



ARM SWISS BANK



Implementing **SUSTAINABLE PROGRAMS involves careful planning,
stakeholder engagement, and a focus on environmental, social
and economic aspects:**

**Prioritizing resource efficiency and
community engagement.**



ARM SWISS BANK



Our way to a more sustainable future ...

The name “ARMSWISSBANK” stands for innovative, customer-centric and tailor-made corporate banking services in Armenia for almost 20 years. This brochure is a short summary of the activities of ARMSWISSBANK in the area of Sustainable development.

Sustainability has become a top priority in the twenty-first century. The concept is about social development towards awareness of fair treatment of our environment, which is also important for future generations. ARMSWISSBANK is known for its focus on ethical and sustainable finance, investing in projects and organizations with a positive social, environmental and cultural impact. This includes funding for renewable energy, waste management, resource efficiency and trade initiatives.

We have a strong commitment becoming the leader in promoting environmental and social sustainability in the financial sector of Armenia. Extremely hard on our sustainability strategy and our efforts are paying off.

But we're not done yet... To demonstrate our commitment to people and our planet, with support from our partner Multilateral Development Banks we're now upgrading our business strategy and internal procedures covering the following focus areas: Environment, Society, Resources management, as well as Community.

We support green energy transformation ...

Energy is at the heart of the climate challenge – and key to the solution. A large chunk of the greenhouse gases that blanket the Earth and trap the sun’s heat is generated through energy production, by burning fossil fuels to generate electricity and heat.

ARMSWISSBANK finances investment projects in the renewable energy sector almost 15 years reduces reliance on fossil fuels and promotes alternative sources of energy that are clean, accessible, affordable, sustainable, and reliable. In just 5 years we transformed more, than 170 businesses from fossil fuel-dependence on renewable energy.

In partnership with several Multilateral Development Funds ARMSWISSBANK financed projects in the renewable energy sector with a total installed capacity of up to 200MWt, out of which almost 120 Mwt are Solar PV stations. The expertise of our employees, flexible and client-oriented approach towards financing such projects made ARMSWISSBANK one of the leaders in the sector. We cover almost 40% of the industrial scale Solar PV station portfolio in Armenia.



“Sharosolar” LLC is one of the first companies, that invested in industrial scale Solar PV stations. With the support of ARMSWISSBANK, the company founded 12MWt capacity Solar PV stations, which is an exemplary one. The company used cutting-edge technologies for these stations from leading producers. ARMSWISSBANK channeled favorable terms funding from German -Armenian fund (KfW Bank program) for these projects. “Sharosolar” LLC produces 21,600,000 Kwt of clean energy every year, which is equivalent to saving 15,310 tons of GHG emissions.

The success story of “SHARO SOLAR” LLC



Saving energy for future sustainability ...

While renewable energy technologies also help accomplish the objectives of climate change mitigation, improving energy efficiency is the cheapest and often the most immediate way to reduce the use of fossil fuels.

There are enormous opportunities for efficiency improvements in every sector of the economy, whether it is buildings, transportation, industry or energy generation. Saving energy reduces air and water pollution and conserves natural resources, which in turn creates a healthier living environment for people everywhere.

Having a significant share of the corporate and SME portfolio, ARMSWISSBANK financed scalable projects for improving energy efficiency in business. This is a continuous process. The Bank has the internal capacity for the assessment and feasibility study of the energy efficiency of each project.

Our internal energy auditor provides opinions on energy efficiency in a frame of different projects of ARMSWISSBANK, including projects financed by Multilateral Development Banks.



ARMSWISSBANK is an active Partner Financial Institution in the frame of such programs, such as “EBRD GEFF Armenia”, "GAF Energy Efficiency Programme for MSMEs", etc...

“Yerevan Chocolate Factory” CJSC is one of the best examples of transformation to energy-efficient technologies. With support of ARMSWISSBANK, this company significantly upgraded the efficiency of production, increased capacity and quality of products.



