



RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENTS

Investing for a sustainable world

Responsible investing (RI) is growing in popularity as more investors realize that they can align their portfolios with their personal sustainability values.

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What is responsible investment (RI) or sustainable investment?



Responsible investment applies sustainable development principles to financial investments. The integration of environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors into investment decisions can help reduce risks and identify opportunities that may not always be visible with traditional financial metrics alone.

Sustainable or responsible investing (RI) has been a niche market for several years. Investors now want sustainable investment options to make a positive impact and support responsible companies.





To learn more about responsible investing or ESG funds offered by iA Financial Group, visit

ia.ca/responsible-investment

or talk to your financial security advisor.

Making sense of responsible investing

There are many terms used: ESG, thematic, ethical, inclusion and exclusion, etc. Each strategy has its own meaning. There is no “one-size-fits-all” strategy for responsible investing and generally one or more of these strategies are used.

	Traditional investment	Responsible and ethical investment					Philanthropy	
Focus	Limited or no regard for environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors	ESG integration*	Negative screening	Positive or best-in-class screening	Thematic/ sustainability themed investments	Impact investing		Grants that target positive social and environmental impacts with no financial return
						Market rate	Concessionary rate	
		Explicitly embedding ESG factors into traditional financial analysis when assessing a company's value	Exclusion of certain industry sectors or companies from a portfolio, typically based on ethical or moral criteria	Inclusion of certain companies into a portfolio based on positive ESG performance compared to industry peers	Investments in ESG themes such as women in leadership, clean technology, alternative energy, cybersecurity, etc.	Investments that target social and environmental impacts and deliver market rate financial returns	Investments that target social and environmental impacts and deliver below market rate returns	
Impact intention	Agnostic	Avoids harm		Benefits stakeholders				
				Contributes to solutions				
Features	Delivers competitive financial returns							
	Manages ESG risk							
	Pursues ESG opportunities							
	Intentionality: delivery of impact is central to underlying asset/investment							
	Impact of investment is measured and reported							

* Including shareholder engagement and voting

Stock selection: Why combine ESG factors with financial analysis?

Not all funds billed as socially responsible are created equal. In general, our portfolio managers use an integrated approach that seamlessly combines analysis of environmental performance, social responsibility and corporate governance (ESG) with fundamental financial analysis.

To qualify for inclusion in one of our ESG funds, a security, whether corporate or government-issued, must satisfy the stringent requirements of the following criteria:


1. Financial analysis (\$)

Several financial parameters are assessed in addition to analysis of business models, competitive advantages and quality of the management team.

2. ESG analysis

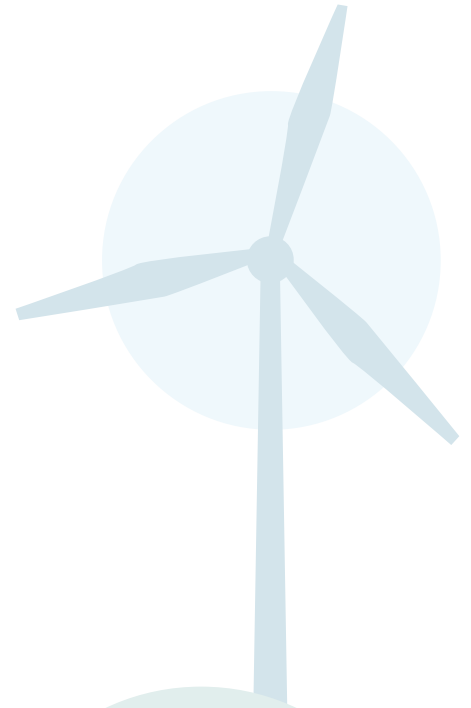
ESG analysis helps to identify risks and opportunities that are not always visible with traditional financial parameters alone. It's a good indicator for identifying strong and successful companies that can weather the storms. ESG analysis specialists evaluate companies' practices based on the following factors:



 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

Four stakeholders in ESG factors

ESG factors are examined through the eyes of four key stakeholders: **shareholders, customers, employees and communities**. The interests of these stakeholders must be balanced with environmental performance, social responsibility, corporate governance and the drive for profit.



