

Sustainability indicators for crypto-assets

Disclosures in accordance with Article 66 (5) MiCAR.

This report was provided by Crypto Risk Metrics.

2026-07-14

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Preamble

About the Crypto Asset Service Provider (CASP)

Name of the CASP: Volksbank Backnang eG
Street and number: Schillerstraße 18
City: Backnang
Country: Germany
LEI: 5299000CFIYPHBDCD952

About this report

This disclosure serves as evidence of compliance with the regulatory requirements of MiCAR 66 (5). This requirement obliges crypto asset service providers to disclose significant adverse factors affecting the climate and the environment. In particular, this disclosure complies with the requirements of "Commission Regulation (EU) 2025/422 of December 17, 2024, supplementing Regulation (EU) 2023/1114 of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to regulatory technical standards specifying the content, methods and presentation of information relating to sustainability indicators related to climate-related and other environmental impacts." The optional information specified in Article 6, par. 8 (a) to (d) DR 2025/422 is not included.

This report is valid until material changes occur in the data, which will result in an immediate adjustment of this report.

Overview

This is an overview of the core indicator energy consumption but does not represent the reporting according to MiCAR 66 (5). Please find the full disclosure below.

#	Crypto-Asset Name	Crypto-Asset FFG	Energy consumption (kWh per calendar year)
1	Bitcoin	V15WLZJMF	154,210,532,586.30
2	Litecoin	D74JZ1VRD	847,941,089.11
3	Ethereum Eth	D5RG2FHH0	2,159,953.20
4	Cardano ADA	76QS7QCXB	773,946.00

Sustainability indicators

Bitcoin

Quantitative information

Field	Value	Unit
S.1 Name	Volksbank Backnang eG	/
S.2 Relevant legal entity identifier	5299000CFIYPHBDCD952	/
S.3 Name of the crypto-asset	Bitcoin	/
S.6 Beginning of the period to which the disclosure relates	2025-07-14	/
S.7 End of the period to which the disclosure relates	2026-07-14	/

Field	Value	Unit
S.8 Energy consumption	154210532586.29703	kWh/a
S.10 Renewable energy consumption	34.4781471084	%
S.11 Energy intensity	3.27498	kWh
S.12 Scope 1 DLT GHG emission - Controlled	0.00000	tCO2e
S.13 Scope 2 DLT GHG emission - Purchased	63534132.04130	tCO2e
S.14 GHG intensity	1.34928	kgCO2e

Qualitative information

S.4 Consensus Mechanism

Bitcoin is present on the following networks: Bitcoin, Lightning Network.

The Bitcoin blockchain network uses a consensus mechanism called Proof of Work (PoW) to achieve distributed consensus among its nodes. Here's a detailed breakdown of how it works:

Core Concepts:

1. Nodes and Miners:
   - Nodes: Nodes are computers running the Bitcoin software that participate in the network by validating transactions and blocks.
   - Miners: Special nodes, called miners, perform the work of creating new blocks by solving complex cryptographic puzzles.
2. Blockchain: The blockchain is a public ledger that records all Bitcoin transactions in a series of blocks. Each block contains a list of transactions, a reference to the previous block (hash), a timestamp, and a nonce (a random number used once).
3. Hash Functions: Bitcoin uses the SHA-256 cryptographic hash function to secure the data in blocks. A hash function takes input data and produces a fixed-size string of characters, which appears random.

Consensus Process:

1. Transaction Validation: Transactions are broadcast to the network and collected by miners into a block. Each transaction must be validated by nodes to ensure it follows the network's rules, such as correct signatures and sufficient funds.
2. Mining and Block Creation:
   - Nonce and Hash Puzzle: Miners compete to find a nonce that, when combined with the block's data and passed through the SHA-256 hash function, produces a hash that is less than a target value. This target value is adjusted periodically to ensure that blocks are mined approximately every 10 minutes.
   - Proof of Work: The process of finding this nonce is computationally intensive and requires significant energy and resources. Once a miner finds a valid nonce, they broadcast the newly mined block to the network.
3. Block Validation and Addition: Other nodes in the network verify the new block to ensure the hash is correct and that all transactions within the block are valid. If the block is valid, nodes add it to their copy of the blockchain and the process starts again with the next block.
4. Chain Consensus: The longest chain (the chain with the most accumulated proof of work) is considered the valid chain by the network. Nodes always work to extend the longest valid chain.

