

NCC Bank

with you always

Prioritising Green Finance for a
LOW-CARBON FUTURE

M. Shamsul Arefin, Managing Director, NCC Bank

We advocate for the integration of environmental education into school banking programmes, ensuring that future generations grow up with a deep respect for sustainability and ecological stewardship.

The Daily Star (TDS): What role do you see banks playing in promoting environmental sustainability in Bangladesh?

M. Shamsul Arefin (MSA): Banks and financial institutions in Bangladesh are playing a progressively vital role in promoting environmental sustainability, particularly in the face of climate change and the pursuit of green growth. One of the cornerstone developments has been the implementation of the Environmental and Social Risk Management (ESRM) Guidelines issued by Bangladesh Bank, which began in 2011. This pioneering effort set a global precedent by integrating environmental considerations into the credit decision-making process.

The ESRM framework includes detailed procedures for transaction screening, escalation mechanisms, covenant integration, corrective action planning, and exclusions based on environmental and social risks. These policies ensure that banks are not only compliant but also proactive in mitigating environmental and societal risks, aligning with both local and international best practices.

Furthermore, recent regulatory initiatives such as the Sustainability and Climate-related Financial Disclosure Guideline emphasise the importance of transparency and accountability. The principle of “We cannot mitigate what we cannot measure” underpins this guideline, encouraging banks to quantify and report emissions arising from both operations and financing activities. This development fosters a culture of environmental consciousness and enables more informed, strategic action toward carbon reduction.

Together, initiatives in green finance, climate finance, sustainable finance, and carbon accounting form a cohesive roadmap towards a greener Bangladesh. These collective efforts represent a transformational shift in the banking sector’s commitment to environmental sustainability.

TDS: Can you highlight any specific green finance initiatives, sustainable investment strategies, or eco-friendly banking practices your institution has adopted recently?

MSA: At NCC Bank, environmental sustainability is a strategic priority embedded in our corporate DNA. Both our Board of Directors and management are deeply committed to integrating sustainable practices into our operations and financing activities.

We are proud to be among the few Bangladeshi banks currently implementing the Sustainability and Climate-related Financial Disclosures, with technical support from the JIM Impact Model. Moreover, NCC Bank has recently become a signatory to the Partnership for Carbon Accounting Financials (PCAF), a global alliance dedicated to standardising the measurement and disclosure of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions financed by financial institutions. This affiliation marks a significant step in aligning with global benchmarks and fostering transparency in climate-related disclosures.

To reduce our carbon footprint, we have discontinued paper receipts at all ATMs and are actively expanding our digital infrastructure. Our flagship digital platform, NCC Icon, provides seamless corporate online banking capabilities. Simultaneously, our mobile application offers convenient and sustainable digital banking services for retail customers and SMEs. We’ve also implemented green PIN systems to reduce paper usage.

Green finance has become a high priority at NCC Bank. We are offering green finance products across all branches and sub-branches, supporting projects in renewable energy, energy efficiency, green buildings, and more. Through customer engagement sessions, awareness campaigns, and personalised consultations, we are promoting the benefits and accessibility of green financing—helping to reshape market perceptions and catalyse broader adoption.



setting carbon goals integrated with our strategic roadmap. We are preparing to publish our first Annual Sustainability Report in 2025, based on 2024 data, which will detail our progress and future commitments toward a sustainable, low-carbon economy. Our approach to green finance is being solidified through dedicated strategies, capacity building, and an unwavering focus on impact.

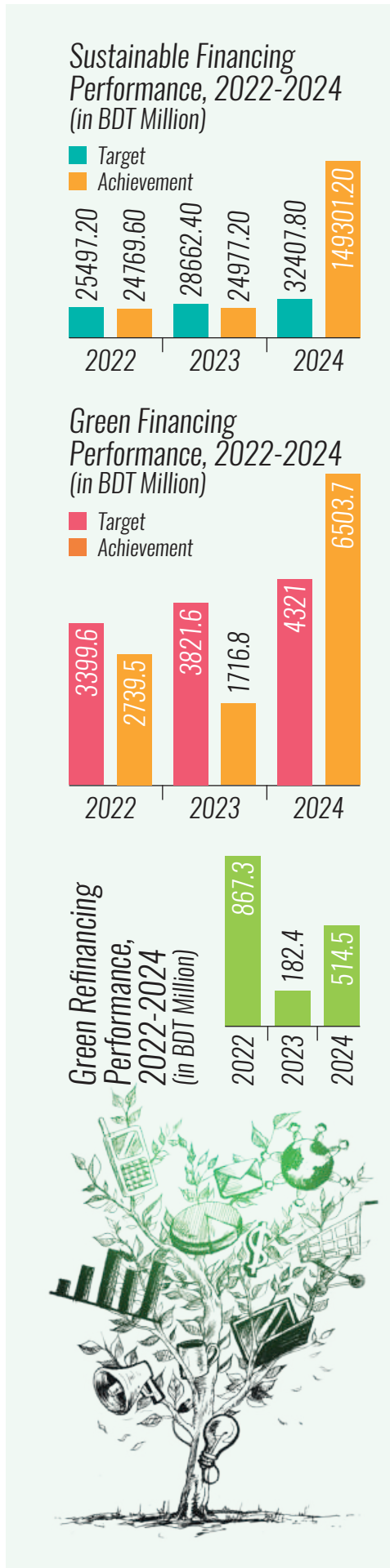
TDS: As a corporate leader, what message would you like to share on World Environment Day about the responsibility of financial institutions in building a greener, more resilient future?

