

# Press Release

Düsseldorf/Münster, January 31, 2024

## Award for corporate environmental protection

### NRW.BANK receives environmental management seal

**NRW.BANK has been awarded the EMAS (Eco-Management and Audit Scheme) certificate, the European Union's strict seal of approval for verified environmental management. The EMAS certificate is awarded to companies and organisations that systematically improve their energy and material efficiency and reduce harmful environmental impacts and environment-related risks.**

“As a promotional bank, we not only finance the transformation of our customers, but also aim to make our own banking business climate-neutral by 2045,” says Eckhard Forst, Chairman of the Managing Board of NRW.BANK. “EMAS certification is an important milestone for us, which we see both as recognition of our achievements and as a mandate to continuously improve our environmental performance.”

The responsible use of resources is a key component of NRW.BANK's sustainability strategy. The certificate documents that NRW.BANK's banking activities are sustainable and comprehensively integrate ecological aspects. Following a successful external audit, NRW.BANK was included in the EMAS register. As an EMAS-registered bank, NRW.BANK has undertaken to comply with all environmental regulations and to report on its environmental efforts in an environmental statement. The latter transparently discloses progress, activities and objectives in the area of corporate environmental protection. It is based on a comprehensive analysis of NRW.BANK's operational processes, its use of resources and the environmental impact of its activities.

However, reducing its environmental footprint is also a self-declared goal of NRW.BANK, independent of EMAS certification. Since 2019, NRW.BANK has defined its own objectives and activities to drive forward the further development of sustainability issues at the Bank. The achievement of these objectives is regularly assessed and the activities are modified and adjusted. A summary of NRW.BANK's current objectives and activities can be found in the [Sustainability Programme](#).

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For more information, visit [www.nrwbank.de/en/about-us/sustainability](http://www.nrwbank.de/en/about-us/sustainability)

**About EMAS:**

EMAS, which goes beyond the internationally recognised ISO 14001 standard, is the world's most ambitious environmental management scheme, launched by the European Commission in 1993. It ensures that all environmental aspects, from energy consumption to waste and emissions, are managed in a legally compliant and transparent manner. EMAS environmental certification is available to companies and organisations of all sizes and sectors worldwide.

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**NRW.BANK – the promotional bank for North Rhine-Westphalia**

NRW.BANK is the promotional bank of North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW). In close partnership with its owner, the State of North Rhine-Westphalia, the Bank helps to strengthen SMEs and start-ups, create affordable housing and improve public infrastructure. To fulfil its mandate, NRW.BANK offers people, enterprises and local authorities tailor-made financing solutions and advisory services. It cooperates with its financing partners, in particular all banks and savings banks, on a competition-neutral basis. NRW.BANK operates largely independently of the state budget. In order to accelerate the transformation processes, the promotional bank provides effective promotional impulses – for a sustainable, climate-neutral and digital North Rhine-Westphalia.

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