

Sustainable *finance and investment*

Our approach involves leveraging the expertise within our diverse businesses to identify opportunities for maximising impact. We achieve this by collaborating with our clients, investors and stakeholders to support the ambitious implementation of the SDGs and foster the development of a more resilient and inclusive world.



We aim to:

Positively contribute and align to the SDGs

Operate responsibly and ethically

Partner with our clients and philanthropy partners to maximise positive impact

Provide profitable, impactful and sustainable products and services

Actively advocate for industry alignment and best practice.

Highlights

Investec plc Specialist Bank

€110mn

financing as a sole mandated lead arranger and bookrunner for a solar photovoltaic (PV) portfolio

€132mn

green loan to support a German electric vehicle charging network tender

£26mn

in partnership with an energy company to help decarbonise the Scottish whisky industry

£80mn

development loan for sustainable distribution centre in Suffolk

Investec Bank Limited Specialist Bank

R1bn

Investec partnered with Woolworths in a sustainability-linked working capital facility

€178mn

Acted as co-arranger for the commercial loan agreement that partly financed a €178mn water infrastructure project for rural villages in Côte d'Ivoire

Sustainable Solutions

Offering launched for our private clients

R4.5bn

Partnered with Pick n Pay in its first sustainability-linked loan

Our two impact SDGs



Addressing inequality and climate issues are fundamental to the success of our business.

Our six core SDG priorities



Investec Wealth & Investment International

\$54.4mn

Raised by IW&I at 31 March 2024 through the Investec Global Sustainable Equity Fund

R1.34bn

Foundation investments managed by IW&I's philanthropy offering

Awarded the

5 globes sustainability rating

by Morningstar for the Investec Global Sustainable Equity Fund



Sustainable finance framework

Our enhanced Sustainable and Transition Finance Classification Framework, approved in May 2024, outlines the methodology, supporting policies and procedures to support sustainable and transition financing practices within the Investec Group. This framework describes our approach for classifying sustainable and transition financing activities aligned to global best practice.

The framework enables the classification of environmentally-sustainable finance, transition finance, and social sustainable finance activities. The framework is based on a combination of best practice guidelines and taxonomies, including the harmonised framework for impact reporting released by the International Capital Market Association (ICMA), the Net-Zero Banking Alliance (NZBA) transition finance guidance, the Loan Market Association (LMA) principles, the South African Green Finance Taxonomy, and the EU Taxonomy for sustainable finance activities.

The framework is underpinned by reduced inequalities (SDG 10) and addressing climate action (SDG 13), being fundamental to the success of our business. The following categories are addressed as part of this framework.

Environmental	Social
Energy	Access to essential services
Energy efficiency	Socioeconomic advancement and empowerment
Water, waste management and pollution control	Employment generation
Transport and supporting infrastructure	Food security and sustainable food systems
Real estate/ construction	Affordable basic infrastructure
Living natural resources and land use	Affordable/ social housing

Our two impact SDGs are supported by six core SDGs that are globally aligned yet locally relevant to our core geographies. These core SDGs also reflect our current business model and growth strategy to fund a stable and sustainable economy.

These six core SDGs were selected by looking at the needs of the two countries where we have the largest presence, being South Africa and the UK. Coupled with this we selected the SDGs, factoring in the core capabilities and expertise we have within the business and where we believe we can maximise impact.

Our latest framework is available on our [website here](#).

Two impact SDGs



Reduced inequalities

DLC Board: 58% women and 42% ethnic diversity (as defined by the UK Listing Rules)

Female Bank Chief Executive Officer in the UK

IBL: Level 1 BBBEE

Awarded best FTSE 250 strategy award at the INSEAD Alumni Balance in Business Initiative Awards 2024 recognising our commitment to achieving greater gender balance.



Climate action

Carbon neutral in our direct operations and publicly disclosing our Scope 3 financed emissions

Minimal exposure to fossil fuels. Investec plc committed to zero coal exposure in their loan book by 31 March 2027. Investec Limited committed to zero thermal coal exposure in their loan book by 31 March 2030.



Received a five-star rating from **We Support the Goals**, demonstrating our alignment with the UN SDGs.

Six core SDGs



All proposed activities need to comply with the eligible criteria which includes:

- Alignment with Investec's purpose and sustainability strategy
- Not falling within the excluded categories outlined on page 118
- Ensuring a net positive contribution towards the SDGs

While projects supporting Investec's two impact and six core SDGs will be our core focus to ensure we are maximising impact, we consider any project that have a positive contribution to any of the SDGs.

Looking forward

We have launched several sustainability products and offerings including those outlined in the pages that follow. Our focus for the coming year is to set targets against sustainable and transition finance and to influence our clients and suppliers to effectively pursue decarbonisation.



Quality education

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.



Benefits to society

Education brings significant benefits to society, not only through higher employment opportunities and income, but also through enhanced skills, improved social wellbeing and quality of life, and access to networks.



Benefits to business

By supporting quality education, we contribute to a greater pool of talent for our own workforce. Within our business activities, we actively finance and facilitate several educational and vocational businesses, and partner with clients to enhance quality education and skills development in South Africa.

