Triodos Bank Greenhouse Gas accounting methodology
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Introduction

Background and objective

Triodos Bank’s mission is to make money work for positive, social, environmental and cultural change. To that end we believe profit doesn’t need to be at the expense of the world’s most pressing environmental problems. That’s why we only finance sustainable organisations, from organic food and farming businesses, to pioneering renewable energy enterprises, recycling companies and nature conservation projects.

Triodos Bank wants to finance the urgent need for a transition to a sustainable economy of the future, helping to create the conditions for people to live a better quality of life. As a bank in a new, more sustainable economy, this means helping to develop a society that lives within its environmental means; beneath a safe environmental ceiling and above a fair social floor. For us, that doesn’t just mean avoiding financing companies that harm the environment or have a negative impact on people’s lives. It means only and exclusively financing projects, people and business that positively benefit society, the environment and culture.

According to the International Panel on Climate Change’s 2018 report, we need to keep the global increase in temperature from pre-industrial levels to under 1.5 degrees. To do that means urgently decarbonizing our economy. It means generating renewable energy, increasing the efficiency of energy supply, improving the reliability of renewable energy systems and involving society more closely in this transition. Together this represents an enormous challenge and it’s one that we, and others, will play a role in, helping to finance the kind of change that’s needed. And we cannot act as an industry, alone. The scale of the challenge requires urgent action from government, civil society and business alike. It is both essential and possible.

Financial institutions, as investors in the economy, have a crucial and constructive role to play in this effort; by no longer financing brown assets that emit greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and contribute to global warming and instead, by focusing on assets that have a positive impact on people and the environment they depend on.

To understand if their contribution to the low or no carbon transition is on track, financial institutions first need to understand the impact of the decisions they make about where they choose to lend and invest. In particular, they need to know what impact their decisions will have on the environment. That’s why Triodos Bank is an active member of the Dutch Platform Carbon Accounting Financials (PCAF), whose goal is to harmonise GHG accounting rules and use this information to set GHG reduction targets and steer lending and investments towards a low-carbon economy.

The group was launched at the seminal Paris Climate Conference in 2015. And on behalf of Triodos Bank, I was delighted to be able to participate in the launch of the PCAF methodology, delivered by this collaborative group as planned, two years later. This methodology report is evidence of how we are putting that work into practice.

PCAF’s approach is open source and collaborative. It aims to learn from, and contribute to, similar initiatives. And this movement to be even more transparent about the GHG footprint of financial institution’s loans and investments, is gathering momentum. Towards the end of 2018 PCAF’s members collectively were disclosing the greenhouse gas emissions relating to a trillion euros, and almost half, of their assets. The establishment of an equivalent to PCAF in the United States, led by our fellow Global Alliance for Banking on Values (GABV) member, Amalgamated Bank, and a Climate Change Commitment signed by 25 GABV member banks early in 2019 committing them to assess and report on their GHG emissions within three years using the PCAF methodology, is further evidence of that the breadth and relevance of this work in the financial sector.

As the only pan-European values-based bank, we also want to understand, monitor and in future help to steer on the basis of applying this approach internationally. We will share this experience inside and outside the PCAF group as part of a powerful, collective effort to demonstrate how a bank can keep its influence within a safe environmental ceiling, while playing a powerful role in keeping addressing the challenge of climate change.

Jellie Banga
Chief Operating Officer, Triodos Bank
1.2 Structure of this document

In alignment with the PCAF methodology, Triodos Bank wants to develop a robust and comprehensive GHG accounting approach that suits its portfolio and business. This approach is built on principles of consistency, transparency, prudence and accuracy with a focus on data quality. As a result, Navigant, a management consultancy with extensive expertise in this area, helped Triodos Bank develop an implementation plan for GHG accounting in May 2018 to detail the approach, priorities, timeline and resource required for the roll-out. In the final plan, Navigant proposed a phased approach (see below) to implement GHG accounting starting with hotspots that cover over 60% of our direct loans and investments and the majority of the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with our full portfolio.

Based on this analysis, the following sectors were selected to be included in phase 1 of the implementation of GHG accounting. While culture remains a key sector for Triodos Bank's work, it is not included in the first phase of this work. That's because a provisional 'hotspot' analysis showed that cultural projects we lend to are responsible for a relatively small amount of greenhouse gas emissions when compared with the sectors we have included in this first phase.

In this document, we will provide a comprehensive description of the GHG accounting methodology - based on PCAF – as it is applied to these sectors. We follow the same structure as reported in our integrated annual report:

**Environment**
- Renewable energy
- Organic farming and nature development
- Sustainable property
- Private mortgages

**Social**
- Health care: Care for the elderly
- Social housing
Listed equity via our SRI funds

Triodos Bank contracted Navigant to support the implementation of GHG accounting for these selected sectors in phase 1. After describing the guiding principles for GHG accounting, we present the GHG accounting of Triodos Bank’s own operations, employee commuting, business travel and paper use. These are all items that the organisation has footprinted for many years. In the following chapters, we describe the applied methodology per selected sector of our portfolio. In each chapter, specific data quality scores are presented which enable Triodos Bank to identify opportunities to improve data quality over time.

While much of this document is relatively technical, the purpose that underpins it is fundamental to the long-term health of the planet we depend on. It is also only a starting point. Triodos Bank looks forward to collaborating further with members of PCAF, and others, to develop a credible, harmonised and easily understood approach to align the GHG emissions of our loans and investments with the Paris Agreement.