The Success Story of “Yerevan
Chocolate Factory” CJSC

Greening the buildings

As a style of living and cultural form, cities are on the up. For the first time, over half of the world's population today lives in cities and the trend of urbanization continues, particularly in emerging and developing countries, but also in highly developed industrial nations. This means that the city as a living space must become more diverse, more interconnected, more ecological, more liveable and in every respect more sustainable.

Financing of residential and commercial construction projects are one of our key areas. Research and statistics show, that a major part of GHG emissions come from buildings. As a preventive measure, we at ARMSWISSBANK encourage our developers to construct energy-efficient buildings.

Better buildings are more attractive to business owners and occupants of environmental benefits, improved comfort, higher efficiency and less waste, and lower operating costs which also positively impacts occupancy levels.

One of these projects is the "Luyser" residential complex. The residential complex is named "Luyser" (Luyser means Lights in Armenian) due to its bright and spacious apartments with lots of natural light. It has almost 600 apartments, which are energy efficient. "Luyser" residential complex received a passport of Energy Efficiency in the frame of UNDP program.

More details below....

The Success Story of "LUYSER" CJSC



Modernizing agriculture to make the best use of non-renewable resources...

There is a concentrated effort to modernize the agriculture industry and data-driven weather intelligence is the key to sustainability. Managing the decision-making processes of farming have always been complex because there are so many different limiting factors that aren't within a farmer's control. The weather itself is chief among them... Sustainable agriculture is farming in such a way to protect the environment, to aid and expand natural resources and to make the best use of non-renewable resources.

Traditional farming is not a focus sector for ARMSWISSBANK, and we finance only smart agricultural projects. State subsidy programs accelerated the development of modern agriculture in Armenia. A significant number of smart orchards with drip irrigation systems, anti-hail nets and reservoirs, as well as modern greenhouses were founded during the past several years.

ARMSWISSBANK is one of the leading partner financial institution in the frame of these State subsidy programs. One of our remarkable projects is "AR Vines" LLC. This is one of the best examples of doing sustainable agricultural project and creating value chain in this sector.



With the support of ARMSWISSBANK, "AR Vines" LLC established 200 ha of intensive orchards of pistachio. The trees are irrigated by drip irrigation systems, and in frame of this project two huge reservoirs were constructed. "AR Vines" LLC founded the orchards in Armavir and Aragatsotn regions, created significant workplaces for women leaving in regions and is also one of the main buyers of agriculture goods from villagers.

Success story of "AR VINES" LLC



Corporate and Social Responsibility is a key for sustainable development...

Concepts such as sustainability and ESG strategies, the climate crisis, decarbonization, fairness, inclusion and equality and the circular economy are now part of everyday corporate language. Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is the idea that a company should play a positive role in the community and consider the environmental and social impact of business decisions. It is closely linked to sustainability.

CSR is a key aspect of attention at ARMSWISSBANK as well. The Bank upgraded its “Environmental and Social Risk Management” policy in 2022, which was supported by the Asian Development Bank. The importance the CSR is approved on the Management level.

In order to carry out appropriate corporate activism, companies need strong internal commitment. At the Bank we integrated CSR into business strategy across all levels.

This commitment must, however, be sincere and come from within, generating a sense of pride and being part of everyone who works in the organization. At the same time, it must be shared externally: this corporate culture must be transmitted through alliances and collaborations in order to inspire other companies.

From theory to action...

It is especially important, that companies committed to corporate activism find the optimism and strength to take action. Further you can find actions of ARMSWISSBANK CJSC in the frame of CRS... “Beyond products: How we live sustainability” .



**Water supply was restored in the border
Movses community with the support of
ARMSWISSBANK ...**

With the donation of ARMSWISSBANK, the water line of the inner district of the border Movses community, which was cut off from water supply for a long time, was restored.

The 550-meter-long water line has been completely replaced with new pipes and today the population of the community is already using the water supply.

The Bank implemented another important social support and gave happiness to those who need it.

At the same time, the head of the village of Movses and the residents expressed their gratitude to the Bank, the Executive Director Mr. Gevorg Machanyan and the entire staff of the Bank for bringing the long-awaited water line to life.