SDG 4.3

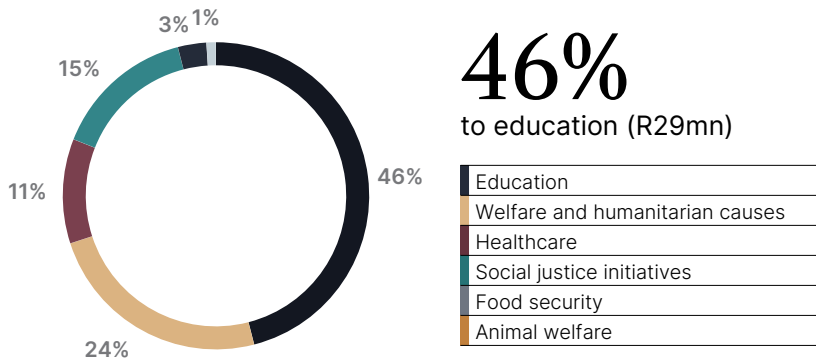
Equal access to education



Investec's philanthropic offering

Investec Wealth & Investment International's philanthropy offering to clients is strategic in nature, largely focusing on supporting long-term sustainable initiatives across South Africa. The offering manages foundation investments to the market value of R1.34bn (March 2023: R1.26bn). The funds invested from our private client charitable trusts have derived income for distribution to charities, to the value of approximately R63.2mn (March 2023: R60.5mn) in the past year. This income is distributed by Investec charitable trusts, in accordance with the decisions made by the respective foundation trustees. Of the funds allocated in the past year, the majority (46%) went to education, with the remainder allocated across the healthcare, social justice and welfare and humanitarian initiatives.

Contributing to our impact SDG:



46%
to education (R29mn)

- Education
- Welfare and humanitarian causes
- Healthcare
- Social justice initiatives
- Food security
- Animal welfare



SDG 4.4

Increasing the number of youth and adults with relevant skills



Contributing to our impact SDG:



Creating impact through education

Investec, a long-term banking partner to Curro Holdings Limited (Curro), participated in a debt raise December 2022 with a R250mn participation in its R3.3bn term debt package. In the past financial year, Investec participated in the incorporation of a sustainability overlay into the term debt facilities. This unique sustainability overlay will take the form of key performance indicators that include the bachelor's degree pass rate, employee diversity among educators and water usage on campuses.

Curro was established in 1998 and is a leading independent school provider in Southern Africa. It was established with the vision of making independent school education accessible to more learners in South Africa and does this by developing, acquiring and managing independent schools in South Africa as well as in other targeted markets on the rest of the continent. Currently, it has over 73 000 learners across 189 schools on 81 campuses.

Curro has a strong commitment to sustainability, with a focus on three key pillars – environmental stewardship, social responsibility and good governance. Curro's commitment to the SDGs, specifically SDG 4 (quality education) and SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), aligns with Investec's sustainability goals and highlights the joint dedication to creating a better future for all stakeholders and the wider community.



Clean water and sanitation

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.



Benefits to society

Access to clean water and sanitation is a basic human right and is essential for reducing poverty and improving overall wellbeing. Not only is it vital for agriculture, biodiversity and economic growth, but it also keeps children in school and increases opportunities for women and girls in rural areas.



Benefits to business

We have established expertise in funding and structuring infrastructure projects. We also partner with our clients to finance innovative water solutions which help communities and facilitate business growth. In our own operations, we continually seek opportunities to reduce our consumption and usage of water.

SDG 6.1

Safe and affordable drinking water



Contributing to our impact SDG:



Water for All priority programme for Côte d'Ivoire

Investec and Commerzbank, in collaboration with Swiss Export Risk Insurance and Atradius Dutch State Business, signed a €178mn loan agreement with Côte d'Ivoire's Ministry of Economy and Finance. The loan will be used to develop and rehabilitate water supply infrastructure in up to 111 locations in rural Côte d'Ivoire, improving access to clean drinking water for two million people. The project aims to enhance the abstraction, treatment, storage, and distribution of water in areas that have previously lacked proper infrastructure and water treatment processes. Commerzbank acted as the mandated lead arranger, with Investec as the co-arranger for the commercial loan. Commerzbank will provide €152mn of the loan amount, which will be covered by Swiss Export Risk Insurance and re-insured by Atradius Dutch State Business. Investec will provide the remaining €26mn of the commercial loan. Bluebird Finance & Projects has acted as the lead financial arranger for the engineering, procurement, and construction contractor.

The project is part of the Ministry of Hydraulics' *Water for All* priority programme, which aims to improve access to clean water in remote villages in Côte d'Ivoire. Through the development of essential infrastructure, the project will supply potable water to rural areas comprising up to 111 sites that will be grouped into four lots for execution.