For a description of the results of the implementation of GHG accounting, i.e. our GHG footprint, readers should view Triodos Bank’s annual report at www.annual-report-triodos.com.
2 Definitions

2.1 Loans

In this report loans are defined as all lending activities within Triodos Bank.

2.2 Investments

Investments are defined as all types of financial products within the fund management of Triodos Investment Management. This includes equity, loans, and bonds.

2.3 Greenhouse Gases (GHG)

Greenhouse gases are defined as gases in the atmosphere that absorb and emit radiation. This process is the fundamental cause of the greenhouse effect. The GHG Protocol\(^1\) recognises seven greenhouse gases: Carbon dioxide (CO\(_2\)), methane (CH\(_4\)), nitrous oxide (N\(_2\)O), Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), Perfluorocarbons (PFCs), Sulphur hexafluoride (SF\(_6\)) and Nitrogen trifluoride (NF\(_3\)). In our methodology all emissions are converted to CO\(_2\) equivalents, or CO\(_2\)eq, using the conversion ratios determined by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). A carbon dioxide equivalent (CO\(_2\)eq) is a quantity that describes, for a given mixture and amount of greenhouse gas, the amount of CO\(_2\) that would have the same global warming potential (GWP), when measured over a specified timescale (generally, 100 years).

2.4 Avoided emissions

Avoided emissions are emissions that are avoided outside of a company’s scope 1, 2, and 3\(^2\) inventories and require a project or product accounting methodology. Any estimates of avoided emissions must be reported separately from a company’s scope 1, 2, and 3 emissions, rather than included or deducted from the scope 3 inventory. For Triodos Bank, avoided emissions occur mainly when investing in renewable energy.

2.5 Sequestered emissions

As informed by the GHG Protocol\(^1\), plants and trees remove carbon (as CO\(_2\)) from the atmosphere during photosynthesis. Before this carbon is put back into the atmosphere, it resides in one of several “Carbon pools.” These pools include (a) above ground biomass (e.g., vegetation) in forests, farmland, and other terrestrial environments, (b) below ground biomass (e.g., roots), and (c) biomass-based products (e.g., wood products) both while in use and when stored in a landfill. Carbon has the ability to stay in pools for very long periods of times, which means an increase in the stock of sequestered carbon stored in these pools represents a net removal of carbon from the atmosphere.

\(^1\) http://www.ghgprotocol.org/
\(^2\) Scope 1, 2 and 3 are explained in chapter 3.1
3 Guiding principles

In line with PCAF and GHG Protocol, the methodology per sector is constructed using the following basic accounting principles:

- Completeness
- Consistency
- Transparency
- Prudence
- Balance
- Accuracy

Each element ensures the methodology is robust and pragmatic for use now and for the future.

3.1 Completeness

In order to ensure completeness, the scope must be defined to determine the emissions accounted for in Triodos Bank’s value chain. The GHG Protocol\(^3\) standardises this by categorising direct and indirect emissions in three scopes (see Box 1 and Figure 1). Activities within the value chain of an organisation are direct or indirect depending on the consolidation approach chosen by an organisation.

**GHG Protocol Scopes 1, 2, & 3**

- **Scope 1**: All direct GHG emissions by Triodos Bank (natural gas in offices and fuel use by our car fleet)
- **Scope 2**: Indirect GHG emissions by Triodos Bank (purchased electricity)
- **Scope 3**: Other indirect emissions not covered in Scope 2; in total 15 categories within Scope 3 are defined, such as purchased goods and services, business travel, employee commuting, end of life treatment of sold products, or in the case of Triodos Bank mostly emissions associated with loans and investments (i.e. Score 3 category 15)

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\(^3\) The Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol, developed by World Resources Institute (WRI) and World Business Council on Sustainable Development (WBCSD), sets the global standard for how to measure, manage, and report greenhouse gas emissions.
We aim to be as complete as possible in our GHG accounting, covering all scopes of the GHG Protocol that are material to our GHG inventory. Next to Scope 1 and 2, we report on our emissions from employee commuting, business travel and paper use. However, the main focus of this report is on our Scope 3 Category 15 Investment, starting with the selected sectors that cover over 60% of our assets under management and the majority of the GHG emissions associated with our full portfolio.

### 3.2 Consistency

The methodology for Triodos Bank is consistent with internationally recognised standards (i.e. GHG Protocol Corporate Value Chain Accounting and Reporting Standard, World Resources Institute, WRI and World Business Council for Sustainable Development, WBCSD; 2004) and the sector-led harmonised GHG accounting approach developed by the Dutch Platform Carbon Accounting Financials (PCAF). Next to consistency with international standards and approaches, our methodology is consistent within the selected sectors, i.e. covering the relevant emissions from Scope 1 and 2 of our borrowing customer or investee in all cases.

### 3.3 Transparency

Being transparent is a core value and principle in everything we do. We aim to reflect this in our GHG accounting too both with the applied methodology and its results in this report. In addition, we aim to disclose our GHG footprint on an annual basis in our annual report.

### 3.4 Prudence

In our GHG accounting we strive to be prudent and use numbers that are conservative. If the methodology has limitations or good data is not available, we select the methodology or data that is most negative for our performance. This means that when this situation occurs, we overestimate the generated emissions associated with our portfolio and underestimate the avoided or sequestered emissions. To improve the estimations of our financed emissions, we implement data quality scoring. Per sector, a data quality scorecard is developed. Knowing the potential of data quality improvement will enable us to take action to increase data quality and to improve the quality of our overall GHG footprint.

