



## Ethical Investment Week 2023

1 October - 7 October

### Building a sustainable legacy: Overcoming greenwashing with ethical investment advice

As the world increases in complexity, it has never been more important to trust the advice you receive. As such, when building your sustainable legacy quality advice is key.

Ethical Investment Week will show how you can work towards building a truly sustainable legacy through ethical investing.

Most of us wish to leave the world in better shape than what we found it. There are many ways we as individuals can work towards this goal. One simple way is to work together with a like-minded adviser when investing.

#### Ways to engage:

This week will feature a range of events showing how anyone can build a sustainable legacy, including screenings of Climate Changers with Tim Flannery, hosted by Co-op Advisers.

For more details on Ethical Investment Week 2023 events, please visit:

[ethicaladviserscoop.org](http://ethicaladviserscoop.org)



# ETHICAL INVESTMENT GUIDE

## OUR ETHICAL ADVISERS' CO-OPERATIVE

### WHO ARE WE?

The Ethical Advisers Co-operative (EAC) was established by a dedicated group of Financial Advisers who recognise the need to represent and advocate on behalf of ethical and responsible investment advice.

The Co-op has grown to a membership of 45 advisers. All of whom operate within ethically focused Financial Planning practices around Australia and New Zealand, collectively managing \$3 Billion of ethical investor's money.

### WHAT DO WE DO?

The primary objective for Co-Op members has been to help expand awareness of the benefits of ethical and responsible investing. With the rise in availability of ethical branded investments and products, Co-Op members continue to advocate for investors to help ease a path for them to implement strategies that genuinely align with their personal values.

Currently, EAC advisers assist over 4,300 Australians and New Zealanders to make the best of their financial position whilst pursuing ethical outcomes. Their advice continues to assist clients in achieving strong, sustainable returns while encouraging responsible allocation of capital.

### WHO CAN WE HELP?

Our highly qualified members regularly advise on topics such as; personal investment, family trusts, charities, not for profits, philanthropic trusts, selfmanaged super funds, co-operatives and ethical superannuation investing.

### FIND AN ADVISER

To find an ethical adviser near you go to [ethicaladviserscoop.org](http://ethicaladviserscoop.org)

## INTRODUCING OUR 'GREEN LEAF' RATINGS SYSTEM

[leafratings.org](http://leafratings.org)

The Ethical Advisers Co-Operative has developed the Ethical Fund Ratings to assist people in making choices for their investments and superannuation.

Since not all funds deliver the same depth of ethical value, we want investors to understand just how each fund compares against its peers within the ethical sector – as reviewed and collectively rated by the members of the Co-op.



### Poor

This fund **does not meet** the ethical objectives of an average ethical investor



### Disappointing

This fund is **unlikely to meet** the ethical objectives of an average ethical investor



### Average

To an average ethical investor this fund is of **moderate interest**, but there are some concerns



### Appealing

This fund **meets most** ethical objectives of an average ethical investor



### Excellent

This fund **meets all** ethical objectives of an average ethical investor

## What can I do to invest ethically?

1. Find out about ethical and responsible investing by visiting [ethicaladviserscoop.org](http://ethicaladviserscoop.org)
2. Contact your super fund or companies that you invest in and ask them what they are doing about environmental and social issues. Not happy with their response? Make the Change! See: Green Leaf Rating at [leafratings.org](http://leafratings.org)
3. Consider changing your bank to a fossil fuel free bank. See: [marketforces.org.au/campaigns/banks/](http://marketforces.org.au/campaigns/banks/)
4. Encourage a friend to join in the ethical investment revolution.
5. Write to federal, local & state governments to get them involved in alternative energy and protection of the environment.
6. Join a not-for-profit group and take action on these issues.
7. Talk to an ethical adviser about reinvesting your portfolio into more ethical investments.





Learn more at [ethicaladviserscoop.org/find-an-adviser.html](http://ethicaladviserscoop.org/find-an-adviser.html)

### CO-OP MEMBERS CONSIDER HOW A FUND PERFORMS BASED ON HOW THEY:

1. Remove industries and stocks harmful to the environment and society
2. Include companies with environmental or social benefits, and
3. Provide evidence of the funds positive social and environmental impacts.

### ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

The considerations used by Co-op members when rating funds include:

-  **Transparency of underlying holdings.** Reviewing an entire portfolio of holdings sheds light onto the entire portfolio rather than just the top ten investments.
-  **Fund Manager Engagement.** Fund managers like other investors have the chance to vote for resolutions in the companies in which they invest. Does the fund manager engage either directly or by voting with underlying investments on ethical issues such as human rights? Does the manager disclose their voting record?
-  **ESG Research.** Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) research can be obtained from a number of research houses and is also done by fund manager teams. Does the fund manager use ESG Research in their investment decision making?
-  **ESG Screening.** Environmental, Social & Governance (ESG) Screening can be used to screen out negative investments such as fossil fuels and seek out positive investments such as renewable energy. How does the fund manager use Positive and/or Negative screening in their investment decision making?

## Want to grow your money responsibly?



Responsible Returns helps you find responsible or ethical banking, superannuation and investment products matching your values and interests. For further information visit [responsiblereturns.com.au](http://responsiblereturns.com.au)



**Stuart Barry**  
Ethical Adviser & Author  
[richgreenie.com](http://richgreenie.com)

*"If we don't want to invest in, say fracking prime agricultural land, or building coal ports in the Barrier Reef World Heritage Area, we must ensure that our super doesn't. It's our money and we can exercise the choice. By saying 'no' we help to starve bad projects of funds, especially as more of us come on board."*



**Claire O'Rourke**  
Campaigner & Author  
[claireourourke.com](http://claireourourke.com)

*"If you've got money that you could allocate towards climate friendly investing, I would prioritise that because this is the decade that counts."*



**Dr Rodger Spiller**  
Ethical Adviser & Author  
[moneymatters.co.nz](http://moneymatters.co.nz)

*"Ethical investment advisers and their clients aim higher—to reduce environmental, social, and financial risk, and increase financial return by creating more positive environmental and social impact. By measuring what really matters we can shift from short-termism and narrow thinking to a longer and wider view."*