In the case of multiple valid chains (forks), the network will eventually resolve the fork by continuing to mine and extending one chain until it becomes longer.

For the calculation of the corresponding indicators, the additional energy consumption and the transactions of the Lightning Network have also been taken into account, as this reflects the categorization of the Digital Token Identifier Foundation for the respective functionally fungible group ("FFG") relevant for this reporting. If one would exclude these transactions, the respective estimations regarding the "per transaction" count would be substantially higher.

S.5 Incentive Mechanisms and Applicable Fees

Bitcoin is present on the following networks: Bitcoin, Lightning Network.

The Bitcoin blockchain relies on a Proof-of-Work (PoW) consensus mechanism to ensure the security and integrity of transactions. This mechanism involves economic incentives for miners and a fee structure that supports network sustainability:

Incentive Mechanisms:

1. Block Rewards:
   - Newly Minted Bitcoins: Miners are incentivized by block rewards, which consist of newly created bitcoins awarded to the miner who successfully mines a new block. Initially, the block reward was 50 BTC, but it halves every 210,000 blocks (approx. every four years) in an event known as the "halving."
   - Halving and Scarcity: The halving mechanism ensures that the total supply of Bitcoin is capped at 21 million, creating scarcity and potentially increasing value over time.
2. Transaction Fees:
   - User Fees: Each transaction includes a fee paid by the user to incentivize miners to include their transaction in a block. These fees are crucial, especially as the block reward diminishes over time due to halving.
   - Fee Market: Transaction fees are determined by the market, where users compete to have their transactions processed quickly. Higher fees typically result in faster inclusion in a block, especially during periods of high network congestion.

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S.9 Energy consumption sources and methodologies

The energy consumption of this asset is aggregated across multiple components:

For the calculation of energy consumptions, the so called 'top-down' approach is being used, within which an economic calculation of the miners is assumed. Miners are persons or devices that actively participate in the proof-of-work consensus mechanism. The miners are considered to be the central factor for the energy consumption of the network. Hardware is pre-selected based on the consensus mechanism's hash algorithm: SHA-256. A current profitability threshold is determined on the basis of the revenue and cost structure for mining operations. Only Hardware above the profitability threshold is considered for the network. The energy consumption of the network can be determined by taking into account the distribution for the hardware, the efficiency levels for operating the hardware and on-chain information regarding the miners' revenue opportunities. If

significant use of merge mining is known, this is taken into account. When calculating the energy consumption, we used - if available - the Functionally Fungible Group Digital Token Identifier (FFG DTI) to determine all implementations of the asset of question in scope and we update the mappings regulary, based on data of the Digital Token Identifier Foundation. The information regarding the hardware used and the number of participants in the network is based on assumptions that are verified with best effort using empirical data. In general, participants are assumed to be largely economically rational. As a precautionary principle, we make assumptions on the conservative side when in doubt, i.e. making higher estimates for the adverse impacts.

To determine the energy consumption of a token, the energy consumption of the network(s) lightning_network is calculated first. For the energy consumption of the token, a fraction of the energy consumption of the network is attributed to the token, which is determined based on the activity of the crypto-asset within the network. When calculating the energy consumption, the Functionally Fungible Group Digital Token Identifier (FFG DTI) is used - if available - to determine all implementations of the asset in scope. The mappings are updated regularly, based on data of the Digital Token Identifier Foundation. The information regarding the hardware used and the number of participants in the network is based on assumptions that are verified with best effort using empirical data. In general, participants are assumed to be largely economically rational. As a precautionary principle, we make assumptions on the conservative side when in doubt, i.e. making higher estimates for the adverse impacts.