Figure 2 below is a general visualisation of how each sector’s data quality is scored. Each score, starting with score 1 as the highest quality of data and ending with score 5 as the lowest, corresponds to a particular type of data source which will vary depending on the sector in question.

![Figure 2. General data quality scoring](image)

From the figure, it is apparent that the level of certainty is also an element that determines the accuracy of the overall GHG footprint.

As well as data quality and uncertainty associated with emissions data, financial data on the revenue or total balance sheet of our clients also has different levels of quality, however these are not scored as these are already regularly improved due to legislative financial reporting requirements.
3.5 Balance
In line with the GHG Protocol and PCAF, Triodos Bank will account for its financed emissions based on proportional share. Attribution factors to attribute the emissions of our client to our share are defined per sector, or project, or based on conservative averages per sector and country.

3.6 Accuracy
We aim to be as accurate as possible in our GHG accounting. On the one hand, the methodology ensures accuracy by attributing Triodos Bank's share of the GHG footprint of our clients. On the other, the use of data quality scoring linked to a level of uncertainty enables us to improve data quality and improve the accuracy of our GHG footprint. Results will appear in our annual report and are subject to audit with limited assurance.
4 Emissions from own operations

In this chapter, the GHG accounting approach is presented for the GHG emissions from Triodos Bank’s own operations in the various countries.

4.1 Scope

In line with the GHG Protocol Corporate Value Chain Accounting and Reporting Standard (WRI & WBCSD; 2004), Triodos Bank follows an operational approach to account for the emissions from our own operations, which means Triodos Bank accounts for all the emissions from operations in the various countries over which it has operational control. This includes:

- Scope 1 (direct): emissions arising from gas used to heat our offices and the energy use in our car fleet.
- Scope 2 (indirect) emissions: emissions arising from purchase of electricity and district heating.

4.1.2 Accounting approach and emissions factors

Triodos Bank partners with the Climate Neutral Group (CNG) to calculate and compensate our GHG emissions from our own operations. The CO2 Management Application of CNG is used to calculate our Scope 1 and 2 emissions. CNG determines emissions factors for the calculation of the amount of GHG emissions caused by Triodos Bank on an annual basis.

In order to calculate our Scope 1 and 2 emissions, we measure the use of natural gas and electricity for our offices and the energy use for our car fleet. This includes the total amount of natural gas (m³) split up into natural gas, green gas by offsetting, biogas, heating oil and district heating to heat our offices. The total amount of electricity (kWh) is split up into grey, wind, hydro, sun, biomass, or a mix of green electricity. For the energy use for our car fleet, we measure consumption of diesel, petrol, LPG, biodiesel and electricity.

Emissions factors of CNG are applied to this data to derive our Scope 1 and 2 emissions.

4.1.3 Data quality scorecard, assumptions and limitations

Scope 1 and 2 emissions data is collected by Local Environmental Managers (LEM’s) in the various countries. They complete all data, including underlying evidence, in the application of CNG. The LEM of The Netherlands checks if the input of all data and evidence has been done correctly. After the completion of this phase all data is consolidated by the Finance Division (using a four eyes principle). Finally, an external auditor checks if all relevant data has been entered accurately and approves the outcome.

As we use primary data (i.e. actual data on our energy use in our offices, car fleet, and purchased electricity) to account for our Scope 1 and 2 emissions, this calculation is performed to the highest data quality level.
5 Emissions from upstream Scope 3

In this chapter we briefly discuss the scope and methodology that we apply to account for emissions from our activities upstream.

5.1.1 Scope
In line with the GHG Protocol Corporate Value Chain Accounting and Reporting Standard (WRI & WBCSD; 2004), Triodos Bank has also annually accounted for the following emissions:

- Emissions related to our employee commuting (Scope 3 category 7),
- Business travel (Scope 3 category 6) and
- Procurement of paper (Scope 3 category 1).

5.1.2 Accounting approach and emissions factors
As with our Scope 1 and 2 emissions calculations, Triodos Bank partners with Climate Neutral Group (CNG) to calculate and compensate for its emissions from above upstream activities. The CO₂ Management Application of the CNG is used to calculate these Scope 3 emissions. CNG uses emissions factors for the calculation of the amount of GHG emissions caused by these upstream activities on an annual basis. For paper procurement, we measure office paper and the paper we consume for printed materials (brochures, envelopes, etc). This data is specific to the countries where we operate and tracked by total use (kg) and per employee per year.

Regarding business travel, air travel is based on an emissions factor per kilometre per year and measured based on routes indicated as linked between visited airports, determined by the IATA code. Travel by commuting and road transport are divided because environmental pollution associated with each is different. Cars are split up between diesel, petrol, LPG, biodiesel, and electric. Public transport is divided between bus, train and underground. Data on employee commuting is collected through detailed, internal surveys.

Emissions factors of CNG are being applied to this data to quantify our upstream Scope 3 emissions.