Shareholders

- Corporate governance
- Code of ethics
- Diversity of the board

Communities

- Community relations
- Environmental performance
- Human rights

ESG factors

Employees

- Employee relations
- Diversity
- Pension plan
- Programs that contribute to wellbeing

Customers

- Sustainable development
- Quality of life



Two common myths

Myth #1:

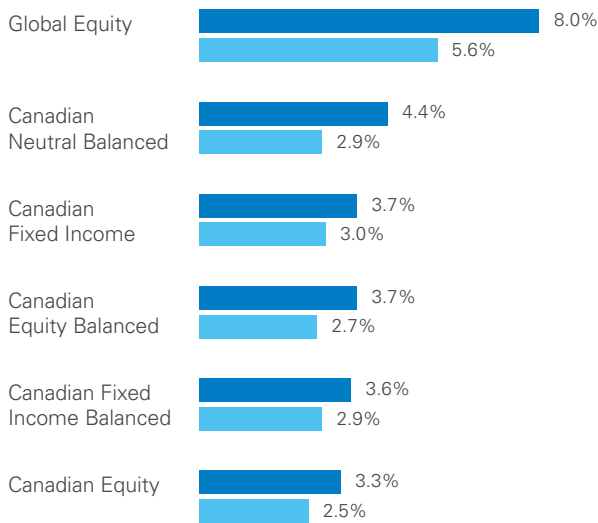
If I invest sustainably, I'll have to sacrifice performance

FALSE

Sustainable investing is not an "OR" but an "AND"; choosing this type of investment can generate better financial returns than the non-sustainable benchmark indices AND have a concrete social and environmental impact.

Responsible investment (RI) fund performance

5-year annualized returns (select categories)



- Average IR Fund
- Average Category

Source: Responsible Investment Association, June 30, 2020.

Myth #2:

ESG or sustainable funds are just a fad for millennials

FALSE

The interest is very real. According to a recent study:

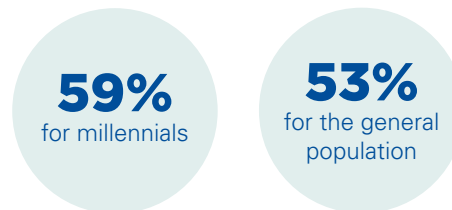
99% ↑ 15 points

of millennials said they were somewhat or very interested in sustainable investing, representing an increase of 15 points since 2015.

79% ↑ 8 points

In the general population, interest was at 79% - an increase of 8 points since 2015.

The portfolio percentage currently invested in sustainable investments is

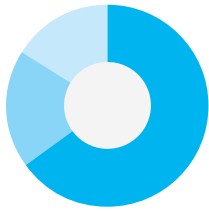


Source: Morgan Stanley Institute for Sustainable Investing 2021



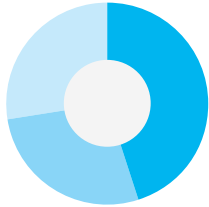
Seven ESG segregated funds offered by iA Financial Group

Our three Vancity managed solutions



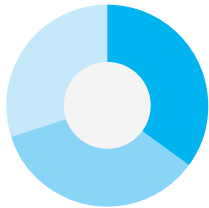
SRI Moderate (Inhance)

- 65.0% Fixed income
- 19.0% Global equities
- 16.0% Canadian equities



SRI Balanced (Inhance)

- 45.0% Fixed income
- 27.5% Global equities
- 27.5% Canadian equities



SRI Growth (Inhance)

- 35.0% Fixed income
- 35.0% Canadian equities
- 30.0% Global equities

Why choose Vancity as our ESG managed solutions fund manager?

- **Expertise:** Vancity launched Canada's first SRI fund in 1986.
- **Visionary:** The first manager in Canada to adopt the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI).

Lead portfolio managers



Jeffrey Adams, CFA, CIM, RIS

- Director and Portfolio Manager
- Joined Vancity in 2019
- Member of the Investment Committee
- BA in Economics from the University of Calgary



Wes Dearborn, CFA

- Portfolio Manager, Fixed Income
- Joined Vancity in 2019
- Member of the Investment Committee
- Bachelor's degree in Business Administration (Finance) from Brock University



Marc Sheard, CFA

- Portfolio Manager, Equities
- Joined Vancity in 2021
- Honours Commerce Degree from McMaster University

The SRI (Inhance) funds...

- Are turnkey solutions for investors who want to invest responsibly while pursuing their financial objectives
- Combine analysis of environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors with fundamental financial analysis
- Are supported by iAGAM teams led by Tej Rai (asset allocation) and Sébastien Mc Mahon (economics) working in close collaboration to optimize portfolio composition for this managed solution.