Planting trees is the only available tool we have today to offset our carbon emissions...



50 ha of new forest for the 30th anniversary of Armenian dram...

At the end of 2022, Mr. Gevorg Machanyan, the Chairman of the Management Board and the Executive director of ARMSWISSBANK, suggested this idea to all his colleagues, and it was accepted unanimously. 20 hectares of newly created forest was planted in Jrashen 2 and another 30 hectares in Urasar. Upon the end of the community land use period, the land and the forest ecosystem will be returned to the community. This event is one of the best examples of the Bank's appreciation of the unique role of creating lasting values, social responsibility and nature conservation.

The forest was named on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Armenian dram. The Central Bank of Armenia, the Union of Banks of Armenia and all 18 commercial banks take part in this initiative.

160,000 trees of various species (oak, maple, beech, linden, wild pear, wild apple, walnut, birch and others) were planted. The forests are created as permanent and future-oriented asset will symbolize the permanence of the national currency.

The Chairman of the Management Board and executive director of ARMSWISSBANK Mr. Gevorg Machanyan is recognized as "My Forest Ambassador". He has always been passionate about trees. Maintaining and expanding forests are crucial to sustain life on our planet.



ARMSWISSBANK donated radio guide devices to “Matenadaran” and “EREBUNI” historical and archaeological museum-reserve...

ARMSWISSBANK donated 72 radio guide devices to “Matenadaran”, which is visited by tens of thousands of visitors every year. The use of radio guides in the library will provide an opportunity to provide a quality presentation of manuscripts to different groups of visitors at the same time. The importance of using radio guides was even more essential especially in those conditions of the pandemic, when it was necessary to ensure social distance. The initiative shown by the Bank allows the presentation of historical values to be carried out with new technologies.

Manuscripts, fragments of manuscripts, documents, old printed books, precious bindings, individual miniatures and more are shown from the Matenadaran database of roughly 20,000 manuscripts.

Meantime ARMSWISSBANK donated audio guide devices to “EREBUNI” historical and archaeological museum-reserve, through which visitors will have the opportunity to get acquainted with the exhibits presented in the museum in six languages.

An electronic translation panel was installed in the theater of the National Academic Theater of Opera and ballet with the support of ARMSWISSBANK.

The main goal of the project was to increase the flow of customers to the theater with the use of advanced technologies and to ensure certain cash flows for the cultural center thanks to the implementation of small marketing programs.

Saving cultural values and supporting their development is always under the attention of ARMSWISSBANK...

Expand the use of renewable energy sources in communities

With the support of ARMSWISSBANK and “SOLARON” LLC, a solar plant was installed on the roof of the largest young family in RA.

Emphasizing the role and importance of social responsibility and encouraging the expansion of the clean energy production sector in RA, ARMSWISSBANK and “SOLARON” LLC, a company that produces solar panels, jointly implemented the construction project of a 5.4KW plant on the roof of the Melkonyan family's house.

The Melkonyan family is considered one of the largest young families in RA, consisting of husbands and 15 children who live in Aygavan community of Ararat region.

The implementation of the mentioned project will alleviate the social and financial needs of the Melkonyan family by producing their own electricity with modern technologies.



One more initiative was implemented in Shirak region. ARMSWISSBANK, within the framework of its policy for the development of the renewable energy sector in RA, as well as the promotion of "resource efficient" investments, has initiated two biogas plant installation projects in Shirak region. The first station, which was implemented jointly with the “ADACO” company, was put into operation in the village of Azatan in the Shirak region and was donated to the Gasparyan family. The donation was made within the framework of cooperation between the Bank and the Shirak Regional Office.

Transformation of transport park from fuel to electric vehicles...



Electric cars and buses are going to be the principal transport mode in just a few years. However, we know that the current electricity grid system will only be able to cope if smart charging and grid management are adopted across the network. Electric vehicles are the key to moving towards a sustainable mobility system.

The Use of fossil fuels in transport harms the local air quality and our climate. Almost all countries are doing something to promote electric vehicles, but relatively few countries have successfully achieved large increases in sales.

