



Press Release

Standard Chartered launches new proposition to support sustainable supply chains

Suite of trade finance products and services will help clients meet ESG-related sustainability objectives

23 March 2021 – Standard Chartered is launching sustainable trade finance solutions across Asia, Africa and the Middle East, Europe and the Americas. The Bank's new Sustainable Trade Finance Proposition is designed to help companies implement more sustainable practices across their ecosystems and build more resilient supply chains.

The Sustainable Trade Finance Proposition builds the Loan Market Association's Green and Sustainability-linked Loan Principles into Standard Chartered's trade financing framework, encouraging clients to improve disclosure, reporting and definition of use, while meeting their Environmental, Social and Governance goals. The initial focus will be on Supply Chain Finance, Invoice Financing, Receivables Services, Bonds and Guarantees and Letters of Credit, and the product set will be expanded in due course. These products will help global supply chain activities – estimated at USD19 trillion by the World Trade Organisation – become more sustainable.

The new Sustainable Trade Finance Proposition allows the Bank to support the following:

1. **Sustainable goods:** Working with customers and partners to finance underlying goods that meet agreed sustainability standards.
2. **Sustainable suppliers:** Supporting trade for suppliers who meet acceptable thresholds against ESG ratings or metrics such as gender equality, responsible sourcing criteria and water use.
3. **Sustainable end-use:** Focusing on trade financing in sustainable industries including renewable energy, energy efficiency, the blue economy, sustainable infrastructure, water management and clean transportation.
4. **Transition industries:** Helping industries transition and reduce their carbon footprint by offering trade financing that recognises efforts to help reduce emissions.

Simon Cooper, CEO, Corporate, Commercial & Institutional Banking and CEO of Europe & the Americas, said: “Trade finance has an enormous opportunity to help make global supply chain activities more sustainable by offering companies the products and solutions they need to achieve their sustainability agendas. Our new Sustainable Trade Finance Proposition will help companies build more resilient supply chains, as we work to make global trade more sustainable and inclusive.”

Some examples of the Bank’s sustainable trade finance solutions that have driven positive impact include:

- A sustainability-linked supply chain finance solution for an international sportswear manufacturer, linked to their ESG/Sustainability performance to incentivise more sustainable practices across the supply chain.
- An import invoice finance facility for an electric vehicle manufacturer.
- Bonds/guarantees and trade finance solutions for renewable energy companies.
- Enabling the import of personal protective equipment via import invoice financing under our COVID-19 USD1 billion financing commitment, launched in March 2020. The Bank also offers trade finance at cost to companies that meet the criteria for that programme.

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Standard Chartered

We are a leading international banking group, with a presence in 59 of the world’s most dynamic markets and serving clients in a further 85. Our purpose is to drive commerce and prosperity through our unique diversity, and our heritage and values are expressed in our brand promise, here for good.

Standard Chartered PLC is listed on the London and Hong Kong Stock Exchanges.

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Media Contact

Standard Chartered Bank (Thai)

Corporate Affairs and Brand & Marketing

Hassaya Hasitabhan Email: hassaya.hasitabhan@sc.com

Tel: +662-724-8071, +66 6552 61317

Piyarat Setthasiriphaiboon Email: piyarat.setthasiriphaiboon@sc.com

Tel: +662-724-8024, +66 9449 55992