

## **White-paper on Green Banking by State Bank of India**

**The State Bank of India (SBI)** Group is the largest Indian financial services conglomerate with over 20,000 bank branches in India & over 185 offices in 35 other countries. With history of over 200 years and 1/4<sup>th</sup> market share in India, the Group has asset base of over USD 400 billion. Most of the large and midsize Indian corporates are customers of the Bank.

### **Green Banking:**

SBI has been a front runner in Green Banking in India. Introduction of Green Channel Counter (paperless transaction), Self Service Kiosk, Green Remit Card, prepaid cards like Smart Payout card, Ez Pay Card, Vishwa Yatra Card are the Bank's green initiatives in the past few years. Paperless Banking is promoted and implemented across the country.

The Bank has adopted energy efficient measures and is the largest deployer of solar ATMs in India. It has installed wind power projects in three states for its own energy needs.

### **Caring for Environment**

The Bank takes proactive steps to reduce the direct impact of its operations on the environment. From recycling programs to energy conservation in offices and branches, the Bank is working to reduce its operational footprints on the environment.

### **Installation of Solar ATMs, introduction of Green Channel Banking (Paperless Banking)**

The Bank has initiated a pilot project to determine its Carbon footprint levels, which will help in determining the Bank's resource consumption pattern and enable the Bank to take effective steps to implement various measures for sustainable usage in a cost effective way.

The Bank has put in place SMART i.e. Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time bound Green Banking Goals, some of which are obtaining star rating at all state level administrative office premises from Bureau of Energy Efficiency. These include construction of 'Green' buildings, waste water treatment, programs to sensitise staff on energy savings.

## **Green Financing**

The Bank is providing long term loans at concessionary rate of interest for renewable energy projects to encourage reduction of greenhouse gases. It also provides finance for organic farming including financing of bio-fertilisers, vermi-compost units etc to prevent degradation of precious arable land and pollution of water from the abuse of chemical fertilizers/pesticides/insecticides. The Bank has rolled out a special initiative to promote solar lighting in all such villages in India, where repayment of agricultural loans is on time thereby encouraging usage of green energy and repayment culture. The Bank has been extending finance at concessional interest for 'watershed management' and 'rainwater harvesting' activities undertaken by farmers.

### **Highlights:**

- Our over 48,000 ATMs ensure reduced consumption of paper at Branches.
- The Bank's operations generate very minimal emissions/ waste and hence, the quantity of emissions/wastes generated by the Bank in the FY 2013-14 was far below the permissible limits given by the Pollution Control Board of India.
- The Bank has launched the Green Channel Counter (GCC) facility in all retail branches (14,981 branches) to enhance convenience to the customers and save on cost and time per transaction. More than 360,000 transactions are taking place on a daily basis through these counters. GCC is banking transactions through debit cards without usage of papers.
- The Bank has 1,352 Self Service Kiosks (SSKs) as on 31st March, 2014 enabling more than 55,000 transactions daily. SSK is again a way of doing paperless banking.
- The Bank introduced Green Remit Card (GRC), a remittance card, on 2nd January, 2012 for facilitating large number of cash deposit transactions at our branches. A cardholder can swipe the card at GCC or at Cash Deposit Machines (CDM) and remit money to the beneficiary whose account number is mapped to the card. Once the transaction is completed, both the remitter and beneficiary get a confirmation through SMS. The Bank has issued more than 4.8 million cards resulting into 18.1 million transactions as on 31st March, 2014.
- Green Power represents an innovative scheme to improve loan recovery culture among farmers by rewarding the villages with solar street lights under corporate social responsibility.

- The Bank was awarded Asia Green Future Leadership Award 2013 for '**Best Green Service Innovation**'.