SDG 6.4

Substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors



Contributing to our impact SDG:



Funding for the Trans-Caledon Tunnel Authority



Investec has provided funding for the Trans-Caledon Tunnel Authority (TCTA), a state-owned entity responsible for designing bankable projects, raising funding in capital markets, managing debt, and implementing infrastructure rollouts. Investec recognises the importance of addressing South Africa's water scarcity and ensuring sufficient water storage and transfer capacity. The funding from Investec will be used for phase two of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project. This project aims to enhance the assurance of water supply to the Vaal River System and reduce the impact of acid mine drainage. Additionally, phase two includes the implementation of a sustainable hydropower generation system to meet Lesotho's electricity needs. The continued development of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project is expected to create 545 000 direct and indirect job opportunities in South Africa and Lesotho.



Affordable and clean energy

Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.



Benefits to society

We rely daily on energy to power our economies, drive industry and transport, and provide light and warmth (or cooling) in our homes. Access in rural communities to affordable energy positively impacts education, health and learning. The increase of renewable energy reduces greenhouse gas emissions and is vital in the transition to a zero-carbon economy.



Benefits to business

We recognise the risk of climate change and are committed to supporting the transition to a clean and energy-efficient global economy. We have international expertise in financing and developing energy generation and transmission. We deliberately focus on financing infrastructure solutions that promote renewable energy. We also help clients to reduce their emissions and encourage investment in renewables and divestment from fossil fuels.

SDG 7.2

Increasing the share of renewable energy



R2bn SOLA Scorpius 150MW Solar PV project reaches financial close

Investec acted as joint mandated lead arranger in raising R2bn in debt funding for the landmark SOLA Scorpius Project. This 150MW one-to-many project is currently under construction by the SOLA Group, a 100% locally owned and vertically integrated independent power producer. SOLA Group is a leader in the commercial and industrial energy market and has provided financed solar solutions and Power Purchase Agreements for corporate offtakers for over 10 years.

The SOLA Scorpius Project is located near Virginia in the Free State and the electricity generated by the project will be distributed to various corporate offtakers through multiple long-term Power Purchase Agreements. This will be facilitated by a wheeling arrangement utilising Eskom's existing distribution or transmission networks.

Investec's involvement as the joint mandated lead arranger in raising R2bn in debt for the 150MW power plant demonstrates the Group's commitment to accelerating and scaling new growth initiatives while ensuring energy security within South Africa. The project drives the transition to sustainable and renewable energy to enhance economic growth and position South Africa as a leader in decarbonisation. Energy and Infrastructure (E&I) Finance, in collaboration with other specialised lending teams, continues to forge strong partnerships in this specialised sector. By doing so, they aim to create enduring value for multiple stakeholders and achieve their joint sustainability ambitions.

“Our E&I Finance team play a crucial role in fulfilling Investec’s sustainability-focused growth objectives. The team has been at the forefront of innovation, pioneering the financing of the first South African utility scale solar PV project which sells its power to multiple off-takers.”

Martin Meyer, Head of Energy & Infrastructure Finance, Investec Bank Limited

Contributing to our impact SDG:



A subsidiary of Canadian Solar

Contributing to our impact SDG:



Investec E&I Finance UK arranged a multicurrency, green loan facility of up to €110 million to Recurrent Energy

Our Energy & Infrastructure (E&I) Finance UK team has arranged a multicurrency, green loan facility of up to €110 million to Recurrent Energy, a subsidiary of Canadian Solar. Recurrent Energy is a leading developer, owner and operator of utility scale solar PV and energy storage projects. The facility will be used by Recurrent Energy to finance the costs of their project pipeline as the company continues its journey to establish themselves as a leading Independent Power Producer (IPP). As of the fourth quarter of 2023, Recurrent Energy had a total global solar PV project pipeline of 27GWp and 55GWh of battery energy storage. Our E&I Finance UK team acted as the sole mandated lead arranger and bookrunner leading the structuring, coordination and execution of the entire financing process in close collaboration with Recurrent Energy as they take another step towards creating a platform that provides clean, reliable and affordable energy to the world.

“We are delighted for having had the opportunity to partner with Recurrent Energy in this important transaction. Leveraging our deep expertise in the sector, we've successfully structured, coordinated, and delivered a tailored financing solution that will enable Recurrent Energy to achieve its strategic ambitions and continue to transition into an IPP model.”

Antonio Cravo, Energy & Infrastructure Finance UK, Investec





SDG 7.2

Increasing the share of renewable energy

Renewable portfolio NAV financing for Excelsior Energy Capital

Energy & Infrastructure (E&I) Finance North America and Fund Solutions successfully closed a NAV Facility for Excelsior Energy Capital. The \$125mn, three-year facility was provided to Excelsior's Fund I, a \$500mn North American renewable infrastructure fund, used to fund the development and expansion of Excelsior's portfolio of renewable energy assets.

The transaction closed in two stages, with Investec closing and funding an initial \$50mn tranche, and subsequently syndicating an additional \$75mn tranche to US-based institutions, providing the client with a flexible capital solution in a short time frame. Investec also provided an interest rate hedge for \$50mn, successfully executed by Investec's Treasury Risk Solutions team.

Excelsior Energy Capital is a North American infrastructure sponsor. Excelsior has raised two funds to date and now has >\$1bn in assets under management, which has been rapidly deployed into solar, wind and battery storage projects across the United States. The closing of this facility coincides with the tail end of a successful fundraising process for Excelsior's fund II.

