriateness. As a result, foreclosure is pursued only as a last resort, with all alternative options examined beforehand.

Carbon-related financing

The definition of carbon-intensive sectors is determined by DZ BANK, who is also responsible for the preparation of the regulatory risk report (pillar 3) for the group. Carbon-intensive sectors include real estate and include the volumes of financing outstanding at DZ HYP.

DZ HYP set targets for the decarbonization of the real estate portfolio that it finances. Emissions targets by 2030 are in place for both the commercial¹⁷ and private¹⁸ real estate business segments, including off-balance-sheet positions.

Financed emissions

DZ HYP measures financed emissions using the guidelines from PCAF (Partnership for Carbon Accounting Financials), and particularly the "Accounting and Reporting of GHG Emissions from Real Estate Operations" technical guidance published by the Global Real Estate Sustainability Benchmark ("GRESB"), PCAF and CRREM. Financed emissions are

¹⁶ EBA/GL/2018/06 Guidelines on management of non-performing and forborne exposures and EBA/GL/2015/12 Guidelines on arrears and foreclosure.

¹⁷ 36% reduction targeted compared to the 2023 baseline of 40.9 kg CO₂e/m²/year

¹⁸ 41% reduction targeted compared to the 2023 baseline of 54.4 kg CO₂e/m²/year

disclosed in its annual reporting and encompass all real estate financing representing both on-balance-sheet and off-balance-sheet positions.

PART IV: DZ HYP'S SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

Key sustainability objectives and priorities defined by the Bank

TOPIC	DZ HYP APPROACH
<p>Core ESG pillars</p>	<p>Based on DZ HYP's CSRD-aligned Sustainability Report and its sustainability strategy, the Bank's core ESG pillars are:</p> <p>Environmental</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Greening the real estate sector (energy efficiency, climate-aligned lending, decarbonization) ▪ Ecological responsibility (resource efficiency, renewable energy use, operational decarbonization) <p>Social</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Employee matters (working conditions, diversity & equal opportunities, training, well-being) ▪ Social commitment (community engagement & municipal sustainability assessment) <p>Governance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sustainable banking (ESG-integrated lending, exclusion criteria, sustainable products) ▪ Responsible corporate governance & compliance <p>These pillars were defined using GRI guidance, regulatory requirements, stakeholder expectations, market trends, and annual strategic review processes.</p>
<p>Definition of core ESG pillars</p>	<p>The pillars stem from a structured internal process that includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A CSRD/ESRS double-materiality assessment (impact and financial materiality) performed in 2024; ▪ Alignment with GRI principles, EU Taxonomy, ESRS, Paris Agreement, and UN SDGs; ▪ Structured stakeholder engagement including Advisory Boards, employee surveys, client events, rating agencies, NGOs, and regulators; ▪ Integration within DZ HYP's overarching sustainability strategy, reviewed annually and embedded in the DZ BANK Group governance framework.

TOPIC	DZ HYP APPROACH
<p>ESG targets and timeline</p>	<p>To achieve its ESG commitments, the Bank has set the following targets and timeline:</p> <p>Climate & Environmental Targets (Operations — Scopes 1–3)¹⁹</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Achieve climate-neutral operations by 2045 ▪ Reduce GHG financed emissions of –9% by 2030, –24% by 2035 and –47% by 2040 vs. 2024 as baseline (VfU methodology) <p>Climate Targets for Financed Emissions (PCAF and CRREM-aligned)</p> <p>DZ HYP set decarbonization pathways for its financed real estate portfolios (Scope 3 Category 15), benchmarked against CRREM:</p> <p>For corporate portfolio vs. 2023 as baseline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ –7% by 2026 ▪ –36% by 2030 ▪ –78% by 2040 ▪ –99% by 2050 <p>For retail portfolio vs. 2023 as baseline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ –11% by 2026 ▪ –41% by 2030 ▪ –82% by 2040 ▪ –99% by 2050 <p>Social Targets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase diversity and ensure equal opportunities; fixed targets for women in leadership (25% by 2025 for tier-1 and tier-2 management) ▪ Strengthen employee development, well-being, and training (e.g., ZukunftsFit! programme) <p>Governance Targets</p>

¹⁹ According to DZ HYP's CSRD-aligned Sustainability Report (2024), these operational climate targets cover Scopes 1, 2, and parts of Scope 3, specifically:

Scope 1: Direct emissions from heating and fuels

Scope 2: Purchased electricity and district heating

Scope 3 (selected categories): Business travel, Commuting, Paper consumption, Other operationally controllable categories defined in the VfU indicators.

