

The first Turkish bank to have its targets validated by Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi)

VakıfBank's science-based emission reduction targets for direct, indirect, and financing and investment activities related to greenhouse gas emissions were validated by the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) in June 2023. As a result, VakıfBank became the first Turkish bank to have its science-based targets validated by SBTi.

In 2019, VakıfBank as the first public institution that committed to setting emission reduction targets by joining the **Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi)**, which was established through a partnership between **CDP, Global Compact, World Resources Institute (WRI), and World Wildlife Fund (WWF)** to ensure companies set climate science-aligned emission reduction targets and guide the climate transition process, particularly in the private sector. Following this commitment, in October 2022, VakıfBank defined its science-based targets for carbon emission reduction and submitted them to SBTi. As a result, VakıfBank became the first Turkish bank to have its targets validated by SBTi.

VakıfBank's CEO Mr. Abdi Serdar Üstünsalih, who plays a pioneering role in sustainability in many areas, stated, "While only 16 companies from Turkey are listed among the companies whose emission reduction targets are validated by SBTi, VakıfBank is the only Turkish bank on the list." Üstünsalih, "According to the targets validated by the Science Based Targets initiative, we aim to achieve a 51% reduction in our Scope 1 and 2 greenhouse gas emissions by 2032 from the 2021 base year, which is in line with the 1.5°C ambition. As part of the transition to a low-carbon economy, VakıfBank has set targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from its loan and investment portfolio, specifically related to electricity generation project financing, commercial real estate loans, and electricity generation loans, in line with the scenario of keeping global temperature increase "well below 2°C" as per the Paris Agreement, by 2032. Furthermore, VakıfBank's target to increase the number of companies with SBTi aligned emission reduction targets in its long term commercial and corporate loan portfolio was validated by SBTi " he said.

VakıfBank's CEO Mr. Üstünsalih concluded his speech as follows: "VakıfBank continues to aim to be in an active and pioneering position in the Turkish banking sector, through the steps taken and efforts made in the field of Sustainable Banking. In this regard, VakıfBank will continue to increase financing for activities that support a low-carbon economy and provide its customers with low-carbon products and services."