S.15 Key energy sources and methodologies

To determine the proportion of renewable energy usage, the locations of the nodes are to be determined using public information sites, open-source crawlers and crawlers developed in-house. If no information is available on the geographic distribution of the nodes, reference networks are used which are comparable in terms of their incentivization structure and consensus mechanism. This geo-information is merged with public information from Our World in Data, see citation. The intensity is calculated as the marginal energy cost wrt. one more transaction.

Ember (2025); Energy Institute - Statistical Review of World Energy (2024) - with major processing by Our World in Data. “Share of electricity generated by renewables - Ember and Energy Institute” [dataset]. Ember, “Yearly Electricity Data Europe”; Ember, “Yearly Electricity Data”; Energy Institute, “Statistical Review of World Energy” [original data]. Retrieved from https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/share-electricity-renewables.

S.16 Key GHG sources and methodologies

To determine the GHG Emissions, the locations of the nodes are to be determined using public information sites, open-source crawlers and crawlers developed in-house. If no information is available on the geographic distribution of the nodes, reference networks are used which are comparable in terms of their incentivization structure and consensus mechanism. This geo-information is merged with public information from Our World in Data, see citation. The intensity is calculated as the marginal emission wrt. one more transaction.

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Litecoin

Quantitative information

Field	Value	Unit
S.1 Name	Volksbank Backnang eG	/
S.2 Relevant legal entity identifier	5299000CFIYPHBDCD952	/
S.3 Name of the crypto-asset	Litecoin	/
S.6 Beginning of the period to which the disclosure relates	2025-07-14	/
S.7 End of the period to which the disclosure relates	2026-07-14	/
S.8 Energy consumption	847941089.10906	kWh/a
S.10 Renewable energy consumption	34.4781471084	%
S.11 Energy intensity	0.03202	kWh
S.12 Scope 1 DLT GHG emission - Controlled	0.00000	tCO2e
S.13 Scope 2 DLT GHG emission - Purchased	349348.38895	tCO2e
S.14 GHG intensity	0.01319	kgCO2e

Qualitative information

S.4 Consensus Mechanism

Litecoin, like Bitcoin, uses Proof of Work (PoW) as its consensus mechanism, but with a few key differences:

1. Scrypt Hashing Algorithm: Unlike Bitcoin's SHA-256 algorithm, Litecoin uses the Scrypt hashing algorithm, which is more memory-intensive. This makes mining Litecoin more accessible to regular users and limits the advantages of specialized hardware (like ASICs) in the early years.
2. Mining and Block Creation: Miners compete to solve cryptographic puzzles and, upon success, add new blocks to the blockchain. This process involves solving the Scrypt algorithm, which requires computational work. The first miner to solve the problem earns the block reward and transaction fees associated with the transactions in the block.
3. Block Time: Litecoin has a block time of 2.5 minutes, much faster than Bitcoin's 10 minutes. This means transactions confirm more quickly, increasing the overall network speed.
4. Block Reward Halving: Similar to Bitcoin, Litecoin has a block reward halving event approximately every four years. Initially, miners earned 50 LTC per block, but this reward decreases by half after each halving event. This process continues until the maximum supply of 84 million LTC is reached.
5. Difficulty Adjustment: Litecoin adjusts the mining difficulty approximately every 2,016 blocks (about every 3.5 days) to ensure that blocks continue to be mined at a consistent rate of 2.5 minutes per block, regardless of fluctuations in the total network hash rate.

S.5 Incentive Mechanisms and Applicable Fees

Litecoin, like Bitcoin, uses the Proof of Work (PoW) consensus mechanism to secure transactions and incentivize miners.

