

## Press Release

### Triodos Bank first pan-European bank to achieve certification as a B Corporation

Zeist, The Netherlands, 22 April 2015

Triodos Bank announced that it has become a Certified B Corporation today, at the official launch of the B Corp movement in Europe. Founded in 1980, Triodos Bank has become a reference point for sustainable banking globally. It joins over 1,200 leading sustainable businesses in 38 countries.

B Corps are a new type of company that use the power of business to solve social and environmental problems.

B Corp certification is to business what Fair Trade certification is to coffee or Organic certification is to food.

Triodos Bank was certified by the non-profit B Lab to meet rigorous standards of social and environmental performance, accountability, and transparency. The certification process includes a thorough evaluation of how Triodos Bank's practices impact its customers, stakeholders, the environment and co-workers.

Triodos Bank CEO Peter Blom: "A growing movement of successful, sustainable companies use business as a force for good and positive change. These B Corps create lasting value for all stakeholders, not just for their shareholders. Sustainability is fully integrated in their business."

Peter Blom: "B Corp certification helps to increase awareness about sustainable business by distinguishing credible businesses that are genuinely committed to doing good. It also helps improve the sustainability performance of the certified businesses themselves. We are part of this movement and are delighted to become a certified B Corp ourselves."

B Corp certified companies include the Patagonia clothing company and Ben & Jerry's ice cream. In the US, South America, Canada and Australia 1,257 companies across 121 industries are B Corp certified.

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#### **About B Corp**

*B Corporations are certified by the non-profit B Lab to voluntarily meet rigorous standards of social and environmental performance, accountability and transparency. Certified B Corporations distinguish themselves in a cluttered marketplace by offering a positive vision of a better way to do business; better for workers, better for communities and better for the environment.*

*The B Corporation community includes 1,257 companies from 38 countries and over 121 industries working together toward 1 unifying goal: harness the power of the private sector for public benefit and redefine success in business.*

**About B Lab**

*B Lab is a non-profit organisation founded in 2006 in the USA by Bart Houlahan, Jay Coen Gilbert and Andrew Kassoy. It serves a global movement to redefine success in business so that all companies compete not only to be the best in the world, but the best for the world. B Lab drives this systemic change by:*

- 1) building a community of Certified B Corporations to make it easier to tell the difference between “good companies” and good marketing;*
- 2) advancing public policy to accelerate growth of social entrepreneurship and impact investing*  
*;*
- 3) providing free, powerful tools for businesses to measure, compare, and improve their social and environmental performance (20,000+ businesses use the B Impact Assessment);*
- 4) promoting B Analytics, a customizable platform for investors to collect, benchmark, and report impact data.*

**About Triodos Bank**

*Triodos Bank is an independent bank that promotes sustainable and transparent banking. It does not see any conflict between a focus on people and the planet and a good financial return. Instead it believes that they reinforce each other in the long-term.*

*Triodos Bank has branches in the Netherlands, Belgium, the UK, Spain, Germany and an agency in France. It is a global authority in the field of microfinance in developing countries, Central Asia and Eastern Europe.*

*Triodos Bank co-founded the Global Alliance for Banking on Values, a network of 25 sustainable banks. Together these banks want to grow sustainable banking and its impact substantially.*

*Triodos Bank N.V. has a full banking licence and is registered with The Nederlandsche Bank N.V. (the Dutch central bank) and The Netherlands Authority for the Financial Markets.*

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