

Eco-efficiency adopted by banks: Greening the heart of finance

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The banking sector in Bangladesh has long been associated with financial discipline, professionalism, and a highly structured corporate culture. Yet today, as climate risks deepen and sustainability takes centre stage globally, banks are being asked to assume a new role: champions of environmental responsibility. The shift is not cosmetic. It is a response to a growing recognition that banks are not only financiers of the economy but also major institutions whose operations, culture, and policies directly influence environmental outcomes.

At the heart of this transformation lies the concept of eco-efficiency — delivering more



In Bangladesh's banking sector, the 'suited-and-booted' dress code has long been a symbol of professionalism," he observes. "Yet beneath this polished image lies a contradiction: the country's hot and humid climate makes such attire impractical, forcing banks to rely heavily on air conditioning to keep employees comfortable.

value with fewer environmental costs. Across Bangladesh, eco-efficiency is gradually becoming embedded in banking practice. Rooftop solar panels, digital-first operations, paperless systems, energy-efficient buildings, and even rethinking the formal "suit and tie" dress culture are now part of an evolving conversation. The once conservative and tradition-bound banking sector is slowly reimagining itself as a greener and more responsible industry.

City Bank PLC has emerged as one of the early leaders in embedding eco-efficiency within its operational framework. Mohammad Firoz Alam, the Bank's Chief Risk Officer, emphasises the breadth of its approach.

"City Bank is committed to operating in an eco-efficient and sustainable manner, integrating environmental and social considerations into

its internal operations," he explains. "To reduce its environmental footprint, City Bank is progressively installing rooftop solar and Solar Home Systems at branches, sub-branches, and ATMs. The Bank also emphasises digitalisation and a 'Go Paperless' strategy by leveraging digital documentation, collaboration tools, and measures to reduce printing. Energy efficiency is further enhanced using LED lighting, energy-efficient devices, motion and occupancy sensors, daylight-responsive dimming, and behavioural awareness

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