5.1.3 Data quality scorecard, assumptions and limitations
As we use mostly primary data (km travelled, transport type, paper type and kg etc.) to account for these Scope 3 emissions, we believe this calculation is performed to the highest data quality level.
6 Environment: avoided emissions from Renewable Energy

In this chapter we present our methodology to assess the avoided emissions of our loans and investments in the renewable energy sector. In contrast to the other chapters, avoided emissions are calculated based on a different methodology which compares to a baseline. According to the GHG Protocol avoided emissions are not part of Scope 3 but should be reported separately.

In this chapter we will present the methodology that we use to assess the avoided emissions of our loans and investments in renewable energy.

6.1 Methodology

6.1.1 Scope
All subsectors categorised under renewable energy are within scope. These include:

Table 1. Triodos Bank’s subsectors for Renewable energy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Triodos Bank’s Subsector</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hydro energy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biomass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heat and cold storage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other renewable energy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For the biomass, heat and cold storage, and other renewable energy subsectors, Triodos Bank has collected CO₂ or energy savings calculations from the project. These calculations are used in our accounting approach. For the wind, solar, and hydro energy subsectors, avoided emissions are calculated using the accounting approach below.

6.1.2 Accounting approach and emissions factors
Avoided emissions of renewable energy are calculated by combining primary data collected by us with established emissions factors based on the grey grid mix per country. The methodology for calculation is as follows:

\[
\text{CO}_2\text{eq avoided} = \frac{\text{CO}_2\text{eq} \times \text{Total production (kWh) of project}}{\text{Outstanding Triodos loan & investments} \times \text{Project Equity+Debt}}
\]

The emissions factors (CO₂ per kWh production) are based on the grey grid mix per country and are derived from the International Energy Agency (IEA)⁴ and are updated annually. For The Netherlands, the emissions per kWh production of the grey grid is based on CO₂emissiefactoren.nl

6.1.3 Data quality scorecard, assumptions and limitations
Accounting for avoided emissions from renewable energy is ideally calculated based on the actual electricity production in the year of reporting. However, below in Table 2, several methods with different data quality levels can be applied if this is not the case.

⁴ https://webstore.iea.org/co2-emissions-from-fuel-combustion
Table 2. Data quality scorecard for renewable energy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data quality (highest to lowest)</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Actual annual production (kWh) of the project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Estimated annual production (kWh) based on P50/P90 assessment of potential production</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Project-specific GHG data, calculated by independent expert in accordance with the GHG Protocol and/or UNFCC or another credible certification scheme.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Estimated annual production (kWh) based on capacity (MW) of project combined with average load factors per country</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Emissions intensity factors (emissions avoided per million euro invested) per technology from own system or peer financial institutions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As suggested by PCAF, for renewable energy projects, it is customary to have outside experts calculate predictions in production by percentiles based on historic data. This may include wind measurements or hydraulic flows. The P50 value serves as a prediction of when production may exceed a probability of 50% in a given year; for P90 it is 90%\(^5\). In line with PCAF, emissions calculations based on P50 are preferred to P90, if no figures on the actual electricity production are available. Otherwise, emissions calculations on a project basis, or other factors such as capacity or a monetary sum, will support assumptions for the emissions calculation.

After the avoided emissions have been calculated per project, these emissions are attributed to Triodos Bank based on the ratio between our outstanding loans and investments and the total project equity and debt. If no data is available on the current total project equity and debt, assumptions are made based on the project administration at the time of loan or investment origination.

\(^{5}\) See PCAF (2017) report.
7 Environment: emissions from Organic Farming

In this chapter we present our GHG accounting methodology for our loans and investments in the sector Organic farming.

7.1 Methodology

7.1.1 Scope
All subsectors categorised under organic farming are within scope. These include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Triodos Bank’s Subsector</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dairy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horticulture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mixed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fruit growing/farming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poultry/egg production</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forestry *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other organic farming</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* The Triodos Bank’s subsector entitled Forestry, will be discussed separately as this is subject to a different GHG accounting approach linked to sequestered emissions.

7.1.2 Accounting approach and emissions factors
The emissions from our loans and investments in organic farming are assessed by combining the collected data (i.e. hectares of land) from our clients with supporting external references. The methodology for calculation is as follows:

\[
\text{CO}_2\text{eq} = \frac{\text{Outstanding Triodos loan & investments}}{\text{Total hectares}} \times \frac{\text{Balance sheet total}}{\text{Hectares}}
\]

As we already collect data on hectares from our organic farming clients for impact reporting purposes, the emissions intensity factor per hectare is calculated based on data from public databases like the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) FAOstat. Often these public databases provide average emissions intensities for a crop or livestock. As Triodos Bank invests in organic farming, these emissions factors are adjusted based on studies that compare the emissions intensity of organic versus conventional farming.

After emissions have been estimated per client, these emissions are attributed to Triodos Bank based on the ratio between our outstanding loan and the balance sheet total of the client recorded in our system.

Case Study: A look into calculating GHG emissions of organic farming
The FAO database and report on Organic Agriculture and Climate Change Mitigation (2011) were primarily used to calculate emissions levels attributable to Triodos Bank. Because Triodos Bank data captures the impact of loans and investments by hectare of land use, a factor of GHG emissions per hectare is needed. To derive these factors, it is required to combine production, emissions, and yield data from FAO. A conversion such as the one below is used in deriving an emissions intensity per hectare of land use.

\[
\frac{\sum \text{Total production (tonnes)}}{\text{Hectares}} \times \frac{\sum \text{CO}_2\text{eq}}{\text{Total production (tonnes)}} = \frac{\text{CO}_2\text{eq}}{\text{Hectares}}
\]

---

6 http://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#home
7 For instance, the FAO data base (http://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data) and FAO report (see footnote 3) was used to derive emissions intensities per hectare.
It is also possible to simply divide the total emissions from crops by the total hectares if this is known. However, many times the yield data (tonnes/ha) is presented without knowing the total amount of hectares used. It is therefore not possible to convert unless all three elements (total area, total production, total emissions) are known.

