



AIB launches Green Bond Framework and becomes United Nations Responsible Banking Signatory

23rd September 2019

- AIB launches Green Bond Framework, which will enable the bank to issue green bonds
- AIB becomes a Founding Signatory of the UNEP FI Principles for Responsible Banking at UN General Assembly
 - AIB becomes Supporter of Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures

AIB has launched a Green Bond Framework, in line with the globally recognised International Capital Markets Association (ICMA) green bond principles that will enable the bank to issue green bonds. A key objective of the bank is to facilitate the transition to a low-carbon economy in a meaningful way. This framework will support lending to projects in energy efficient building, renewable energy, CO2 reduction and other climate-related initiatives.

ING Bank advised AIB in establishing the framework which has been independently assessed by Sustainalytics, a global leader in environmental, social and governance (ESG) who said “Sustainalytics is of the opinion that the AIB green bond framework is credible and impactful and aligns with the four core components of the green bond principles 2018.”

AIB has also become a Founding Signatory of the *UNEP FI (United Nations Environment Programme – Finance Initiative) Principles for Responsible Banking*, committing to strategically align its business with the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. By signing the Principles for Responsible Banking, AIB joins a coalition of 130 banks worldwide, representing over USD 47 trillion in assets, in committing to taking on a crucial role in helping to achieve a sustainable future.

Taking place at the start of the UN General Assembly in New York and attended by over 45 CEOs from founding signatory banks, the official launch of the Principles for Responsible Banking marked the beginning of the most significant partnership to date between the global banking industry and the UN. Speaking at the launch event UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said “The UN Principles for Responsible Banking are a guide for the global banking industry to respond to, drive and benefit from a sustainable development economy. The Principles create the accountability that can realise responsibility, and the ambition that can drive action.” The Principles were launched one day ahead of the UN Climate Action Summit.

Colin Hunt, AIB Chief Executive Officer said “In AIB, we believe that banks have a key role to play in creating a sustainable future for everyone. Having recently become a Founding Signatory of the UNEP Finance Initiative’s Principles for Responsible Banking, we look forward to further aligning our activities to the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement. Our launch of a Green Bond Framework is a further step on this journey. Through this framework, we are backing our customers in addressing the transition to a low-carbon economy and are showing our intent to our investors to lead the way in funding sustainable Irish business.”

AIB has also announced it has become a Supporter of the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD). The TCFD recommends voluntary, consistent climate-related financial risk

disclosures for use by companies in providing information to investors, lenders, insurers and other stakeholders.

More information on the AIB Green Bond Framework available here:

<https://aib.ie/content/dam/aib/investorrelations/docs/debt-investors/green-bonds/aib-green-bond-framework.pdf>

More information about the Principles for Responsible Banking available here:

www.unepfi.org/responsiblebanking

More information about the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures here:

<https://www.fsb-tcf.org/>

ENDS

Media Contacts:

paddy.x.mcdonnell@aib.ie 01 641 2869 / 087 739 0743

graham.x.union@aib.ie 01 6414230 / 087 715 7547

Notes to editor:

The announcements from AIB in the area of sustainability complement the ongoing work done by the bank:

- In June 2019 AIB announced €5 billion will be made available for climate related and green products over the next five years.
- In May 2019 AIB published its third Sustainability Report which outlines the progress the bank is making in response to the key social, environmental and economic issues which have been identified by stakeholders as areas which the bank should help address. Through the report, AIB aimed to provide greater transparency and rebuild trust among its stakeholders in order to create long-term value as a sustainable business in the economy and the community.
- In 2017 AIB established the Energy, Climate Action and Infrastructure team in recognition that a centre of excellence was required in an essential growth sector. This team is now one of the largest in the market and is supporting AIB's goal of playing a leadership role in assisting Ireland deliver its sustainability and de-carbonisation goals. In 2018 AIB was the leading Irish lender in the renewables field.
- The bank is one of only two Irish organisations to achieve a CDP Climate Change A rating in 2018, and reduced its carbon footprint in buildings. In 2018 AIB signed up to the Low Carbon Pledge which will reduce our Scope 1 and 2 greenhouse gas emissions intensity by 50% by 2030.
- AIB has also announced its sponsorship of Climate Finance Week Ireland 2019 in a further effort to support Ireland's programme to address climate change. This is in addition to the work AIB is already doing through investment in clean energy and in ensuring all AIB office buildings have a more sustainable footprint.
- AIB is funding climate-related research to be carried out by the ESRI.