



Press Release

World Environment Day: Alpha Bank is consistently promoting sustainability, biodiversity and green growth

With initiatives, actions and a concrete investment plan, the Bank works every day for a better future on a greener planet

Recognizing its responsibility to society and the environment, Alpha Bank has implemented practices and initiatives aimed at protecting the natural environment. Additionally, the Bank finances business practices that promote sustainability and green growth. The Bank has recently joined the ranks of international organizations promoting the protection of the environment, by signing the UNEP FI Finance Statement on Plastic Pollution, which calls on governments to negotiate an ambitious treaty to end plastic pollution.

The bees as a symbol of biodiversity – supporting beekeepers in Larissa

Reflecting Alpha Bank's commitment to the environment, an initiative was organized on World Environment Day to emphasize the crucial role of bees in maintaining biodiversity and environmental balance.

According to UN data, over 35% of invertebrate pollinators are threatened with extinction, while the bees' extinction rate has gone up by as much as 1,000 times, in some cases, as a result of the effects of human interventions on the environment. Their complete extinction would have serious implications not only for the environment but also for our diet.

Thus, the Bank organized a symbolic voluntary action in collaboration with the "Bee For Planet" non-profit organization and the Institute of Agronomic Sciences (which comes under the supervision of the Ministry of Rural Development & Food). Around 150 employees of the Bank met at the Syggros Estate and built 150 hives that will be offered to the Larissa Beekeepers Association, which had been severely damaged by last September's floods. These hives will be used to accommodate a population of bees estimated at over 3,000,000 bees, which in 2024 are expected to pollinate nearly 13 million plants. The action also supports the local communities of Larissa and other nearby areas, as well as the beekeeper's profession in the wider region.

A long-standing commitment to the Environment

Alpha Bank is at the forefront of the efforts to protect the environment and meet the needs arising from natural disasters. In the 2022-2023 period, the Bank assisted financially the Fire Department and also took steps to ensure that it was provided with firefighting vehicles, which were donated by the Bank to Volunteer Firefighters Associations in Attica, Evia and the Peloponnese.

In the summer of 2023, the Bank responded immediately to the devastating fires in Rhodes and Thrace, supporting the work of firefighters with the donation of equipment, while in the autumn of the same year it planted 1,700 trees in Rhodes, along the road network connecting the communities of Glystra, Kiotari, Asklipieio and Gennadi.

Moreover, as of 2021, the Bank is implementing a [reforestation program through structured bonds](#), under which for every Euro 1,000 of nominal participation in sustainable investment products, 1 tree is planted. The program, which has a five-year time horizon, is carried out in collaboration with the Reforest Action environmental enterprise and the Forest Research Institute of Thessaloniki. So far, over 58,600 trees have been planted in Katerini, Thessaloniki, Evia and the Pieria Mountains, contributing to the capture of over 8,800 tons of CO₂ from the atmosphere.



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Alpha Bank was the Bank that financed the project “[Astypalaia smart & sustainable island](#)”, introducing and promoting electromobility for individuals, while it is also a sponsor of AstyBus, launching the first green and smart urban transport service for the sustainable transportation of the island’s visitors and residents. In 2023, a total of 27,833 trips were made covering 188,987 kilometers, while 25% of the residents of Astypalaia are users of the service.

Finally, within the framework of the corporate social responsibility program [IQonomy](#), the Bank continues the “[Circular Economy in Action](#)” initiative in schools across the country, in collaboration with the NGO SciCo. The initiative highlights the importance of the circular economy, introduces the principles of sustainability and invites students to create their own sustainable business. Since 2022, when the initiative was launched, more than 30,000 school students and teachers have been trained. Moreover, it was in the framework of this initiative that school students of Astypalaia created the first smart and sustainable greenhouse, in the primary school of the area.

Green investments target set at Euro 4.4 billion

To support an environmentally sustainable economy and mitigate the impacts of climate change, Alpha Bank has developed an ambitious plan aimed at increasing Sustainable Financings and reducing financings that may impact adversely on the environment.

According to its recently published [Sustainable Finance Framework](#), the Bank finances sustainable projects by allocating funds to green and socially beneficial investments, giving priority to power generation, building infrastructure and transport, while at the same time excluding investments aimed at lignite or oil extraction, as well as specific activities that are harmful to biodiversity, biotopes and water resources.

As the CEO of Alpha Bank, Vassilios Psaltis, recently underlined, speaking at the conference “Climate in the Center of Economy” organized by the Hellenic Capital Market Commission, sustainability is a key pillar of the Bank’s strategy. *“We started with the aim of directing €3 billion to finance the energy transition in the period 2024-2026, of which €1 billion to RES. During 2023, we disbursed Euro 850 million in green loans, of which Euro 432 million in RES, exceeding our initial expectations for the year. This year, we are targeting new disbursements of about Euro 850 million for RES, while we revised upwards our overall targets for green loans over the next three years to Euro 4.4 billion,”* Mr. Psaltis said.

Sustainable Development at the heart of Alpha Bank’s operation

The Bank is actively undergoing a green and sustainable transformation, addressing both its operational and financed emissions. Alpha Bank is the first bank in Greece to become a member of the Net-Zero Banking Alliance, the United Nations’ Climate Neutrality Alliance. The purpose of the Alliance is to strengthen and accelerate the strategies for the reduction of carbon emissions, by establishing an international framework and a set of guidelines for the banking sector, in line with the Paris Agreement on climate change. By doing so, the Bank has officially committed itself to achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

In 2023, the Bank managed to provide 100% renewable electricity for all its buildings, including its Branches throughout the country, while 89% of its total energy consumption during the year came from renewable sources.