"Our creative financing solution combined both fund finance and project finance principles, which allowed the borrower to leverage its existing portfolio of renewable assets and acquire one of the largest operating wind farms in California. The facility was highly dependent upon collaboration across Investec, combining deal teams from the UK, US, and South Africa, and setting a precedent as the first fully collaborative transaction that Fund Solutions and E&I Finance North America have completed together."

Santiago LeJeune,
Energy & Infrastructure
Finance North America,
Investec

Contributing to our impact SDG:



"In addition to demonstrating tremendous collaboration across the Investec franchise, the Excelsior transaction provides another example of the bank's continued commitment to the energy transition sector and the decarbonisation of the global economy."

Fred Petit, Co-Head Energy & Infrastructure Finance North America, Investec



E&I Finance North America closes \$242mn financing for large-scale food waste-to-RNG project

E&I Finance North America closed Project Linden, a \$242mn project financing supporting the construction and operations of a large-scale food waste-to-RNG facility in Linden, New Jersey with a capacity of up to ~3,500 MMBtu/day. Investec acted as the sole bookrunner and administrative agent on the financing.

The senior secured credit facilities comprise a:

- \$161mn C+5-year construction/term loan
- \$61mn 2.5-year Tax Credit Bridge Loan
- \$20.0mn LC Facility.

The project benefits from new legislation in New York and New Jersey that now mandates all commercial organic waste to be diverted away from landfill sites to greener alternatives such as Linden. Linden is fully contracted for its RNG output under a 20-year take-or-pay agreement with an investment grade utility.

Contributing to our impact SDG:



"Due to the sustainable nature of the project, we structured this landmark sustainability transaction as a Green Loan which is also a first for Energy & Infrastructure Finance North America. RNG is an important part of the energy transition in North America for which the project will have an immediate positive impact with 120 000MT annually of avoided CO₂."

Hans Beekmans, Co-Head Energy & Infrastructure Finance North America, Investec

SDG 7.2

Increasing the share of renewable energy



Sustainable solutions offering to clients



Contributing to our impact SDG:



Investec E&I Finance UK arranges financing for AMP Clean Energy to build a clean heat production facility

Contributing to our impact SDG:



To support our commitment to achieving net-zero carbon emissions, we offer our Private Banking clients a range of funding solutions for the installation of solar panels and battery storage systems. These solutions are available for homes, businesses, practices, and commercial properties in South Africa, where regular electricity outages and increasing utility costs are prevalent.

Our offering provides Private Bank clients with easy access to funding through existing and new standalone facilities. Residential and business clients can tap into unutilised home loan facilities and access additional funds to cover the installation costs, which can range from R200 000 to R500 000 depending on the size of the system.

In addition, we offer a bespoke standalone sustainability finance product with competitive indicative rates of prime over 60 months. To demonstrate our commitment, we have waived upfront fees for deals under R500 000. For clients with structured property finance needs, we offer the option to leverage our existing property finance offering or utilise a bespoke sustainability finance loan. This loan can provide funding of up to R10mn per property, with competitive rates and flexible terms.

“Investec Sustainable Solutions aim to empower the long-term wellbeing, sustainability and commercial viability of Private Bank clients and their businesses in South Africa.”

Melanie Humphries, Head of Investec Sustainable Solutions

Investec Energy & Infrastructure (E&I) Finance UK acted as sole arranger on a £28mn debt facility for AMP Clean Energy to fund the construction of a clean heat production facility consisting of biomass boilers coupled with an electric boiler.

AMP Clean Energy, a UK-based company, supports the net-zero transition through the decarbonisation of heat and the provision of grid solutions. The clean heat production facility will supply heat to Simpsons Malt, one of the largest producers of malt in the UK and the main supplier of malt to the Scotland whisky sector. The deal will contribute to significant CO₂ savings, in excess of 25 000 tons per annum, by replacing gas-fired heat with low-carbon alternatives. The deal will also help Simpsons Malt reduce its emissions by 80%, enabling the company to meet its target of becoming carbon neutral by 2030.



SDG 7.2

Increasing the share of renewable energy



Contributing to our impact SDG:

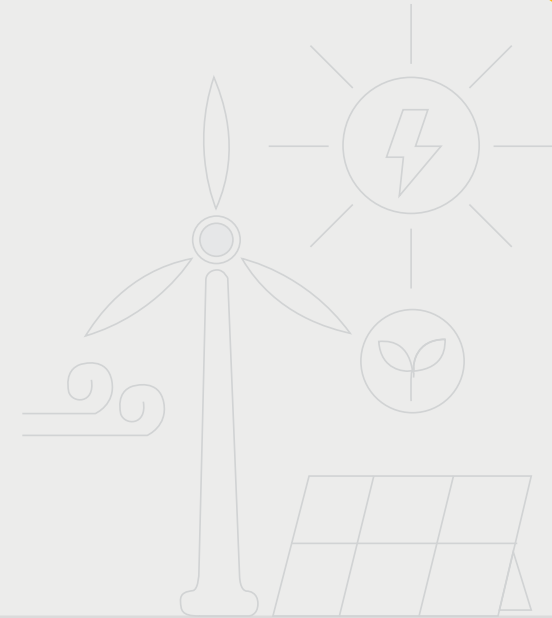


Senior secured debt facility provided to renewable energy developer, AGR

Private Capital provided a senior secured debt facility to AGR, a UK-based renewable energy developer focused on solar PV, battery storage and onshore wind technologies.