Incentive Mechanisms:

1. Mining Rewards:
   Block Rewards: Miners are rewarded with Litecoin (LTC) for successfully mining new blocks. Initially, miners received 50 LTC per block, but this reward halves approximately every four years. Transaction Fees: Miners also earn transaction fees from the transactions included in the blocks they mine. Users pay fees to have their transactions processed by miners, especially when they need faster confirmation times.
2. Halving:
   The halving mechanism ensures that over time, fewer Litecoins are introduced into circulation, creating a deflationary model. This makes mining more valuable as the circulating supply becomes scarcer, incentivizing miners to continue participating in the network even as block rewards decrease.
3. Economic Security:
   The cost of mining (e.g., hardware and electricity) provides a strong economic incentive for miners to act honestly. If miners attempt to cheat or attack the network, they risk losing the computational work they invested, as invalid blocks will be rejected by the network.

Fees on the Litecoin Blockchain:

- Transaction Fees: Litecoin users pay a transaction fee for each transaction, typically calculated in LTC per byte of transaction data. The fees are dynamic and vary based on network congestion.
- Low Fees: Litecoin is known for its relatively low transaction fees compared to other blockchains like Bitcoin, which makes it ideal for smaller transactions and micro-payments.
- Fee Redistribution: Collected transaction fees are distributed to miners as part of their rewards for validating transactions and securing the network.

S.9 Energy consumption sources and methodologies

For the calculation of energy consumptions, the so called 'top-down' approach is being used, within which an economic calculation of the miners is assumed. Miners are persons or devices that actively participate in the proof-of-work consensus mechanism. The miners are considered to be the central factor for the energy consumption of the network. Hardware is pre-selected based on the consensus mechanism's hash algorithm: Scrypt. A current profitability threshold is determined on the basis of the revenue and cost structure for mining operations. Only Hardware above the profitability threshold is considered for the network. The energy consumption of the network can be determined by taking into account the distribution for the hardware, the efficiency levels for operating the hardware and on-chain information regarding the miners' revenue opportunities. If significant use of merge mining is known, this is taken into account. When calculating the energy consumption, we used - if available - the Functionally Fungible Group Digital Token Identifier (FFG DTI) to determine all implementations of the asset of question in scope and we update the mappings regulary, based on data of the Digital Token Identifier Foundation. The information regarding the hardware used and the number of participants in the network is based on assumptions that are verified with best effort using empirical data. In general, participants are assumed to be largely economically rational. As a precautionary principle, we make assumptions on the conservative side when in doubt, i.e. making higher estimates for the adverse impacts.

S.15 Key energy sources and methodologies

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S.16 Key GHG sources and methodologies

To determine the GHG Emissions, the locations of the nodes are to be determined using public information sites, open-source crawlers and crawlers developed in-house. If no information is available on the geographic distribution of the nodes, reference networks are used which are comparable in terms of their incentivization structure and consensus mechanism. This geo-information is merged with public information from Our World in Data, see citation. The intensity is calculated as the marginal emission wrt. one more transaction.

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Ethereum Eth

Quantitative information

Field	Value	Unit
S.1 Name	Volksbank Backnang eG	/
S.2 Relevant legal entity identifier	5299000CFIYPHBDCD952	/
S.3 Name of the crypto-asset	Ethereum Eth	/
S.6 Beginning of the period to which the disclosure relates	2025-07-14	/
S.7 End of the period to which the disclosure relates	2026-07-14	/
S.8 Energy consumption	2159953.20000	kWh/a
S.10 Renewable energy consumption	37.9124101186	%
S.11 Energy intensity	0.00005	kWh
S.12 Scope 1 DLT GHG emission - Controlled	0.00000	tCO2e
S.13 Scope 2 DLT GHG emission - Purchased	718.86066	tCO2e
S.14 GHG intensity	0.00002	kgCO2e

Qualitative information

S.4 Consensus Mechanism

The crypto-asset's Proof-of-Stake (PoS) consensus mechanism, introduced with The Merge in 2022, replaces mining with validator staking. Validators must stake at least 32 ETH every block a validator is randomly chosen to propose the next block. Once proposed the other validators verify the blocks integrity.