Secondly, in this case, area data for livestock (Triodos Bank’s subsector Meat and Dairy) was only known per LSU (LSU = livestock unit equivalent to an adult cow). Eurostat livestock unit (LSU) coefficients were used to convert the specific type of animal (i.e. pig, goat, cow) per hectare because the FAO database had indicators based on LSU/hectare and yield (hg)/animal. In this way a similar GHG intensity factor was derived.

Finally, based on the FAO report, average emissions from organic farming per hectare are around 57% lower than conventional dairy farming. This percentage is used to convert the above GHG intensity factor for conventional farming to organic farming.

7.1.3 Data quality scorecard, assumptions and limitations
Emissions from organic farming can be calculated in different ways depending on the data availability and data quality. Based on the various data sources available and in line with PCAF, we have developed the data quality scorecard presented in Table 4 below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data quality score (highest to lowest)</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Audited GHG emissions data from our clients, in accordance with the GHG Protocol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>GHG emissions data calculated by our client, and/or primary data collected by Triodos Bank client, converted to CO₂eq-emissions using verified emissions factors specific to the emissions source</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Sector-specific non-GHG source data, used to calculate GHG emissions with an approved GHG calculation tool, or comparable sector-specific databases or tools issued by credible institutions such as the FAO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Specific emissions data from life cycle analysis (LCA) in specific regions that overlap with Triodos Bank loans and investments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Extended Environmental Input Output (EEIO) databases (i.e. EXIOBASE or GTAP) that provide sector-level data on emissions per revenue per country</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In general, audited GHG emissions are the highest quality and the most desirable. As organic farmers are often smallholder farmers, audited data is not available. Secondly, a client in the organic farming sector could gather primary data that enables Triodos Bank to perform the calculations by using available GHG accounting tools, such as Cool Farm Tool. For example, a client could report the number of cows, the milk yield, and the processes involved on the specific farm to effectively calculate an emissions factor on a client basis. Triodos Bank would be able to store this information per client to perform optimal GHG accounting. Otherwise, due to the specific nature of organic farming techniques as they vary regionally and among clients, scientific literature and/or a combination of sectoral database approximations may be used to derive an emissions factor for Triodos Bank’s subsectors.

10 Such as the IFC Carbon Emissions Estimation Tool (IFC-CEET), Agence Française du Développement (AFD) Carbon calculation tool
11 In EEIO databases gross output production (expressed in euro) can be used as a proxy for revenue. Gross output is defined as “the total value of sales by producing enterprises (their turnover) in an accounting period (e.g. a quarter or a year), before subtracting the value of intermediate goods used up in production.” Gross output production is “calculated by summing the intermediate and final sales” which matches well with the definition of “revenue”.
12 https://coolfarmtool.org/
8 Environment: emissions from Sustainable Property

In this chapter, we present the methodology, scope, accounting approach and data quality scoring for our loans and investments in the sustainable property sector, as selected in our hotspot analysis.

8.1 Methodology

8.1.1 Scope
All subsectors categorised under the sustainable property sector are within scope. These include:

Table 5. Triodos subsectors for Sustainable property

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Triodos Subsector</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Property development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shared workspace/Offices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nature development *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private sustainable property</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other sustainable property</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* The Triodos Bank's nature development subsector will be discussed separately as this is subject to a different GHG accounting approach linked to sequestered emissions.

8.1.2 Accounting approach and emissions factors
The sustainable property sector can be accounted for using Triodos Bank's collected data on building type and floor area and supporting literature regarding types of buildings and their associated emissions. In general, the methodology for calculation is as follows:

\[
\text{Outstanding Triodos loans & investments} \times \frac{\text{(gas consumption) x (EF}_{\text{gas}}) + \text{(electricity consumption) x (EF}_{\text{elec}})}{\text{Property value or Balance sheet total}} = \text{CO}_2\text{eq}
\]

Gas and electricity consumption of the buildings are estimated based on energy intensity factors provided by literature\(^{13}\) multiplied by the total floor space (m\(^2\)) of a property loan or investment. Using emissions factors (EF) for gas and electricity derived from the International Energy Agency (IEA) and CO\(_2\) emissiefactoren.nl for The Netherlands gives us the Scope 1 and 2 emissions of the property. Because Triodos Bank only finances sustainable properties, a percentage reduction of the average emissions of a property type is taken into account. To attribute these emissions to Triodos Bank, an attribution factor is applied that divides the outstanding loan by the property value, or balance sheet total, of the customer.

8.1.3 Data quality scorecard, assumptions and limitations
For sustainable property, we have developed a detailed data quality scorecard to identify data improvements and improve data quality over time. Table 6 below describes the data quality scoring for sustainable property in more detail.