AGR Power Ltd (AGR) is a UK-based, privately-owned, renewable energy developer with pan-European capabilities. The company was founded to address the early feed-in-tariff (FiT) solar and medium scale wind markets in the UK, with a commitment to renewable energy projects that tackle the global issues of energy security and climate change. The company has gone on to develop projects totalling 1 100MW installed capacity and £885mn+ capital expenditure deployed.

The company is co-owned by an existing private client of Investec Channel Islands and is also a historical client of Investec's Energy & Infrastructure Finance business. The transaction completed in August 2023 and provided AGR with the liquidity required to continue funding its strong development pipeline, without needing to sell its existing asset base to access cash.



“We are delighted to work with Investec on another meaningful financial commitment towards AGR’s growing pipeline. The development facility will allow us to expand our near-term solar and battery energy storage system strategy and pursue new technologies in the UK and EU markets. This transaction is a testament to AGR and Investec’s relationship and our commitments towards meeting the UK’s net-zero targets.”

Oliver Breidt, Co-founder AGR

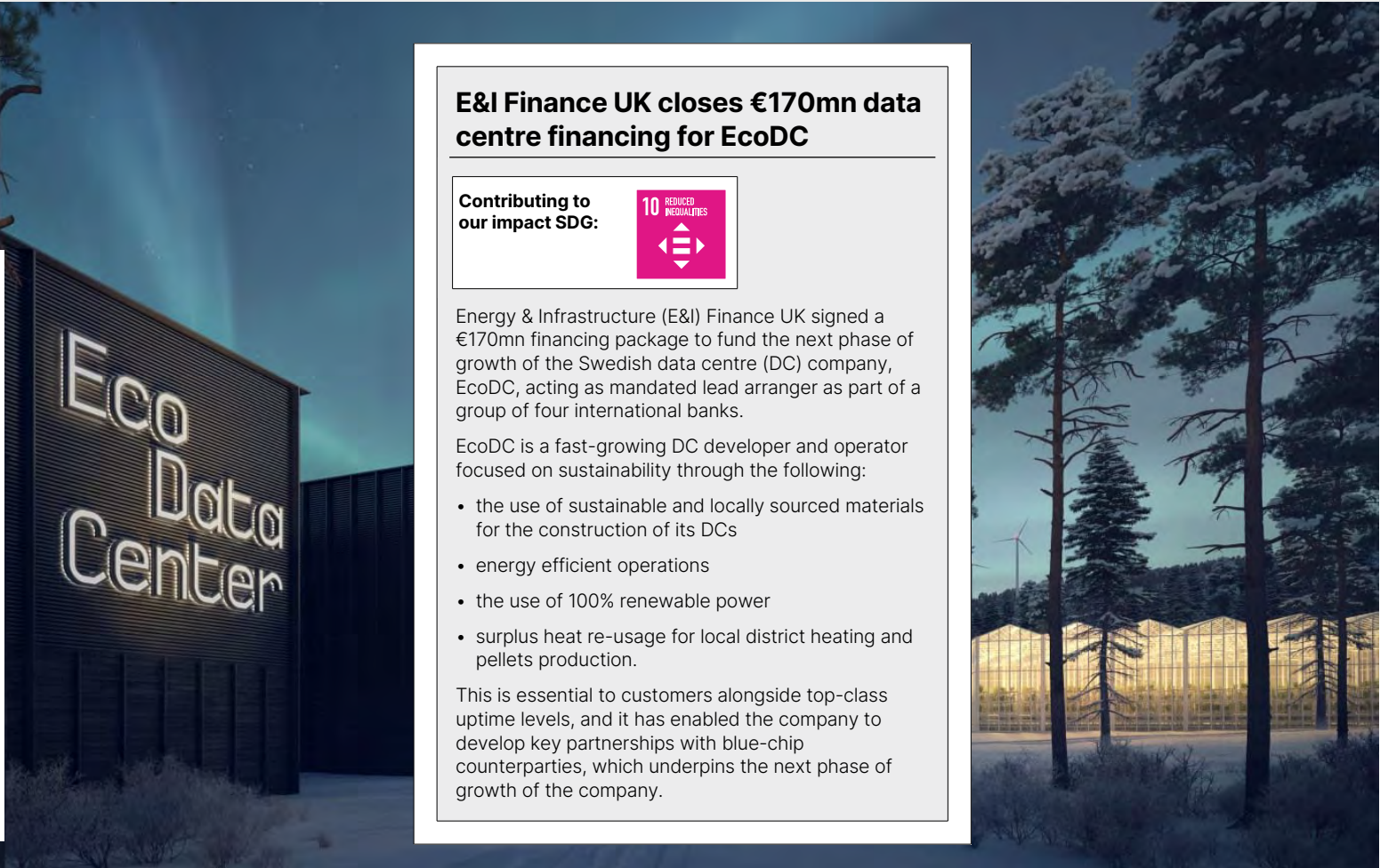


Industry, innovation and infrastructure



SDG 9.C

Significantly increase access to information and communications technology



“This is the team’s first data centre deal in the Nordics, which is an important market for the data centre industry and further consolidates E&I Finance UK’s leading position in this very dynamic sector after the closing of several other data centre transactions in the UK and Europe.”