TOPIC	DZ HYP APPROACH
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strengthened compliance structures and sustainability governance embedded across the Bank ▪ Systematic integration of ESG risk assessments into lending decisions (energy efficiency, exclusion criteria, climate risk scoring)
<p>Science-Based Targets</p>	<p>The Bank has no (verified) science-based targets.</p> <p>However, financed emissions targets are science-based and Paris-aligned through the use of CRREM decarbonization pathways, recognized as science-based sector trajectories.</p>
<p>Financial budget to achieve the ESG targets (CapEx, OpEx, Product Mix)</p>	<p>There is no information available on the Bank’s financial budget to achieve its ESG targets.</p>
<p>Industry associations, collective commitments</p>	<p>The Bank is a member of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Principles for Responsible Banking (2026) ▪ UN Global Compact (participant 2013)²⁰ ▪ German Diversity Charter (2012) ▪ Member of sustainability-relevant associations including VfU, vdp, ZIA, GdW, ECBC, among others ▪
<p>Sustainability reporting</p>	<p>The Bank reports on its ESG performance and initiatives annually. The report is prepared in line with CSRD/ESRS recommendations. The report is available on the Bank’s website.</p>
<p>Previously issued sustainable/sustainability-linked issuances or transactions and publication of sustainable</p>	<p>DZ HYP issued the first Green Mortgage Pfandbrief in February 2022. The Framework received a second party opinion from ISS-Corporate. During the 2023, 2024 and 2025 financial years, the Bank issued further Green Pfandbrief. The total Green Mortgage Pfandbrief outstanding as at year-end 2025 amounted to EUR 4,8 billion.²¹</p>

20 DZ BANK, the parent institution of DZ HYP, has signed the UN Global Compact and issues an annual progress report for the DZ BANK Group. Through DZ BANK’s participation in the UN Global Compact, DZ HYP also commits itself to the ten globally applicable principles of responsible business conduct.

²¹ [DZ HYP Green Bond Report 2025](#)

TOPIC	DZ HYP APPROACH
financing framework	

ANNEX 1: Methodology

PART I: REVIEW OF THE SUSTAINABLE LENDING FRAMEWORK

We consider relevant market guidelines in the assessment of sustainable finance strategies. The analysis considers criteria from a set of different market standards, voluntary guidelines and market practices (e.g., the [LMA's](#) Green Loan Principles and Social Loan Principles, the [UNEP-FI PRB](#), and the guidelines proposed by the European Banking Authority with respect to environmentally sustainable lending). The application of the LMA principles, comprising voluntary guidelines, is limited to the assessment of characteristics of a specific transaction.

SECTION	ASSESSMENT CRITERIA
<p>1. Objectives, targets and progress</p>	<p>For a financing strategy to be classified as sustainable, banks should embed these within the context of their overarching sustainability objectives. The institutions should further include relevant qualitative and, where feasible, quantitative targets to measure the progress on their commitments. Banks provide transparency on how to increase positive impacts, reduce negative impacts and mitigate ESG risks. The sustainability strategy is expressed by referring to alliances such as the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement, or national or regional frameworks.</p>
<p>2. Definition of sustainable lending activities</p>	<p>The sustainable lending strategy should clearly and comprehensively define what transactions are deemed sustainable based on precise parameters. Ideally, the bank should provide an exhaustive list of eligible sustainable activities. The criteria should ensure a positive contribution to relevant sustainability objectives and be sufficiently precise to ensure a minimum level of contribution to those objectives (e.g., clear definition, quantified thresholds or impact indicators) while ensuring that other objectives are not harmed.</p>
<p>3. Evaluation and selection process</p>	<p>Banks should have a comprehensive and documented process in place to ensure that the classified projects align with the eligibility criteria for sustainable financing instruments. The borrower of a green/social loan should clearly communicate the environmental/social objective(s) of the projects, the process by which the borrower determines how the project(s) to be funded fit(s) within the eligible project categories, and complementary information on the processes by which the borrower identifies and manages perceived, actual or potential environmental and social risks associated with the relevant project(s).</p>
<p>4. Governance and monitoring</p>	<p>Clear governance mechanisms should be in place to ensure that the products classified as sustainable remain in line with the criteria for sustainable lending instruments throughout their lifecycle. This should include a process to deal with products that cease to meet the eligibility</p>

