



News Release
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Ethical investment hits record high of £9 billion

- Britain investing more money ethically than ever before

Latest figures released today by EIRIS, the London based non-profit sustainable investment specialists, show that as at 31st December 2007 there was £8.9 billion invested in Britain's green and ethical retail funds (i.e. those funds open to the general public).

The £8.9 billion represents almost three quarters of a million accounts in ethical funds, up from around 137,000 accounts in 1997 when less than 1.5 billion was invested ethically.

The last few years has also seen the universe of UK ethical retail funds expand considerably. There are now almost 100 green and ethical funds available to UK investors - a decade ago there were just a couple of dozen.

"Growing consumer interest in issues like climate change, human rights, fair trade and poverty continues to drive demand for green and ethical investment" said Mark Robertson, EIRIS' spokesperson. "Over the last few years we've seen a huge increase in the amount of money invested ethically, with many more Britons choosing green and ethical options when managing their finances" he continued.

Consumer demand for ethical investment is expected to continue throughout 2008 and will be boosted by the UK's first ever National Ethical Investment Week (18-24 May) which aims to encourage everyone to consider green and ethical options for their investments.

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Note to editors:

1. The EIRIS Foundation is a charity set up in 1983. Ethical Investment Research Services (EIRIS) Ltd, a subsidiary company of the Foundation, provides the independent research into corporate social, environmental and ethical performance that is needed by investors to make informed and responsible investment decisions as well as by charities wishing to screen their donors or suppliers. For more information see www.eiris.org
2. EIRIS does not promote any one particular view on ethical or socially responsible issues.
3. National Ethical Investment Week will take place in 2008. It will run from 18-24 May 2008 (Sunday to Saturday) and will encourage everyone to consider green and ethical options for their investments. For more information on NEIW see www.neiw.org

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