Anupam Sharma, Energy & Infrastructure Finance UK, Investec

E&I Finance UK closes €170mn data centre financing for EcoDC

Contributing to our impact SDG:



Energy & Infrastructure (E&I) Finance UK signed a €170mn financing package to fund the next phase of growth of the Swedish data centre (DC) company, EcoDC, acting as mandated lead arranger as part of a group of four international banks.

EcoDC is a fast-growing DC developer and operator focused on sustainability through the following:

- the use of sustainable and locally sourced materials for the construction of its DCs
- energy efficient operations
- the use of 100% renewable power
- surplus heat re-usage for local district heating and pellets production.

This is essential to customers alongside top-class uptime levels, and it has enabled the company to develop key partnerships with blue-chip counterparties, which underpins the next phase of growth of the company.



Sustainable cities and communities

Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.



Benefits to society

Meaningful sustainable development requires a significant transformation in the way we deal with rapid urbanisation. A more resilient and sustainable approach is required when building cities to reduce vulnerability to various factors, such as natural disasters, overcrowding and air pollution. This requires investment in safe and affordable housing, efficient public transport, green public spaces, and more inclusive urban planning.



Benefits to business

Through our lending and investment activities, we play a meaningful role in building sustainable cities and communities. Our property business focuses on developments that bring value to surrounding communities and invest in sustainable and resilient buildings. We also finance innovative technologies that can contribute to more sustainable transport systems and safer, more robust infrastructure solutions.

SDG 11.C

Supporting sustainable and resilient buildings



Contributing to our impact SDG:



Investec Real Estate provides a £80mn development loan for a sustainable distribution centre in Suffolk

Investec Real Estate provided Norton Group with an £80mn financing package to fund the development of a sustainable, state-of-the-art distribution centre in Suffolk. The centre is 100% pre-let to The Range, one of the fastest growing retailers in the UK.

On completion, the 1.2mn ft², £200mn scheme will serve as The Range's main South East of England distribution hub and create around 1 650 new jobs. The highly sustainable development is targeting an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) A rating and BREEAM 'outstanding' certification – the highest certification achievable for projects that demonstrate groundbreaking and pioneering practices that set new standards for sustainability within the industry. Features will include solar PV panels, air source heat pumps, smart energy systems and 160 active electric vehicle (EV) charging spaces.

Since opening its first store in 1989, The Range now has over 210 stores across the UK, as well as large distribution centres in Bristol and Doncaster. The distribution centre is part of The Range's aggressive growth strategy that will see it significantly increase its existing store portfolio, in addition to its growing online presence. The development is located at Gateway 14, East Anglia's newest and largest business, innovation and logistics park and accessible to central London by road in under two hours.

SDG 11.2

Providing access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all



E&I Finance UK closes a €132mn German EV charging Green Loan

Contributing to our impact SDG:



Energy & Infrastructure (E&I) Finance UK closed a c. €132mn financing package, structured as a Green Loan, in favour of the German EV charging infrastructure company Eliso, that was provided alongside KfW, SocGen, SMBC and ABN Amro. Eliso is part of the Vinci group, a world leader in concessions, energy and construction.

As part of the Deutschlandnetz tender organised by the German government, Eliso was successfully awarded 12-year public service contracts to deploy ultra-fast charging solutions in three regions of the country (Hamburg, Berlin and Leipzig).

Road transport contributed to 26% of the European Union's (EU's) CO₂ emissions in 2022 and the aim of the Deutschlandnetz projects, based on Germany's Fast-Charging Act, is the efficient development of a fast-charging network for medium and long-distance mobility, which is required for the mass adoption of EV. This is promoted by the German Government in the context of its Climate Protection Plan 2050 that includes a commitment to reduce CO₂ emissions from transport by 40% by 2030.

E&I Finance is supporting a new client, Vinci – a strategic mobility player with global activities and five long-term motorway concessions in Germany – with an important transaction for them in a fast-growing market and underpinned by public contracts. This is also E&I Finance's second transaction in the EV charging infrastructure sector, which is key to the energy transition, following EQT's InstaVolt deal closed in 2022.



SDG 11.3

By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanisation and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management



Contributing to our impact SDG:



Investec backs Acre Impact Capital to first close

Investec, the anchor investor in Acre Impact Capital, announced its first close of circa \$100mn in March 2024. Acre Impact Capital is the first ever export finance impact fund in Africa, established to work with banks and export credit agencies to finance green and social infrastructure on the continent.

Investec’s involvement dates back to Acre’s commencement of fundraising with the support of the Private Infrastructure Development Group.