---

\(^{13}\) See ECN 2016 report for Dutch building types and their associated energy consumptions.
Table 6. Data quality scorecard for sustainable property

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data quality (highest to lowest)</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Actual energy consumption, converted to CO$_2$eq-emissions using verified emissions factors specific to the type of energy consumed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Actual energy consumption, converted to CO$_2$eq-emissions using emissions factors for energy from undefined fuel source</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Estimated energy consumption based on energy performance/energy label and floor area, converted to CO$_2$eq-emissions using emissions factors for energy from undefined fuel source</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Estimated energy consumption per type of property and floor area, converted to CO$_2$eq-emissions using emissions factors for energy from undefined fuel source</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Average energy consumption per type of property in a country, converted to CO$_2$eq-emissions using emissions factors for energy from undefined fuel source</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If specific property data on actual energy consumption (e.g. from energy bills) is not known, many countries have energy performance ratings in place. For example, The Netherlands applies an energy label scheme from scale A to G mainly based on the insulation and installation quality of the property\(^{14}\). The implication is that higher-labelled buildings will require less energy consumption. However, this data is better supported by knowing the size of the floor area per building. For example, a highly energy-efficient building may require more consumption than a lower efficient building if the floor space is much larger. Lastly, if none of this data can be gathered, average energy consumption per type of property in a country can be applied by, for instance, using the EU Buildings database\(^{15}\) or national databases and literature.


\(^{15}\) https://ec.europa.eu/energy/en/eu-buildings-database
9 Environment: sequestered emissions from Nature Development and Forestry

In this chapter we present our methodology to account for the sequestered emissions from our loans and investments in the nature development and forestry subsectors. As these emissions follow a different accounting approach, we will account and report on them separately.

9.1 Methodology

9.1.1 Scope
Triodos Bank's subsectors of forestry (administered in the organic farming sector) and nature development (administered in the sustainable property sector) are within the scope of sequestered emissions.

9.1.2 Accounting approach and emissions factors
Sequestered emissions of forestry are calculated by using data in the USAID AFOLU Carbon Calculator on emissions per hectares of different species and stages of forestry development including harvesting, thinning, and fertilizer usage.

For nature development the sequestered emissions are calculated by taking a sample mix of species found in cooler temperate climates. All rotational period emissions per hectare are averaged per species over a period of 30 years. Then, an average of these emission factors is calculated to approximate the mixed varieties of species found in nature development.

\[
\text{Average} \frac{\text{CO}_2 \text{eq}}{\text{Hectare} \ (\text{ha}) \ \text{per species of tree}} \times \frac{\text{Outstanding Triodos loans & investments}}{\text{Total hectares} \ (\text{ha})} = \text{CO}_2 \text{eq}_{\text{sequestered}}
\]

The attribution factors shown above are then multiplied by this figure in order to attribute these emissions to Triodos Bank's activity.

9.1.3 Data quality scorecard, assumptions and limitations
The following data scoring is used to score and improve data quality on nature development and forestry over time.

Table 7. Data quality scorecard for sequestered emissions in nature development and Forestry

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data quality (highest to lowest)</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Annual, actual incremental growth of the specific species being financed in a known region or audited carbon sequestration data from the clients in nature development and forestry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Non-audited carbon sequestration data or carbon sequestration data calculated by Triodos Bank or a third-party data provider, based on primary data from the clients in nature development and forestry and using verified emissions factors specific to the emissions source</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Estimated carbon sequestered emissions based on hectares, species and regions using verified emissions factors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Estimated carbon sequestered emissions based on hectares and regions for unknown species using verified emissions factors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Average, global sequestered emissions for any unknown species using verified emissions factors</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
10 Environment: emissions from Private Mortgages

In this chapter, we present the developed methodology, including the scope, accounting approach and data quality scores, for the GHG accounting of the private mortgages sector.

10.1 Methodology

10.1.1 Scope

All outstanding private residential mortgages that are recorded in our system are within scope.

We account for the Scope 1 and 2 emissions of each house (i.e. the fossil fuel use to heat the house and purchased electricity and/or heat by the owner/user of the house = total energy consumption of the house).

10.1.2 Accounting approach and emissions factors

In line with PCAF accounting methods, the Scope 1 and 2 emissions associated with a mortgage to a residential house is 100% attributed to Triodos Bank, as Triodos Bank is often the only provider of a mortgage and is directly engaged with its customer. Triodos Bank will also not adopt a loan-to-value (LTV) ratio to be consistent with PCAF.

The following formula is used to calculate the GHG emissions attributed to our private residential mortgages:

\[(\text{gas consumption} \times EF_{\text{gas}}) + (\text{electricity consumption} \times EF_{\text{electricity}}) = \text{CO}_2_{eq}\]

As regulated by EU policy, many member states have implemented building scores based on energy efficiency, often so-called energy performance schemes or energy labels. Depending on the energy label of the house in a specific country, the gas consumption and electricity consumption can be estimated. An emissions factor (EF) for gas and electricity derived from the International Energy Agency (IEA) and CO2emissiefactoren.nl for The Netherlands is used to calculate the emissions of the house. Then by attributing 100% of these emissions to Triodos Bank, these values can be summed up to calculate the total amount of GHG emissions of our private mortgage portfolio.

10.1.3 Data quality scorecard, assumptions and limitation

In a similar way to sustainable property, we have developed a detailed data quality scorecard for our private mortgages in table 8 below.

