

# Myths and facts

## Our climate strategy

The inside scoop on what's true – and what's not – about UBS's position and actions toward climate change.

### Myths

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UBS doesn't care about the climate – the only thing it cares about is profit.

UBS isn't interested in climate change, and especially not where investment strategies are concerned.

UBS isn't interested in efforts to transition to a low-carbon world. It actually benefits from doing business with climate offenders.

UBS doesn't feel compelled to take a leading role in greater climate protection.

By financing top "climate-killer" firms, Credit Suisse and UBS caused twice as many greenhouse gas emissions as all the inhabitants and industries of Switzerland in 2017 alone.

### Facts

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An intact climate is in everyone's interest. We care about the negative consequences of climate change, which is why we have a climate strategy that applies across the entire bank and promote sustainability on many fronts. We understand that responsibly managing environment-related topics is directly connected to economic growth and the growth of our bank.

Wrong. We sold climate-related, sustainable investments worth USD 80 billion to clients last year. We know that climate change harbors risks for our clients. We're outlining these risks and helping our clients to handle them in a responsible way. A notable example is our Climate Aware Fund. The portfolio is oriented toward companies that are better prepared for a low-carbon future. The fund reduces its exposure to, rather than excluding, companies with higher carbon risk. This allows us and our clients to have a dialogue with these companies in order to encourage their transition to a low-carbon economy. Asset Management has implemented an engagement program with 50 oil & gas and utilities companies underweighted in the fund.

We have comprehensive standards for environmental and social risks that govern our relationships with our clients and suppliers, including clear criteria on what types of transactions we won't finance. For example, we stopped financing companies in the palm oil industry years ago and in 2018 decided that we won't finance new coal-fired power plants. We've drastically scaled back financing companies that have a negative impact on the climate – down 60% in 2018. It's important for us to keep shifting towards sustainability in all of our decisions. Last year, we financed companies developing renewable energies with over USD 55 billion. We've found that we often get much further when we work together with companies (an example of this is our Asset Management engagement program) to engage in more sustainable strategies than just pulling out altogether.

On the contrary. We're well aware of our responsibilities and want to take a leading role in climate protection. Starting of course at our own doorstep: we've halved the number of kilometers flown worldwide from one billion (2007) to 515 million (2018), for example, and offset 100% of flight emissions in the last 12 years. We've also committed to covering 100% of our energy needs from renewable sources by the end of 2020. This is already the case in Switzerland. Plus, we aim to be the leading provider of sustainable investment solutions, expanding our range of products and raising awareness among clients and investors.

We regard this claim as false and misleading since it's based on questionable calculations. The fact is that we've reduced our financing of companies that have a negative impact on the climate by 60% in 2018 (from USD 6.6 billion in 2017 to USD 2.7 billion in 2018).