Since Investec’s initial investment, we have been joined by development banks including the European Investment Bank, FSD Africa Investments, family offices and impact-first investors, including Trimtab Impact and Ceniarth. Other African banks have also joined, reflecting a long-term commitment to the continent and expectations about the positive impact of the strategy in respective home markets.

With a long history of incubating funds on the continent, Investec understood the strategic importance of the fund in accessing and converging new sources of funding for the export credit market. Crucially, we recognised the importance of supporting Acre Impact Capital as an independent open platform through which these new funding sources could be effectively deployed into transactions for the benefit of the market as a whole.

Through its initial investment, Investec expects the fund to contribute and enable the closure of up to 20 projects across the continent to the value of up to \$2bn in renewable power, health, addressing food and water scarcity, sustainable cities and green transportation.



“Acre is a gamechanger for the export finance market and Africa in its ability to converge new development, impact Africa credit specialist funding sources and facilitate their deployment on the continent.”

Brian Irvine,
Head of Africa Structured Trade and Debt Solutions, Investec Bank Limited



Responsible consumption and production

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Investec participates in Pick n Pay's R4.5bn sustainability-linked loan

Investec partnered with Pick n Pay in its first sustainability-linked loan that will help Pick n Pay, one of South Africa's most recognised retail brands, grow its store footprint.

The R4.5bn loan incorporates key performance indicators (KPIs) to reduce food waste (SDG 12) and greenhouse gas emissions (SDG 13) using natural refrigerants. Reduction of gas emissions aligns with Investec's commitment to climate action. These KPIs are linked to Pick n Pay's sustainability targets, which include a 50% reduction in food waste by 2030 and to be net carbon zero by 2050.

“It was a pleasure to work with the Pick n Pay team on its first sustainability-linked loan that integrates sustainability principles. Pick n Pay serves as a reminder that doing good is good business, which aligns with our outlook to live in society, not off it. We hope to continue contributing to a more responsible and resilient local economy.”

Andrew Moffat, Joint Head of Investment Banking, Investec

Contributing to our impact SDG:



Woolworths and Investec sign R1bn sustainability-linked loan

Investec has partnered with Woolworths Holdings Limited to successfully conclude a sustainability-linked working capital facility to the value of R1 billion.

Sustainability-linked loans reward responsible companies who achieve their sustainability goals, with access to credit at reduced interest rates.



“At Woolworths we view sustainability as a business imperative and the loan agreement with Investec is aligned to our vision to be one of the world's most responsible retailers. As part of our Good Business Journey, we have committed to making a meaningful difference to all our stakeholders and the planet.”

Feroz Koor, Head of Sustainability, Woolworths



Partnership for the goals

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development.



Benefits to society

Effective partnerships create the opportunity to reduce inequality, end poverty, protect the environment, promote justice and peace, and improve livelihoods for all.



Benefits to business

Through strong and effective partnerships, core competencies can be leveraged with a focused impact across a common set of goals.

We maintain regular engagement with various stakeholders, including shareholders, sustainability analysts, and rating agencies, to discuss the relevance of sustainability, climate, and nature-related matters to our business. Additionally, we actively participate in multiple industry-led organisations such as the Banking Association of South Africa (BASA), the UN Global Investors for Sustainable Development (GISD) Alliance, the UN Global Compact, the Partnership for Carbon Accounting Financials (PCAF), the Partnership for Biodiversity Accounting Financials (PBAF), among others.

SDG 17.5



Contributing to our impact SDG:



Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna, and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products

Investec's conservation strategy is in line with the Group's commitment to addressing climate action and inequality. We aim to protect critically endangered species and their habitats by collaborating with non-profit organisations, financial institutions, regulators, and law enforcement agencies.

Our efforts include empowering vulnerable communities living near national parks and reserves, promoting a cleaner environment through initiatives that reduce carbon emissions, and combating illegal wildlife trafficking using our business systems and resources.

We strive to find a balance between environmental protection and social upliftment, recognising the interconnectedness of wildlife and community well-being. By working in partnership with stakeholders, we aim to develop sustainable solutions that benefit both wildlife and people. Our commitment to advancing conservation goals and achieving a more sustainable future for all remains unwavering.



SDG 17.9



Enhancing international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the sustainable development goals



For a list of our participation in industry initiatives and members, click here.

Participation in industry initiatives and memberships

Our commitment to sustainability, climate change and the protection of biodiversity is evident from the many organisations with whom we engage and support.