Table 8. Data quality scorecard for private mortgages

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data quality (highest to lowest)</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Actual energy consumption, converted to CO2eq-emissions using verified emissions factors specific to the type of energy consumed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Actual energy consumption, converted to CO2eq-emissions using emissions factors for energy from undefined fuel source</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Average, actual energy consumption per postal code regions, converted to CO2eq-emissions using emissions factors for energy from undefined fuel source or Estimated energy consumption based on energy performance/energy label and floor area, converted to CO2eq-emissions using emissions factors for energy from undefined fuel source</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Estimated energy consumption based on energy labels and type of property, converted to CO2eq-emissions using emissions factors for energy from undefined fuel source</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Average energy consumption per type of property in a country, converted to CO2eq-emissions using emissions factors for energy from undefined fuel source</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
11 Social: Health Care – Care for the Elderly

In this chapter, we present the methodology, scope, accounting approach and data quality scoring for our loans and investments in the health care subsector, care for the elderly.

11.1 Methodology

11.1.1 Scope

Within the scope of the current methodology only care for the elderly is included under the health care sector. For other Triodos Bank subsectors within health care too limited data is available to perform GHG accounting. Scope 1 and 2 emissions per care facility for the elderly people is included.

11.1.2 Accounting approach and emissions factors

The accounting approach shown below differs from other approaches because of the data availability within this subsector. As Triodos Bank doesn’t capture square metre data on the properties of the financed care for the elderly, the number of elderly people is used.

\[
\frac{\text{CO}_2\text{eq}}{\text{Outstanding Triodos loans & investments}} \times \text{Total number of elderly people} \times \frac{\text{Balance sheet total}}{\text{Elderly person}} = \text{CO}_2\text{eq}
\]

For The Netherlands, average floor area per elderly person of 75 m² is found from the Handreiking Kengetallen Benchmark Zorgvastgoed Bouwkostennota 2017\textsuperscript{16} study. As elderly homes are a combination of social housing and overnight facilities, we assume that we can average the emissions factor for social housing and overnight facilities to derive the emissions factor for care for the elderly (in CO\textsubscript{2eq}/m\textsuperscript{2}). Then, multiplying this by the metres squared per elderly person (75 m\textsuperscript{2}) leads to CO\textsubscript{2eq} emissions per elderly person.

For other countries in Triodos Bank’s portfolio, this Dutch emissions factor is adjusted based on the difference in average energy consumptions of houses in these countries compared to The Netherlands.

After emissions have been estimated per person in an elderly care facility, these emissions are attributed to Triodos Bank based on the ratio between our outstanding loan and the balance sheet total of the client, recorded in our system.

11.1.3 Data quality scorecard, assumptions and limitations

The following data scoring is used to score and improve data quality on care for elderly over time.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data quality (highest to lowest)</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Actual energy consumption of the care facility, converted to CO\textsubscript{2eq}-emissions using verified emissions factors specific to the type of energy consumed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Actual energy consumption for the care facility, converted to CO\textsubscript{2eq}-emissions using emissions factors for energy from undefined fuel source</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Estimated energy consumption based on energy performance/energy label and floor area, converted to CO\textsubscript{2eq}-emissions using emissions factors for energy from undefined fuel source. The total floor area is derived from the number of elderly people in a care facility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Estimated energy consumption per type of care facility and floor area, converted to CO\textsubscript{2eq}-emissions using emissions factors for energy from an undefined fuel source</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Average energy consumption for a care facility in a country, converted to CO\textsubscript{2eq}-emissions using emissions factors for energy from an undefined fuel source</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

12 Social: Social Housing

In this chapter, we present the methodology, scope, accounting approach and data quality scoring for our loans and investments in the social housing sector.

12.1 Methodology

12.1.1 Scope
All the subsectors categorised under the social housing sector are within scope. These include:

Table 10. Triodos subsectors for Social housing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Triodos Subsector</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Housing associations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other social housing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

12.1.2 Accounting approach and emissions factors
Emissions related to the social housing sector can be accounted for by using the number of houses Triodos Bank invests in per country and attributing these emissions to Triodos Bank. The following formula is applied:

\[
\frac{CO_2\text{eq}}{\text{house}} \times \frac{\text{Outstanding Triodos loan & investments}}{\text{Total number of houses}} \times \frac{\text{Balance sheet total}}{\text{CO}_2\text{eq}} = \text{CO}_2\text{eq}
\]

12.1.3 Data quality scorecard, assumptions and limitations
The following data scoring is used to score and improve data quality on social housing over time.

Table 11. Data quality scorecard for social housing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data quality (highest to lowest)</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Actual energy consumption, converted to CO(_2)\text{eq}-emissions using verified emissions factors specific to the type of energy consumed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Actual energy consumption, converted to CO(_2)\text{eq}-emissions using emissions factors for energy from an undefined fuel source</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Estimated energy consumption based on energy performance/energy label and floor area per type of social house in a country, converted to CO(_2)\text{eq}-emissions using emissions factors for energy from an undefined fuel source</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Estimated energy consumption per type of social house in a country and floor area, converted to CO(_2)\text{eq}-emissions using emissions factors for energy from an undefined fuel source</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Average energy consumption per social house in a country, converted to CO(_2)\text{eq}-emissions using emissions factors for energy from an undefined fuel source</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In a similar way to the private mortgage and sustainable property sectors, the GHG emissions per house are ideally calculated using energy consumption data per client account. When this data is not available, average emissions intensity for a typical house in a country can also be used. These figures can be derived by using energy consumption statistics on a country level in the residential sector. However, the data quality will decline. Otherwise, some databases capture emissions intensities on a household basis and therefore, provide upfront, figures that can be used towards the equation above\(^\text{17}\). But one has to ensure that the emissions covered in these databases are Scope 1 and 2 of the house, i.e. the energy-related emissions and exclude the emissions related to expenditure of a household (e.g. on food).

