



# SUSTAINABLE INVESTMENT FUNDS

Investing for the future



Responsible investment is growing in popularity as investors realize that their financial interests and their environmental, ethical and social values go hand in hand.

# What is responsible investing?

It's a type of investment that integrates analysis of environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors into financial analysis in order to select the best performing companies in a portfolio or fund from a sustainable development perspective. Other strategies also involve excluding or selecting certain types of companies or sectors when selecting securities (positive or negative screening).

Integrating ESG criteria into a decision-making process leads to a better understanding of companies' sustainability practices by identifying potential risks and opportunities while considering traditional financial analysis.

Responsible or sustainable funds combine the best of both worlds: strong long-term growth potential and positive social, environmental and governance impact.

#### Choosing a sustainable investment fund is...

An ideal solution for investors who want to invest responsibly while pursuing their financial objectives.

Investing in "sustainable" companies that promote long-term growth while balancing the interests of shareholders, clients, employees and communities.

An integrated approach that seamlessly combines analysis of environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors with fundamental financial analysis



## **Carefully chosen funds**

To meet our clients' values and needs, offering a well-diversified range of investment funds is essential. Therefore, following an in-depth analysis by the Group Savings and Retirement investment team of specialists, eight sustainable investment funds were selected.

To be considered, managers and funds had to meet the following criteria:

- United Nations' Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI) signatory
- Renowned institutional manager
- Leader in ESG (environmental, social and governance) investment
- In-house team with expertise in ESG criteria analysis
- Robust and well-established process for ESG criteria analysis
- Superior performance compared to the index and the median in its category

All the investment funds that are part of our offering incorporate ESG criteria at various levels, since all our external fund managers are PRI signatories. But the selected sustainable investment funds go even further in promoting sustainable change.

While each fund has its own characteristics and process for evaluating ESG criteria, they share two common aspects:

- Fossil fuel free
- Low carbon footprint

#### What is a "fossil fuel free fund"?

This is an investment fund that does not invest in companies whose main activities include the extraction, production or distribution of fossil fuels. For example, this means that no investments are made in:

- Production of oil, gas or coal
- Operation or distribution of liquefied natural gas

#### What is the carbon footprint of a fund?

The carbon footprint of a portfolio is a calculation of the emissions generated by the companies held in the portfolio (proportional to the quantity of shares held in the portfolio). Measuring the carbon footprint of a portfolio allows you to compare it with its benchmark index or peers.

Green Bond

Responsible Fossil Fuel Free Bond

Sustainable Balance

Canadian Ethical Equity Fossil Fuel Free









Canadian Equity Fossil Fuel Free Global Equity Fossil Fuel Free Global Stewardship Equity

Climate Strategy

JARISLOWSKY FRASER

JARISLOWSKY FRASER

BAILLIE GIFFORD

WELLINGTON MANAGEMENT®

#### Four stakeholders in ESG factors

ESG factors are examined through the eyes of four key stakeholders: shareholders, customers, employees and communities. To be considered a responsible investment, a company must take into consideration the interests of these four stakeholders and strike a balance between environmental performance, social responsibility, corporate governance and the drive for profitability. The following are examples of factors considered for each category.

Environmental	Environmental protection	Fight against climate change	Resource sustainability	Pollution reduction
Social	Relationships with employees, clients and communities	Work conditions	Health and safety	Respect for local communities
Governance	Governance practices	Executive compensation	Anti-corruption practices	Board of director diversity



# A SUSTAINABLE TREND

**72%** of investors are interested in responsible investments that incorporate ESG criteria.

Responsible investment assets grew from \$2.1 trillion at the end of 2017 to \$3.2 trillion as of December 31, 2019, representing an increase of

representing an increase of approximately 50% in assets under management over two years.

Source: Responsible Investment Association

RESPONSIBLE
INVESTMENT:
a sustainable
future without
compromising
on performance



	Manager	Code	Annualized returns as of December 31, 2022		
			1 year	2 years	3 years
Green Bond	AlphaFixe Capital	383	(10.77%)	(6.55%)	(1.68%)
Responsible Fossil Fuel Free Bond	iA Investment Management	587	(11.52%)	(6.98%)	(1.89%)
Sustainable Balance	iA Investment Management	944	-	-	-
Canadian Ethical Equity Fossil Fuel Free	Fiera Capital	384	(1.24%)	10.16%	10.16%
Canadian Equity Fossil Fuel Free	Jarislowsky Fraser	385	(12.16%)	4.66%	5.96%
Climate Strategy	Wellington Management	945	(5.14%)	5.94%	13.80%
Global Equity Fossil Fuel Free	Jarislowsky Fraser	386	(16.92%)	0.43%	4.97%
Global Stewardship Equity	Baillie Gifford	387	(37.81%)	(21.05%)	2.21%

To learn more about the sustainable investment funds offered by iA Financial Group, consult the documentation available on the Fund performance and overview page on ia.ca (ia.ca/business/funds) or contact your Account Executive.

### Taking positive, united action: much more than a fund offering for iA Financial Group!

Beyond the sustainable investment funds offered by iA Financial Group, sustainable development is about values. As an organization, our role is to serve the interests of all our stakeholders—our clients, our employees, our communities and our shareholders. In providing balanced support for each of these actors, we create long-term value.

Discover, in our sustainability report, the solutions we have put in place and are measuring to ensure that we and future generations can live in the best possible environment.

**iA Financial Group has been certified carbon neutral since January 1, 2020!** For more details, visit our website at ia.ca/sustainable-development





# INVESTED IN YOU.