Companies are assessed based on seven main ESG criteria

1. Governance
2. Environmental leadership
3. Employee relations
4. Employee diversity
5. Community relations
6. Human rights
7. Product sustainability

Each criterion is evaluated as a strength, neutral point or weakness.



“SRI (Inhance) funds offer the best of both worlds: exceptional performance potential and positive social and environmental impacts”

Vancity

© Alano Oliveira/Unsplash

Exclusion criteria

Vancity does not invest in companies whose primary line of business involves:



Fossil fuels



Military weapons



Tobacco



Adult entertainment



Nuclear power



Gambling

Inclusion criteria

Conversely, Vancity seeks to invest in progressive companies in areas such as development of renewable energy, water treatment infrastructure or cures for deadly diseases.

Specifically, for fixed-income securities, Vancity aims to invest in:

- **“Green” Bonds** where the proceeds are used exclusively to finance projects that contribute to environmental sustainability (clean transportation, energy efficiency or conservation, etc.).
- **Social Impact Bonds**, where the proceeds are used to finance projects that have positive social outcomes (affordable housing, basic infrastructure, poverty reduction, food security).

Four new ESG funds



Sustainable balanced Portfolio (iA)

Your "all-in-one" ESG solution

A diversified approach focused on sustainable investment (ESG funds, green bonds, climate, etc.) with active management of asset allocation based on economic and market forecasts.

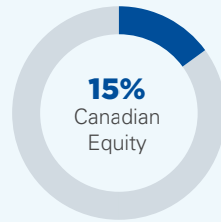
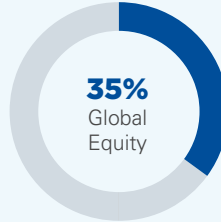
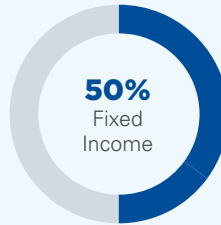
Lead portfolio managers



Sébastien Mc Mahon,
PRM, CFA



Tejsvi Rai



[F13-1187A](#)



Sustainable Canadian Equity (iA)

A unique strategy

Supporting Canadian leaders applying sustainable investment best practices (80%) as well as ESG solutions (20%).

Lead portfolio manager



David Caron,
M. Sc., CFA

Co-portfolio manager



Marc Gagnon,
MBA, CFA



[F13-1186A](#)



Fidelity climate leadership balanced™

Making a positive contribution to the fight against climate change

A balanced investment approach focused on climate (decarbonization).

Combination of two distinct strategies (equity + fixed income) that reduce risks or benefit from opportunities related to climate issues.

Lead portfolio managers



Hugo Lavallée,
CFA



Kris Atkinson,
CFA



Sajiv Vaid



60% equities

Fidelity Climate Leadership™

40% fixed income

Fidelity Climate Leadership Bond™

[F13-1189A](#)

WELLINGTON MANAGEMENT®

Climate strategy (Wellington)

Strategy not currently offered elsewhere in Canada.

A global equity strategy where climate is a return opportunity and not merely a cost or risk to avoid

The Fund's securities offer an attractive combination of materiality and financial appeal.

Portfolio manager



Alan T. Hsu

Investment strategy focused on five main categories:



Low-carbon electricity



Energy efficiency



Low-carbon transport



Water and resource management



Climate-resilient infrastructure

[F13-1188A](#)

Ensuring companies remain responsible: From dialogue to action

Companies are monitored daily to ensure continued alignment with our ESG factors. Significant changes or developments within the company and exposure to emerging risks or serious incidents of concern generate alerts through aggregated media-monitoring technologies.

When companies appear to deviate from these standards, the portfolio managers actively engage with management, either one-on-one or together with other shareholders or stakeholders.

Active engagement with companies to achieve positive results

Portfolio managers also actively engage with industry leaders to encourage them to elevate their commitment to ESG. The goal is to create a positive ripple effect across the broader industry.

Examples of Vancity's shareholder engagement initiatives can be found in the below documents from our investment fund subsidiary iA Clarington.



Dialogue to Action Shareholder Engagement Report

Dialogue to Action details Vancity Investment Management Ltd's shareholder engagement activities for 2021/Q1 2022 and includes background information on how environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues affect shareholder value.



iA Clarington
Investments

Dialogue to Action

[Consult the document](#)

IA Clarington Inhance SRI Funds Fossil Fuel Free Investment Solutions



iA Clarington
Investments

Vandty
Investment Management

Fossil Fuel Free Investment Solutions

[Consult the document](#)

IA Clarington Inhance SRI Funds Climate change and the investment landscape



iA Clarington
Investments

Climate change and the investment landscape

[Consult the document](#)

What about the Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI)?

