

PRESS RELEASE

Banks: ABI, over 80% promote green loans

Social and environmental responsibility more and more evident in bank strategic plans. Subsidised loans for reducing CO₂ and specific services for environment-friendly house purchases. To close the 2010 CSR Forum, “100% clean energy” certification

Banks are increasingly more environment conscious and promoters of eco-sustainable conduct. 81% of the banking system in terms of total assets, equal to 73.5% of branches in Italy, offer products that support the fight against climate change and global warming. In particular, banks focus on lending that promotes renewable energy sources and energy efficiency. The banks that have obtained environmental certification instead represent 69.3% of total system assets.

These are the figures that emerged from works at the 2010 CSR Forum, the annual event that ABI dedicates to corporate social responsibility, where sector experts meet and talk and which is due to end today in Rome. The Forum, now in its fifth edition, was attended by over 200 persons, 50 Italian and international speakers, participation by banks, enterprise, institutions, the press and academics.

Focus on integration of the CSR processes and practices into typical business activities and subsequent reporting, to promote sustainability in business and in medium/long-term relations, and a growing insistence on environment protection. Environmental impact management, the energy issue and its costs, in fact, are aspects directly related to business sustainability. According to the latest ABI figures, in relation to climate change products 77% of banks offer subsidised loans for CO₂ reduction and subsidised mortgages for environment-friendly house purchases.

This year the Forum organisation also aimed to offer a firm example of what CSR really involves, making the event truly environment-friendly by means of the “100% Multiutility clean energy” certification of energy used for the event itself. Certification of the Verona-based energy operator specialised in environmental services is based on input to the network of a quantity of renewable energy equal to the energy consumption estimated for the entire duration of the event, which offers the right to achieving “100% clean energy status” for the event itself. As a result of this decision, 34.95 metric tons of CO₂ will not be released into the atmosphere and 12,500 kg of fuel oil will be saved.

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