Within the finance sector, there is a collaborative effort to support and encourage sustainability. We participate in many of these industry collaborations some of which include:

- BASA's Climate Risk Committee, Sustainable Finance Committee and Positive Impact Finance Committee
- The African Natural Capital Alliance. We joined as a founding member in 2022
- The Partnership for Carbon Accounting Financials (PCAF) that we support. We utilise their methodology to calculate our Scope 3 financed emissions

- The Partnership for Biodiversity Accounting Financials (PBAF) that we have supported since May 2023
- The Net-Zero Banking Alliance (NZBA). We are members and regularly engage and participate in various working groups
- The United for Wildlife's (UfW's) Financial Taskforce to combat illegal wildlife trade (part of the Royal Foundation) of which we are a signatory. We are also a participant in UfW's Taskforce for Financial Services on illegal wildlife trafficking (IWT)
- The Institutional Investors Group on Climate Change (IIGCC) that W&I in the UK joined to support and enable the investment community in driving significant and real progress by 2030 towards a net zero and resilient future
- The Climate Action 100+ forum of which IW&I is representative. The forum is an investor-led initiative to ensure the world's largest corporate greenhouse gas emitters take necessary action on climate change
- The Task Force on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD) pilot working with FSD Africa. Through the pilot we are able to assess our biodiversity impacts and dependencies, build capacity, and be better informed on the key role financial institutions play in addressing nature-related risks and opportunities in their business.

Sustainable investment – Investec Wealth & Investment International

Investment offering

Investec Global Sustainable Equity Fund

The Investec Global Sustainable Equity (GSE) Fund* commenced in December 2020. The interest in the fund has been encouraging, and it has experienced good growth to date with approximately \$54.4mn of investment since its launch to the market in March 2021.

The Investec GSE Fund aims to identify investments with the following characteristics:

- Companies that are making a net-positive impact on one or more of the SDGs
- High quality, well managed global companies that have strong or improving sustainability risk ratings
- Businesses that incorporate sustainability into their decision-making, thereby helping to deliver high returns on capital and long-term profitable growth.

The Investec GSE Fund seeks to capture the returns of companies that are making a net-positive impact towards the achievement of the SDGs. The SDGs provide a globally accepted framework through which businesses can align their strategic goals with sustainability considerations. The fund's notable contributions are towards SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, SDG 13: Climate Action, and SDG 17: Partnership for the Goals.

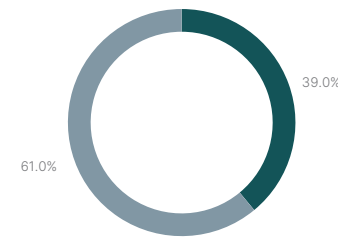
Through the fund, investors are able to invest in companies that we believe can provide attractive investment returns over the long term, through the lens of the SDG framework.

The fund has been awarded the 5 globes sustainability rating by Morningstar, indicating that it is positioned in the top 10% of its peer group in terms of its management of sustainability risk.

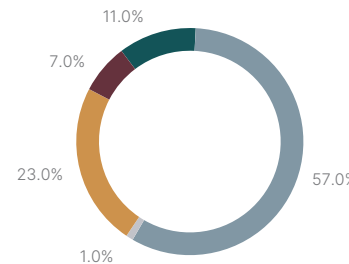
SDG impact measure (ISS)

Overall average SDG impact rating and segment percentage weight

Portfolio (average 4.8)

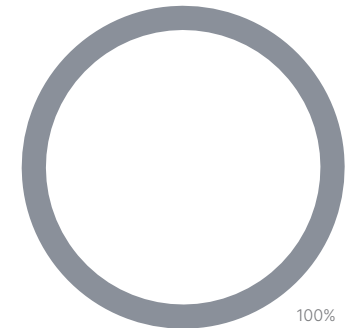


Benchmark (average 1.3)^



Significant positive impact (5.1 to 10)
Limited positive impact (0.2 to 5.0)
No net impact (-0.1 to 0.1)
Limited Negative Impact (-5.0 to -0.2)
Significant negative impact (-10 to -5.1)
Not collected

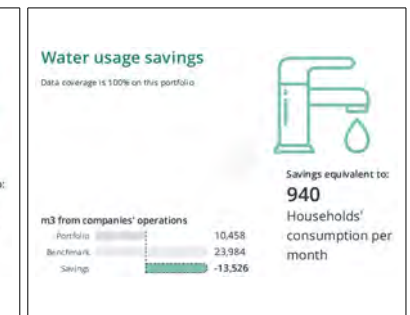
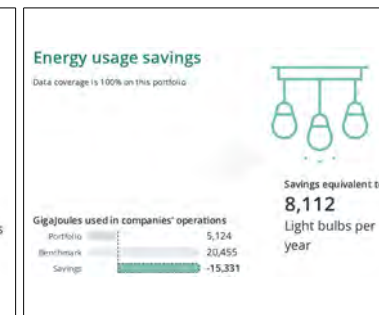
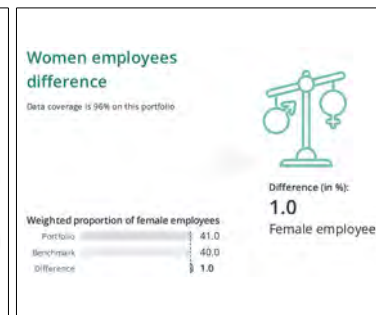
100% Positive SDG impact



^ Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number. Actual figures including decimals total 100%.

Sourced from ISS Datadesk 31 March 2024, IW&I.

Positive GSE Fund impact highlights



* The USD version of the fund is the Investec Global Equity Fund and the Rand version of the fund is the Investec BCI Global Sustainable Equity Feeder Fund.