

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ask your bank about the risks and side effects of climate change

Many Swiss investors tend to invest in CO₂-intensive companies. However, if banks were more transparent, they could demonstrate to those investors just how big the according climate risks are. That is why the **Alternative Bank Schweiz (ABS) discloses the complete carbon footprint of their investment business with the help and support of South Pole Group.**

Climate change is becoming more and more of a financial risk for investors. The mispricing of companies that have big reserves of fossil fuels or are active in CO₂-intensive industries leads to a so called "carbon bubble". This bubble can burst, for instance, if local or international laws concerning carbon emissions become more strict and such an event can lead to impactful financial losses. Banks are obligated to educate their clients about risks - and increasingly, that includes climate based risks.

Max Horster, PhD and partner financial industry at South Pole Group confirms: *"By calculating the climate footprint of their entire investment universe, ABS sets a good example for the industry. Through this measure, the bank shows the scope of climate risks in the investment business".* **Michael Diaz, Head of Investments at ABS and member of the board** adds to this statement, explaining: *"It's even more important for us to show that the Swiss banking industry can play an active role in the fight against climate change".*

ABS is a pioneer in this field as the first bank in Switzerland to have analysed and evaluated the CO₂ footprint of their entire investment business. The results speak a clear language: The ABS Investment Portfolio causes 50% less CO₂ emissions compared to a standard index. This is because the investment universe of ABS is carefully selected according to social and ecological criteria.

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About South Pole Group

The South Pole Group is one of the world's leading climate action solution providers, measuring and reducing climate impact for its clients. Headquartered in Zurich, Switzerland, with 16 offices around the globe and over 180 climate change professionals, the company has achieved savings of over 50 million tonnes of CO₂ since being incorporated in 2006. With the largest and deepest coverage of high quality company GHG information in its proprietary database, South Pole Group has screened over EUR 500 bn assets under management for their climate impact. The company pioneered high volume portfolio carbon screening that is now available on Bloomberg terminals (APPS CARBON), YourSRI.com and CleanCapitalist.com. South Pole Group has been a strong contributor to the Montreal Carbon Pledge. For more information, visit www.thesouthpolegroup.com or @thesouthpolegroup.

About Alternative Bank Schweiz

Alternative Bank Switzerland emphasizes ethical principles and transparency instead of maximum profits. As the leading provider of ethical banking services and a pioneer in sustainable finance, ABS promotes through its financing and investment activities projects in the area of affordable and ecological housing, renewable energy, organic farming and social organizations. ABS operates throughout Switzerland and has offices in Olten, Lausanne and Zurich.

ABS's products and services are aligned with its client requirements concerning savings, investments, financial security, company financing, real estate and monetary transactions. Loans are issued principally in the area of social or ecological housing (also for private individuals), organic agriculture, renewable energy, as well as SME's. ABS offers investment advice and ethical/sustainable investment funds.