The Principles for Responsible Investment were developed by an international group of institutional investors reflecting the increasing relevance of environmental, social and corporate governance issues to investment practices. These principles have won the support of a global base of signatories representing the majority of professionally managed assets.

The six Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI):

1. We will incorporate ESG issues into investment analysis and decision-making processes.
2. We will be active owners and incorporate ESG issues into our ownership policies and practices.
3. We will seek appropriate disclosure on ESG issues by the entities in which we invest.
4. We will promote acceptance and implementation of the Principles within the investment industry.
5. We will work together to enhance our effectiveness in implementing the Principles.
6. We will each report on our activities and progress towards implementing the Principles.

Almost all of our external managers are PRI signatories.



Taking positive, united action: Much more than a fund offering for iA!

Did you know that iA Financial Group adheres to a sustainable development strategy?

Our sustainable development strategy rests on the following eight components:



Beyond the socially responsible 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 the following report the solutions we have put in place and are measuring to ensure that we live in the most beneficial environment possible, now and for generations to come.

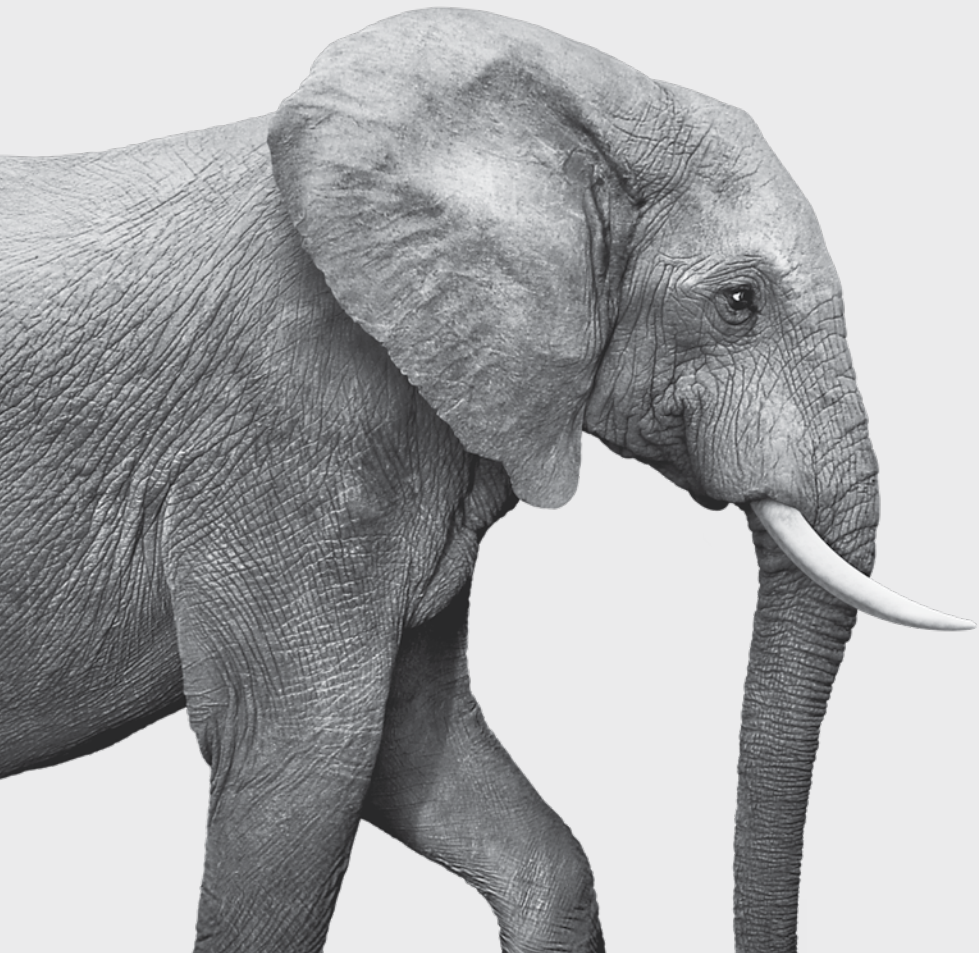
As of January 1, 2020, iA Financial Group is carbon neutral!

For more details, visit our website at ia.ca/sustainable-development





Investing according to your values



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100 %

INVESTED IN YOU.

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