The network operates on a slot and epoch system, where a new block is proposed every 12 seconds, and finalization occurs after two epochs (~12.8 minutes) using Casper-FFG. The Beacon Chain coordinates validators, while the fork-choice rule (LMD-GHOST) ensures the chain follows the heaviest accumulated validator votes. Validators earn rewards for proposing and verifying blocks, but face slashing for malicious behavior or inactivity. PoS aims to improve energy efficiency, security, and scalability, with future upgrades like Proto-Danksharding enhancing transaction efficiency.

S.5 Incentive Mechanisms and Applicable Fees

The crypto-asset's PoS system secures transactions through validator incentives and economic penalties. Validators stake at least 32 ETH and earn rewards for proposing blocks, attesting to valid ones, and participating in sync committees. Rewards are paid in newly issued ETH and transaction fees.

Under EIP-1559, transaction fees consist of a base fee, which is burned to reduce supply, and an optional priority fee (tip) paid to validators. Validators face slashing if they act maliciously and incur penalties for inactivity.

This system aims to increase security by aligning incentives while making the crypto-asset's fee structure more predictable and deflationary during high network activity.

S.9 Energy consumption sources and methodologies

For the calculation of energy consumptions, the so called 'bottom-up' approach is being used. The nodes are considered to be the central factor for the energy consumption of the network. These assumptions are made on the basis of empirical findings through the use of public information sites, open-source crawlers and crawlers developed in-house. The main determinants for estimating the hardware used within the network are the requirements for operating the client software. The energy consumption of the hardware devices was measured in certified test laboratories. When calculating the energy consumption, we used - if available - the Functionally Fungible Group Digital Token Identifier (FFG DTI) to determine all implementations of the asset of question in scope and we update the mappings regulary, based on data of the Digital Token Identifier Foundation. The information regarding the hardware used and the number of participants in the network is based on assumptions that are verified with best effort using empirical data. In general, participants are assumed to be largely economically rational. As a precautionary principle, we make assumptions on the conservative side when in doubt, i.e. making higher estimates for the adverse impacts.

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S.16 Key GHG sources and methodologies

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Cardano ADA

Quantitative information

Field	Value	Unit
S.1 Name	Volksbank Backnang eG	/
S.2 Relevant legal entity identifier	5299000CFIYPHBDCD952	/
S.3 Name of the crypto-asset	Cardano ADA	/
S.6 Beginning of the period to which the disclosure relates	2025-07-14	/
S.7 End of the period to which the disclosure relates	2026-07-14	/
S.8 Energy consumption	773946.00000	kWh/a
S.10 Renewable energy consumption	37.4187578605	%
S.11 Energy intensity	0.00109	kWh
S.12 Scope 1 DLT GHG emission - Controlled	0.00000	tCO2e
S.13 Scope 2 DLT GHG emission - Purchased	260.63169	tCO2e
S.14 GHG intensity	0.00037	kgCO2e

Qualitative information

S.4 Consensus Mechanism

Core Components: Cardano uses the Ouroboros consensus mechanism, a Proof of Stake (PoS) protocol designed for scalability, security, and energy efficiency.

Core Concepts:

1. Proof of Stake (PoS): Validators (called slot leaders) are selected based on the amount of ADA they have staked, rather than solving complex computational puzzles. Validators propose and validate blocks, which are added to the blockchain.
2. Epochs and Slot Leaders: Cardano divides time into epochs (fixed time periods), each of which is subdivided into slots. Slot leaders are selected for each slot to validate and propose blocks. Slot leaders are chosen randomly based on the amount of ADA staked. More stake increases the probability of being selected. Validators are responsible for confirming transactions during their slot and passing the block to the next slot leader.
3. Delegation and Staking Pools: ADA holders can delegate their tokens to staking pools, which increases the pool's chances of being selected to validate a block. The pool operator and delegators share the rewards based on their stakes. This system ensures that participants who do not want to operate a full validator node can still earn rewards and contribute to network security by supporting trusted staking pools.
4. Security and Adversary Resistance: Ouroboros ensures security even in the presence of potential attacks. It assumes that adversaries may attempt to propagate alternative chains or send arbitrary messages. The protocol is secure as long as more than 51% of the staked ADA is controlled by honest participants. Settlement Delay: To protect against adversarial attacks, the new slot leader must consider the last few blocks as transient. Only the blocks preceding these are treated as finalized, ensuring that chain finality is secure against manipulation attempts. This mechanism also allows participants to temporarily go offline and resynchronize as long as they are not disconnected for more than the settlement delay period.
5. Chain Selection: Cardano's nodes adopt the longest valid chain rule: each node stores a local copy of the blockchain and replaces it with any discovered valid, longer chain. This ensures that all nodes eventually converge on a single version of the blockchain, maintaining network consistency.