13 Emissions from Listed Equity via SRI funds

Triodos Bank operates several Socially Responsible Investment (SRI) funds. Many of these funds contain equity holdings in listed and non-listed companies. In this chapter we present the methodology that has been applied to calculate the emissions from the equity holdings in our funds.

13.1 Methodology

13.1.1 Scope
The following three subsectors categorised under the SRI funds sector are within scope:

Table 12. Triodos Bank’s subsectors for SRI funds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Triodos Bank’s Subsector</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sustainable Equity Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainable Bond Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainable Mixed Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainable Pioneer Fund</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

13.1.2 Cash and (sub)sovereign debt are excluded from our GHG accounting methodology as there are still some methodological issues and discussions around GHG accounting of these assets.

In line with PCAF, Triodos Bank accounts for Scope 1 and 2 emissions of the equity holdings within the funds divided by the total enterprise value of each:

\[
\frac{\text{Scope } 1 \text{CO}_2\text{eq} + \text{Scope } 2 \text{CO}_2\text{eq}}{\text{Enterprise value}} \times \text{Market value of Triodos equity} = \text{CO}_2\text{eq}
\]

Emissions that represent Scope 1 and 2 of a given company can be taken from their reports if available. For large portfolios external data providers are often used such as CDP, Bloomberg Terminal, MSCI, Trucost and ISS-oekom. Triodos Bank has chosen to work with ISS-oekom.

The Scope 1 and 2 emissions of a company in our fund are attributed to Triodos Bank based on the market value of our equity divided by the enterprise value, which is available through financial statements of the company or via the Bloomberg Terminal. When the enterprise value of an organisation is not available, market capitalisation is used.
### 13.1.3 Data quality scorecard, assumptions and limitations

Table 13 below indicates our data quality scoring for the emissions calculations for the SRI funds.

**Table 13. Data quality scorecard for listed equity via SRI funds**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data quality score (highest to lowest)</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Audited GHG emissions data from the listed companies in our fund, in accordance with the GHG Protocol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Non-audited GHG emissions data or GHG emissions data calculated by Triodos Bank or third-party data provider, based on primary data from the listed company and using verified emissions factors specific to the emissions source</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Estimated GHG emissions based on peers of the listed company</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Emissions intensity factors (emissions per million euro invested) per sector from own system or peer financial institutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Extended Environmental Input Output (EEIO) databases (i.e. EXIOBASE or GTAP) that provides sector-level data on emissions per revenue per sector and country</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data providers with standardised frameworks to collect and calculate GHG emissions of listed and non-listed companies are usually the most accessible way to move forward for funds with multiple companies. For funds of an institution like Triodos Bank that invest in emerging markets, data gaps need to be filled in as fewer companies in emerging markets disclose their Scope 1 and 2 emissions.
## Glossary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AFD</td>
<td>Agence Française du Développement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CNG</td>
<td>Climate Neutral Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CO₂eq</td>
<td>Carbon dioxide equivalent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EEIO</td>
<td>Extended Environmental Input Output</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EF</td>
<td>Emissions factor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAO</td>
<td>Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GHG</td>
<td>Greenhouse gas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IEA</td>
<td>International Energy Agency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IFC-CEET</td>
<td>IFC Carbon Emissions Estimation Tool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEM</td>
<td>Local Environmental Managers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LSU</td>
<td>Live Stock Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LTV</td>
<td>Loan-to-Value ratio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCAF</td>
<td>Platform Carbon Accounting Financials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WBCSD</td>
<td>World Business Council for Sustainable Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WRI</td>
<td>World Resources Institute</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## 15 Data sources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Triodos Bank’s sector</th>
<th>External Sources</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Private Mortgages/Sustainable property | • NL Emissions factors: https://www.co2emissiefactoren.nl/  
• NL consumption per building type: https://www.ecn.nl/publicaties/PdfFetch.aspx?r=ECN-E--15-068  
• EU buildings data base: https://ec.europa.eu/energy/en/eu-buildings-database  
• Dutch higher energy label (A plus) https://nl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Energielabel  
• Rijksoverheid https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten/rapporten/2013/04/11/cijfers-over-wonen-en-bouwen-2013  
• Organic farming • FAO Database: http://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data  
• DEFRA 2005 http://library.uniteddiversity.coop/Food/DEFRA_Food_Miles_Report.pdf  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>References</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Renewable energy | • CO₂ intensity factors for fossil fuel generation 2017: [https://webstore.iea.org/co2-emissions-from-fuel-combustion](https://webstore.iea.org/co2-emissions-from-fuel-combustion)  
  • The emissions factors (CO₂ eq per kWh production) are based on the grey grid mix per country and are derived from the International Energy Agency (IEA): [https://webstore.iea.org/co2-emissions-from-fuel-combustion](https://webstore.iea.org/co2-emissions-from-fuel-combustion)  
  • Source IEA (2017). World energy balances. Calculated based on the methodology outlined in the report International comparison of fossil power efficiency  
| Forestry and nature development | • USAID AFOLU Carbon Calculator. [http://afolucarbon.org/dashboard/](http://afolucarbon.org/dashboard/)  