



News Release
London, 24 January 2008

EIRIS launches free Ethical Funds Directory

Global Sustainable Investment specialists EIRIS today launched a new *Ethical Funds Directory* to help consumers and financial advisers find a green or ethical fund which matches their ethical interests and concerns.

EIRIS' free directory offers clear, comparable information on each of the UK ethical retail funds currently available. The directory includes detailed information on each fund's ethical investment strategy, positive and negative screening criteria, voting and engagement policy and approach, research resources, fund manager contact details and links to further information. The directory also includes a guide to green and ethical issues which explains some of the key issues most commonly covered by ethical funds.

Increasing interest in green and ethical issues like climate change, poverty, fair trade and human rights continues to drive demand for ethical investment. As at December 2007, EIRIS estimates there was around £8 billion invested ethically in the UK and the number of green and ethical funds was fast approaching 100 - a decade ago there were just a couple of dozen.

The last few years have seen the universe of UK ethical retail funds expand considerably. This has led to increased diversity, with more fixed income

products now available and also new thematic funds with a focus on issues like climate change, renewable energy and sustainable investment and even an expanded range of products for Islamic investors.

“Over the last few years we’ve seen a huge increase in the amount of money invested ethically, with many more Britons doing their bit by choosing ethical options when managing their finances” said Mark Robertson, EIRIS’ spokesperson. “The number of green and ethical investment options is growing all the time and there’s more choice available to now than ever before. EIRIS’ new Ethical Funds Directory will help investors understand what’s on offer and help them to find an ethical fund appropriate to their financial needs.”

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.

Click [here](#) or visit www.eiris.org to download a free copy of the EIRIS Ethical Funds Directory.

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Note to editors:

- 1 Ethical Investment Research Services (EIRIS), established in 1983, provides the independent research into corporate social, environmental and ethical performance that is needed by investors to make informed and responsible investment decisions. EIRIS does not promote any one particular view on ethical or socially responsible issues.
- 2 EIRIS is a leading global analyst of corporate social, environmental and ethical performance with the following overseas research partners: Centre for Australian Ethical

Research (CAER), Fundacion Ecologia y Desarrollo (Ecodes) of Spain, Imug – Institut fur Markt-Umwelt-Gesellschaft of Germany and EthiFinance of France.

3 'National Ethical Investment Week' will take place in 2008, organised by the UK Social Investment Forum (UKSIF). It will run from 18-24 May 2008 (Sunday to Saturday) and will encourage everyone to consider green and ethical options for their investments. National Ethical Investment Week will build on the soaring demand for green and ethical investments that has seen nearly six times as much going into ethical funds recently compared with a year ago.

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