

Green Banking Unit Starts Its Journey

The impact of climate change is evident where a survey revealed that the overall temperature of the globe is rising by 4.4°C approx with sunshine gradually deeming and humidity increasing. Under such circumstances to harness this deteriorating climatic condition Bangladesh Bank came forward to address this issue at the right time. They urged all banks to abide by the “Green Banking Policy” issued to bring the banking industry under one common platform. This contemporary measure by Bangladesh Bank will not only ensure nationwide awareness building but will also play a pivotal role in contributing for a great cause at the global context. Bangladesh being one of the top ten nations vulnerable to climate change should seriously ponder on this critical issue and ensure adequate adaptation and mitigation techniques are executed at all level.

Not lagging behind at the call of time, with our commitment of sustainable development BRAC Bank Limited has adopted the “3P” agenda –Planet, People and Profit as its fundamental guiding principle, a fact that has gained global recognition for the Bank. From launching of e-Commerce solution for the first time in Bangladesh to usage of recycled papers for all ***Premium Banking*** stationeries, BRAC bank serves the nation with an edge. The creation of Green Fund from Planet Cards as well as exhaustive promotion of I-banking, are all done with one objective, to replace physical commuting with electronic medium thereby leading to reduced fuel consumption and lesser air and noise pollution. With 128 SME Unit Offices and 4 branches powered by solar energy to mark the significance of renewable energy sources, BRAC Bank’s all endeavors lead towards contributing for the social cause.

In line with the philosophy to preserve the serenity of our mother nature **Green Banking Unit** has been established under the supervision of Head of Risk Management. As per the directive from Bangladesh Bank and Board approved **“Green Banking Policy”** this unit will be responsible for designing, evaluating and administering activities related to green banking issues of the bank. This unit is comprised of the Green Savivors from all relevant departments pan bank, who will play instrumental role in driving all the green initiatives in days to come. The members are as follows;

Head of Risk Management Division	Syed Faridul Islam	Chair
Head of Risk Monitoring & Basel Imp.	Md. Feroz Al Azad	Member
Head of Learning & Development	Mahbub Alam	Member
Head of Products & Marketing	Md. Ariful Islam Choudhury	Member
Head of Corporate Instruction and Structured Finance	Syed Golam Maruf	Member
Head of SME Credit	Arup Haider	Member
Head of ID & M	Amitav Kaiser	Member
Head of General Support Services	Hussain Farukh	Member
Sr. Manager, External Affairs	Mohammad Tanveer Rahman	Member
Sr. Manager, Product, SME Banking	Monzurul Haque	Member
Sr. Manager, Credit Risk, Large Corporate	Mohammad Firoz Alam	Member
Sr. Manager, Software Security & Risks	B.M. Zahid ul Haque	Member
Manager, Product Development, R&D	Ashique Iqbal	Member
Manager, Regulatory Reporting	Arif Kibria	Member
Manager, Capital Adequacy Management, Basel Implementation , RMD	Tahmina Z. Khan	Coordinators
Manager, Stress Testing, Basel Implementation , RMD	Chowdhury Farah Jabeen	

Establishment of this unit entails a series of activities, some of which are already underway. Formulation of **Green Banking Policy** is one of the crucial tasks achieved by the unit with the blessings of the Board and Board Audit Committee. To practice in-house environmental management a **Green Office Guide**, a set of general instructions for efficient use of electricity, water, paper and reuse of equipments, has been designed and circulated to employees. A unit without any goal is akin to a ship without a navigator, thereby this unit upon rigorous research and analysis developed “**Green Strategic Planning**” for the year 2013. The planning not only elaborates attainable action items but also reveals BRAC Bank’s sincere commitment towards balanced ecology. It is evident that, we have our footprints in various industries nationwide, but to ensure close attention and supervision on the most concentrated ones (credit facilities wise) this unit specially fabricated **Sector Specific Green Environmental Policies**. With periodic disclosures via website, media coverage and quarterly reporting to Bangladesh Bank, this unit ensures stringent transparency and perpetual review for all its stakeholders.

Nevertheless, involvement of employees from Business, Support and Operation divisions, made this Unit a strong combined force, which will develop new tools and techniques to reduce the consumption of energy, water, fuel and other resources, design eco friendly products, take up customer awareness programs as well as launch Green branches in the near future. However, specifications for Green branch are yet to be provided by Bangladesh Bank. This unit will help explore areas vulnerable to climate change to extend credit facilities upon ensuring proper mitigation strategies. With the prime responsibility to inculcate the passion for nature, Green unit will invariably chalk out diverse green initiatives for all. BRAC Bank vouches for operating in the industry with Green Soul, which will not only ensure a delightful service experience 24 X7 but also a SMILE in every customer’s face as they step out of the bank.