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**Two Values-Based Banks—Climate First Bank and Agility Bank (in organization)—Enter Collaboration**

**HOUSTON, Texas, December 9, 2021** – [Climate First Bank](https://www.climatefirstbank.com/) and [Agility Bank (in organization)](https://agilitybanking.com/) announced today that the two banks have agreed to collaborate. Both banks are founded on specific values important in their communities – Climate First with its commitment to fight the climate crisis and promote environmental sustainability, and Agility Bank (in organization) with its commitment to women and minority-owned businesses.

“As a bank guided by Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) principles, relationships with mission-aligned banks like Agility Bank are invaluable,” said Ken LaRoe, founder and CEO of Climate First Bank, which is headquartered in St. Petersburg, Fla. “Through this collaboration, both Climate First Bank and Agility Bank will further our shared goal of using finance as a positive tool for sustainable economic, social and environmental development.”

Lauren Sparks, founder, chair and CEO of Agility Bank (in organization), headquartered in Houston, Texas, noted, “The support and partnership with Climate First Bank heightens our interest in supporting businesses with a sincere awareness of environmental sustainability. Climate First Bank is also focused on women and minority-owned businesses. We can learn from one another as we grow and have an impact.”

In addition, the banks will pursue other channels to support one another, potentially partnering on loan participations, marketing, and education.

“One of the primary outreach efforts will be to help businesses understand that they can make a difference in the environment by simply adjusting their business plans, sometimes even slightly. When you think about the environment, the ideas start flowing,” added Sparks.

“We’re living in a zeitgeist of change – movements for social equality and environmental conservation receive burgeoning support. Consumers not only ask but expect that the companies they patronize do right by the community and the planet,” said LaRoe. “With our values-based business model, both banks are enacting lasting change while also yielding exceptional financial performance. For us, it’s not hard to do what’s right and win.”

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