	<p>criteria. Effective governance procedures pertaining to sustainability, assigning clear roles and responsibilities, and segregating duties are in place to promote sustainable business practices. Management of proceeds should be attested to by the borrower in a formal internal process linked to the borrower’s lending and investment operations for green or social projects. The borrower should make known to the lenders any intended types of temporary placement for the balance of unallocated proceeds. Where appropriate, it is recommended that borrowers appoint (an) external review provider(s) to assess the alignment of their green loan or green loans program with the four core components of the LMA principles.</p>
<p>5. Reporting</p>	<p>Relevant reporting should be conducted frequently and, where feasible, made publicly available to communicate the classified sustainable transactions, as well as the impact and progress of the sustainable lending strategy. Elements to be reported on should be communicated clearly at the inception of the strategy and capture the most significant areas of impact on environmental and social topics.</p>
<p>6. Verification</p>	<p>It is recommended that in connection with the establishment of a sustainable lending framework, banks obtain external reviews. External reviews should be made publicly available.</p>

PART II: ASSESSMENT OF DZ HYP' SUSTAINABLE FINANCE CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

This section examines the sustainability quality of each of the parameters included in DZ HYP's sustainable finance classification system and discusses the sustainability quality of the compliant products.

PART III: MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS

The E&S management overview displays how the Financial Institution addresses E&S risks related to its financing activities. The section is structured in a way that first displays the overall elements of system in place to manage E&S risks related to the instruments financed through the Framework; thereafter the management of selected risks relevant to the proposed selection criteria is described.

The analysis was carried out based on ISS-Corporate own research using public information (e.g., applicable regulation in the jurisdiction(s) in which the Bank operates, public sustainability reports of the Bank) and information and documents provided confidentially by the Bank (e.g., Due Diligence procedures).

PART IV: SUSTAINABLE LENDING FRAMEWORK'S LINK TO DZ HYP'S SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

This section provides an assessment of the sustainability quality of the Group and how the underlying Sustainable Lending Framework contributes to its sustainability strategy. Drawing on the ISS Sustainability Corporate Rating, a focus is put on the Group's overarching sustainability policies as well as the management of related ESG risks.

ANNEX 2: Quality management processes

SCOPE

DZ HYP commissioned ISS-Corporate to compile a Sustainable Lending Framework External Review. The External Review process includes verifying whether the Sustainable Lending Framework aligns with market practices for sustainable finance and assessing its sustainability credentials, as well as the credibility of the Bank's sustainable financing classification system.

CRITERIA

Relevant standards for this External Review stem from key principles for transparency and non-contamination of sustainable-labeled products, including:

- The LMA's Green Loan Principles, Social Loan Principles and Sustainability-Linked Loan Principles
- UNEP-FI PRB
- Guidelines proposed by the European Banking Authority with respect to environmentally sustainable lending

CLIENT'S RESPONSIBILITY

DZ HYP's responsibility was to provide information and documentation on:

- Sustainable Lending Framework
- ESG impact and risk management
- Governance procedures

ISS-CORPORATE'S VERIFICATION PROCESS

Since 2014, ISS STOXX, which ISS-Corporate is part of, has built up a reputation as a highly reputed thought leader in the green and social bond market and has become one of the first CBI-approved verifiers.

ISS-Corporate has conducted this independent External Review of DZ HYP's Sustainable Lending Framework based on proprietary methodology and in line with market practices and relevant market standards for sustainable lending.

The engagement with DZ HYP took place from February to May 2026.

ISS-CORPORATE'S BUSINESS PRACTICES

ISS-Corporate has conducted this verification in strict compliance with the ISS STOXX Code of Ethics, which lays out detailed requirements in integrity, transparency, professional competence and due care, professional behaviour and objectivity for the ISS business and team members. It is designed to ensure that the verification is conducted independently and without any conflicts of interest with other parts of ISS STOXX.

About this External Review

Companies turn to ISS-Corporate for expertise in designing and managing governance, compensation, sustainability and cyber risk programs that align with company goals, reduce risk and manage the needs of a diverse shareholder base by delivering best-in-class data, tools and advisory services.

As part of our sustainable (green and social) bond services, we provide support for companies and institutions issuing sustainable bonds, advise them on the selection of categories of projects to be financed and help them define ambitious criteria.

ISS-Corporate provides External Review services for sustainable financing and responsible investment strategies by assessing the robustness of its clients' frameworks.

Please visit ISS-Corporate's [website](#) to learn more about our services for bond issuers.

For more information on External Review services, contact SPOsales@iss-corporate.com.

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