



Revving up Maybank's sustainability commitments

THE PROGRESS MADE in just two years since Maybank unveiled its four headline sustainability commitments has seen the group revising two of the targets upwards.

By 2025, it aims to mobilise RM80 billion (up from RM50 billion) in sustainable finance and improve the lives of two million (up from one million) households in ASEAN.

Maybank Chief Sustainability Officer Shahril Azuar Jimin says the group has surpassed the halfway mark for these two commitments and the yearly targets for the remaining commitments, namely achieving a carbon-neutral position of its own emissions by 2030 and net-zero carbon equivalent position by 2050, and achieving one million hours per annum on sustainability and delivering 1,000 significant Sustainable Development Goal outcomes by 2025.

According to Shahril, the group has to date mobilised some RM49 billion in sustainable finance enabled by the rollout of the Sustainable Finance Framework (SPF), the first bank in Malaysia to do so. The SPF, which supports greater development of green, social and sustainable products, has elevated the group's ability to mobilise sustainable finance, he says.

In 2022, more than 90% of non-retail mobilisation was contributed by home markets, says Shahril, adding that 39% of the loan proceeds went towards the development of green buildings (representing a 15% increase from 2021) and 39% to affordable services and infrastructure.

"In 2022, retail mobilisation across home markets increased by 17% from 2021. Thematically, over 50% of sustainable finance was mobilised through the provision of affordable essential services and infrastructure. Roughly 30% was mobilised towards financing clean transportation, while energy efficiency, including financing of green indexed property units and green mortgages, contributed 16%," he adds.



Maybank Chief Sustainability Officer Shahril Azuar Jimin

MAYBANK'S SUSTAINABILITY JOURNEY THUS FAR:

RM49 billion

has been mobilised, out of the total target of **RM80 billion** in sustainable finance by 2025

Improved more than

1.05 million

households in ASEAN, on track to achieve its **2 million** target by 2025

Reduced

48.5%

in operational emissions against 2019 baseline, surpassing the yearly target

Achieved more than

580,000

sustainability hours, out of target of

one million hours

per annum

The lives of more than 1.05 million households across ASEAN have improved as a result of the group's financial inclusion initiatives, zakat, micro-insurance offerings and community flagship programmes, says Shahril.

On the group's decarbonisation journey, he says that Maybank has reduced operational emissions

by 48.5% against the 2019 baseline thanks to its energy efficiency projects, Malaysia renewable energy certificates and carbon credits.

A point of pride for Maybank is that it is the first bank in the country (and one of the first in ASEAN) to establish a financed emissions baseline, which sets out the starting point for the group to chart its progress towards decarbonisation. Maybank was recently recognised in *TIME* magazine's World's Best Companies 2023 listing, ranked 374th for Sustainability, the only company in Malaysia to receive this accolade.

As for the fourth sustainability commitment, Maybank has achieved more than 580,000 sustainability hours, with 62% directly related to sustainability initiatives.

Shahril sees the group as an enabler in the country's sustainability journey, particularly with the government's more recent introduction of several pivotal frameworks and documents to chart the nation's energy transition and sustainability pathways.

"The National Energy Transition Roadmap and the government's intention to increase the renewable energy target to 70% by 2050 and uplift renewable energy export ban are steps in the right direction. Maybank sees itself as an enabler in this space. We have identified the areas of focus, including transition finance, renewable energy, carbon credit producing projects and electric vehicles."

"We see renewables as a top carbon abatement lever for ASEAN, while electric mobility is viewed as an investment opportunity through partnership with equipment manufacturers and developing a charging infrastructure," he adds.

Maybank, he says, is not taking its foot off the gas when it comes to seeing its sustainability commitments come to fruition. The group plans to develop a science-based, net-zero pathway and strategy to guide its decarbonisation transition. It also plans to carry out strategic engagements with clients, government ministries and regulators in transitioning to a low-carbon economy, as well as craft new and innovative products and solutions to drive mobilisation in sustainable finance.