

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	SFSB NATIONAAL ENERGIEBESPAARFONDS
Project Number:	2017-0284
Country:	The Netherlands
Project Description:	Nationaal Energiebespaarfonds was founded by the Dutch Ministry of the Interior to provide individual loans to Dutch households to finance energy efficient measures. EIB has been asked to become a co-lender to NEF.
EIA required:	Not applicable
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ : (details for projects included are provided in section: "EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise")	Not applicable

Environmental and Social Assessment

The operation concerns a loan to the National Energy Saving Fund Foundation (Nationaal Energiespaarfonds or NEF) that in turn provides loans to private homeowners and homeowner associations to finance energy efficiency investments in the residential sector. The Dutch Municipalities' Housing Association (Stichting Volkshuisvesting Nederlandse gemeenten) or SVn, an independent Dutch not-for-profit foundation, is the fund manager.

The Fund supports refurbishment activities in the existing residential sector, which vary from energy efficiency measures to renewable energy integrated systems in buildings. The envisaged energy efficiency and renewable energy measures include, but are not limited to, building integrated solar PV and solar thermal, building insulation, new windows, doors, efficient boilers and other buildings' energy efficient internal systems. The activities support the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD 2010/31/EU) and the revised EPBD (2018/844/EU).

Environmental Assessment

Given the small scale, location and nature of the underlying projects in built-up areas, all projects are deemed not to have any significant negative environmental impact and are not expected to fall under Annex II of EIA Directive 2014/52/EU amending Directive 2011/92/EU.

At construction stage, the operation will slightly increase noise and vibration levels, and will perhaps affect air quality. Adequate mitigation measures will be considered together with the enforcement of good construction practices. The operation's impact at construction stage will be short-lived and reversible, at a level which is deemed acceptable.

¹ Only projects that meet the scope of the Pilot Exercise, as defined in the EIB draft Carbon Footprint Methodologies, are included, provided estimated emissions exceed the methodology thresholds: above 100,000 tons CO₂e/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tons CO₂e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.

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The removal of asbestos in existing buildings presents some risks for the works involved and the population living nearby. For this reason, environmental protection measures should be taken in order to protect people from asbestos during the removal and disposal process, which must be done in accordance with the latest version of the Asbestos Removal Decree 2005 (Asbestverwijderingsbesluit 2005).

At operation stage, the operation will make a substantial contribution to increasing the energy production from renewable energy sources and reducing energy consumption thanks to energy efficiency measures, therefore contributing to mitigating climate change.

It is estimated that the energy efficiency and renewable energy investments will generate primary energy savings of 149 GWh per year and energy production from renewable energy sources of 36.6 GWh per year.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

Concerning the façade renovation works, the operation should comply with the existing regulations applicable to buildings regarding cultural heritage constraints or any other relevant environmental or social constraints including the existence of nests for birds and/or bats. The fund manager should ensure that the existing application request for financing includes a checklist based on which applicants – where applicable – will declare compliance with the above requirement.

In addition, one of the envisaged measures of the operation is the installation of micro-cogeneration units in buildings and these should meet the high efficiency cogeneration criteria laid down in the Energy Efficiency Directive (2012/27/EU).

Conclusions and Recommendations

The current operation is not expected to have any significant negative environmental and social impact, and is expected to contribute to a significant reduction in energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.

The fund management team has gained substantial experience since 2013 and will be supported by RVO (Netherlands Enterprise Agency) and ECN (Energy Research Centre) in the implementation phase. Both institutions have considerable technical expertise in the energy efficiency and renewable energy sectors. The fund manager shall enhance its data management system in order to be able to report on the loans provided, including details about each one of the supported measures and their impact indicators. The environmental capacity of the fund manager has therefore been assessed by the Bank as acceptable for the scale and nature of the projects.

In view of the above findings and requirements, the operation is deemed satisfactory from an environmental and social compliance perspective.