ARMSWISSBANK started the transformation of the transport park from fuel to electric vehicles starting in 2020 and already shifted to electric SUVs by 80%. The Bank has its own charging station at the parking. By our own example we promote the transformation of transport parks to electric vehicles among our clients as well.

Energy efficient and environmentally friendly approach to our daily activities is the priority of ARMSWISSBANK.

Addressing and managing waste ...



Office buildings, schools, stores, hotels, restaurants and other commercial and institutional buildings generate significant amounts of materials and waste. Materials and wastes often an overlooked opportunity to improve an organization's sustainability, prevent greenhouse gas emissions and reduce costs. Recycling is more than extending the life of landfills. It is about making the best use of the resources we have available and conserving those resources for future generations. It is about conserving water, energy, land and raw materials.

At ARMSWISSBANK we manage waste and use recyclable products. In particular

- we have shifted to paperless working mode and use as few papers as possible,
- at office we use pens and cups from recyclable materials
- packaging is also used from recycled papers
- at the end of the day we accumulate paper waste and pass it to relevant companies for re-use.

We promote investment projects, which have a waste management component in their activity. "ARTIK SHPP" LLC bought an old building of textile production in 2016 and invested over 4mln USD in the creation of a cotton spinning mill in the city of Maralik, Shirak region of Armenia.

In particular the factory produces cotton spinning mill from the waste of other productions (i.e. re-uses the material) and as a final product they produce cotton ropes, sheets, gloves, socks and towels. Apart from having a high level of waste management, this company uses renewable energy from solar PV plants installed on the roof of the factory (1MWt capacity).

This factory was financed and upgraded by ARMSWISSBANK.

More information below:

The Success Story of "ARTIKPHK" LLC



Capacity building: our achievements and commitments....



Capacity building develops competencies and skills that can make our performance more effective and sustainable, thus increasing the potential of outcome. Knowledge is the key to success.

The future-oriented approach of ARMSWISSBANK constantly places new requirements on employees and partners. Continuous development is therefore essential in order to survive and thrive in a competitive market. This is the only way to enable processes to be tailored even more precisely to market, partners and customers. Consequently, ARMSWISSBANK offers a range of options for enhancing personal and professional skills.

One of our most scalable initiatives in the capacity building area was “Scaling up green finance practices in Armenia” readiness project. This was a strategic frameworks support for Armenia through ARMSWISSBANK, which was financed by Green Climate Fund. ARMSWISSBANK acted as a Delivery partner in this project and successfully completed in October, 2022.

The project was aimed at designing Green Finance Roadmap, as a key political document outlining current state, existing barriers to green finance development and establishing a comprehensive vision for green finance strategy contributing to implementation of Armenia’s NDCs and the Paris Agreement. The Roadmap’s goal is to scale up green finance by summing up the recommendations from all activities and outcomes of the Project, including the current situational stock-taking, best practices review, legal framework analysis, “green finance” manual preparation, private sector engagement and institutionalization of E&S approach in the financial sector.

Apart from the presented project, ARMSWISSBANK provides knowledge and experience-sharing seminars, training for its clients and employees. Our employees get online and offline thematic training, which helps them to scale up skills and knowledge.



About ARMSWISSBANK...

Headquartered in Yerevan Armenia, the Bank's mission is to provide tailor-made and customer-centric banking services to Small and Medium Enterprises.

We provide our customers with innovative and advanced banking services accepted in international markets through our skilled and professional staff by giving of our time and resources, at the same time, adhering to the Bank's commitment to social responsibility and its mission of providing sustainable financing.

Year by year we record stable growth and expand our activities in the sustainable banking sector. To guarantee implementation of this strategy, the Bank invests in capacity building of human resources and their periodic scale-up.

We promote to develop the business without costing the earth...



ARM SWISS BANK

📍 10 V. Sargsyan str., Yerevan, RA, 0010

☎ (+374 60) 757 000, (+374 11) 757 000

✉ info@armswissbank.am

🌐 Armswissbank.am