MSA: I urge every corporate and individual stakeholder to recognise that restoring our planet is a shared responsibility—one that must be rooted in long-term strategies and meaningful action. It is imperative that national level SMART carbon goals—Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound—be established, understood, and implemented across all sectors.

Financial institutions have a unique role to play. We must embrace our capacity as enablers of change by channelling finance into green projects, embedding sustainability into core operations, and fostering environmental awareness through education and outreach. Incentivising sustainable behaviour through rewards can accelerate this transition.

There are already commendable efforts by the government, Bangladesh Bank, and several banks and financial institutions to promote climate-responsive financial practices. It is essential that banks leverage these platforms, broaden green financing portfolios, and take a proactive stance on sustainable corporate social responsibility.

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GREEN FINANCE IN 2024

- Total Finance - BDT 6503.70 million
- 29.50% of total term loan except staff loan (disbursement)
- Disbursed the highest green finance in the banking industry in Q3-2024 (Ref: “Quarterly Review Report on Sustainable Finance”, Bangladesh Bank)

SUSTAINABLE FINANCE IN 2024

Total Finance
BDT 149,301.21 million

81.42% of total loan except staff loan (disbursement)

RENEWABLE ENERGY FINANCING



Net Metering Rooftop Solar System for BDT 5.10 million



One project under renewable energy financing

LEED-certified buildings: 17

CARBON FOOTPRINT REDUCTION INITIATIVES

Replacing traditional lights with energy-efficient tube lights and installation of auto sensor system for lights and air condition

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

Received prestigious “Top Ten Remittance Award-2023” from the “Centre for Non- Resident Bangladeshi”

Awarded “Best Commercial Bank of The Year Bangladesh 2024” at the International Business Magazine Awards 2024

INNOVATIVE SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTS

Green loans

Sustainable agriculture financing

ESG-focused savings schemes (upcoming)

CSR & COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

Celebrated Earth Day 2024 by hosting an Art Fest featuring the children of the employees of the Bank. Around 50 kids participated in the competition

Organised Green Olympiad for raising awareness about Green Finance among the employees of the bank

Donated public health safety kit and providing access to pure drinking water in Uttara, Dhaka

Launched Green Brochure for customer awareness

Organised financial literacy training program including sustainable finance for Women Entrepreneurs in Bogura

Provided BDT 2 (Two) Crore to the Chief Adviser’s Relief Fund for the flood affected people of the country

Unveiled smart digital and paperless banking services at the bank’s 31st Anniversary

Launched Green PIN service for cardholders

Engaged with JIM Foundation for carbon accounting

Distributed agricultural materials & machinery free of cost at Pabna, Feni & Anwara, Chattogram

KEY SECTORS FUNDED	
PRODUCT DETAILS	AMOUNT IN BDT MILLION
1 Installation of Energy Efficient Machineries including Boiler	3501.70
2 Blue Economy Financing: Maritime Transport	2177.00
3 Health and Healthcare Services	324.60
4 Establishment of Green Industry certified by appropriate authority (In Bangladesh - SREDA, Internationally - USGBC-LEED, BREEAM, CASBEE, EDGE, GRIHA)	218.90
5 Biological ETP	90.00
6 Financing in Green/Clean transportation projects (cycles, hybrid car, green vehicles those run on wind, solar energy, electricity, hydrogen, bio-fuels etc.)	67.10
7 Concerning Factory working environment and safety (Fire defense system, disaster defense and prevention system, workers’ health safety system)	65.10
8 Jute Products Manufacturing Plant	40.00
9 Artificial Intelligence	13.00
10 Net Metering Rooftop Solar System	5.10
11 Environment Friendly/Brick Kiln Efficiency Improvement Project (Tunnel Kiln, HHK and other eco-friendly bricks)	1.20
10 Total	6503.70