S.5 Incentive Mechanisms and Applicable Fees

Cardano uses incentive mechanisms to ensure network security and decentralization through staking rewards, slashing mechanisms, and transaction fees.

Incentive Mechanisms to Secure Transactions:

1. Staking Rewards:
   - Validators, known as slot leaders, secure the network by validating transactions and creating new blocks. To participate, validators must stake ADA, and those with larger stakes are more likely to be selected as slot leaders.
   - Validators are rewarded with newly minted ADA and transaction fees for successfully producing blocks and validating transactions.
   - Delegators, who may not wish to run a validator node, can delegate their ADA to staking pools. By doing so, they contribute to the network's security and earn a share of the rewards earned by the pool. The rewards are distributed proportionally based on the amount of ADA delegated.
2. Slashing Mechanism:
   - To prevent malicious behavior, Cardano employs a slashing mechanism. Validators who act dishonestly, fail to validate transactions properly, or produce incorrect blocks face penalties that involve the slashing of a portion of their staked ADA.
   - This provides strong economic incentives for validators to act honestly and ensures the network's integrity and security.
3. Delegation and Pool Operation:
   - Staking pools can charge operation fees (a margin on rewards) to maintain their infrastructure. This includes fixed costs set by pool operators. Delegators earn rewards after pool fees are

deducted, providing a balanced incentive for both operators and delegators to participate actively.
- Rewards are distributed at the end of each epoch, where staking pool performance and participation determine the distribution of ADA rewards to all stakeholders.

Applicable Fees:

1. Transaction Fees:
   - Transaction fees on Cardano are paid in ADA and are generally low. They are calculated based on the size of the transaction and the network's current demand. These fees are paid to validators for including transactions in new blocks.
   - The fee formula is: a + b × size, where a is a constant (typically 0.155381 ADA), b is a coefficient related to the transaction size (0.000043946 ADA/byte), and size refers to the transaction size in bytes. This ensures that the fee adapts based on network load and the size of each transaction.
2. Staking Pool Fees:
   - Staking pool operators charge operational costs and a margin fee, which covers the cost of running and maintaining the staking pool. These fees vary between pools but ensure that operators can continue to provide their services while offering rewards to delegators.
   - After the operator's fee, the remaining rewards are distributed among the delegators based on the size of their stake.

S.9 Energy consumption sources and methodologies

For the calculation of energy consumptions, the so called 'bottom-up' approach is being used. The nodes are considered to be the central factor for the energy consumption of the network. These assumptions are made on the basis of empirical findings through the use of public information sites, open-source crawlers and crawlers developed in-house. The main determinants for estimating the hardware used within the network are the requirements for operating the client software. The energy consumption of the hardware devices was measured in certified test laboratories. When calculating the energy consumption, we used - if available - the Functionally Fungible Group Digital Token Identifier (FFG DTI) to determine all implementations of the asset of question in scope and we update the mappings regulary, based on data of the Digital Token Identifier Foundation. The information regarding the hardware used and the number of participants in the network is based on assumptions that are verified with best effort using empirical data. In general, participants are assumed to be largely economically rational. As a precautionary principle, we make assumptions on the conservative side when in doubt, i.e. making higher estimates for the adverse impacts.

S.15 Key energy sources and methodologies

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