

The EQ Positive Impact Portfolios invest in funds that are making a positive impact on society and the environment by investing in companies that provide solutions to real world problems. We use the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals as a way to map this impact of their products and services.

Our quarterly updates feature examples of these companies and funds – here we will focus on three examples relating to Goals 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production; 3 – Good Health and Well-Being; and 2 – No Hunger.

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



The electric mobility revolution & recycling

Electric vehicles promise a ‘zero emissions revolution’ in mobility, but there are lingering concerns on the sustainability of some of their key components, including lithium-ion batteries. Including significant quantities of heavy and often toxic metals, questions remain on how to best deal with battery disposal. Additionally, their initial production can cause problems, with many of its metal constituents being naturally limited in supply and/or associated with human health or ecosystem damage in their mining and extraction.

EXAMPLE HOLDING

Umicore



Umicore is a materials engineering and recycling business that operates globally. The company recycles 7000 tonnes of waste batteries each year, recovering precious metals for reuse. Umicore uses 62% recycled resources to make specialised metal products including: new batteries, automotive catalysts that help with emissions control, photovoltaics, LED light bulbs and more. Their business model turns waste into a resource, saving energy and CO₂ emissions, and offering solutions to some of the concerns surrounding the expansion of electric vehicle use.

FUND IN FOCUS

Impax Environmental Markets



Umicore received investments from Impax Environmental Markets which invests in companies providing solutions to help tackle environmental issues globally. Besides providing recycling solutions, the fund’s investee companies also help their clients improve the management of scarce water resources, for example by providing smart water metering technologies.



3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



Treating neurological disorders

Millions of people are affected by neurological disorders worldwide, including Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis (MS) and Alzheimer's disease. Globally, 2.3 million people live with MS, suffering from a variety of symptoms due to central nervous system damage. With an ageing population, the prevalence of neurodegenerative diseases is increasing and thus treatment is increasingly required. Most neurological disorders cannot yet be cured, however the quality of life and life expectancy of patients has been increasing due to recent medical breakthroughs and healthcare improvements.



EXAMPLE HOLDING

Biogen



Biogen is a medical biotechnology company, focused on neuroscience. It has become a leader in MS research and treatment, and about 37% of patients globally are treated with Biogen's medicines. Biogen reinvests about 20% of its revenues into medical research and has several new drugs in the pipeline. Last year the company launched the first treatment for patients with spinal muscular atrophy. It now has 3,200 patients in therapy who are benefitting from retaining their motor functions for longer, and reaching functional improvement milestones, like sitting and moving limbs, quicker.

FUND IN FOCUS

Polar Capital Biotechnology



Biogen received investments from the Polar Capital Biotechnology fund which focuses on companies developing and selling drugs to treat some of the most prevalent medical conditions. Many investee companies in the fund, like BeiGene and Argenx, advance cutting-edge cancer treatments.

Want to learn more about the UN Goals, and why we use them? Take a look at our 2018 Impact Report – and calculate the impact of your own portfolio online – at eqinvestors.co.uk

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS





Improving farm water management

Farming food and livestock currently accounts for 70% of human freshwater use. Population growth and development are placing increasing demands

on agricultural outputs. The freshwater resources we currently use are not infinite and in many areas are being used unsustainably - indeed water scarcity currently affects about 1/3 of the world's population for at least 1 month per year. Climate change is going to exacerbate water stress in many areas where farming is only possible with irrigation, highlighting the urgent need to increase the efficiency in which we use water to grow our food.

FUND IN FOCUS

Sarasin Food & Agriculture Opportunities



Jain Irrigation Systems gets funding from Sarasin Food and Agriculture Opportunities fund which favours investments into companies improving the sustainability of our global food system.

EXAMPLE HOLDING

Jain



Jain Irrigation Systems specialises in providing increased efficiency to agricultural irrigation systems. The company has reached about 7.2 million farmers with their integrated irrigation solutions, which are designed specifically around local water demands, the nature of the water source and geography. By introducing micro-irrigation systems also known as drop-by-drop irrigation, the company has saved farmers about 49 trillion litres of water since starting its irrigation product offering in the 1970s. Through Jain's technologies, farmers can cultivate 50-70% more area using the same amount of water. Micro-irrigation systems not only present an efficiency gain for farmers and the global food supply, but also reduce strain on natural ecosystems.

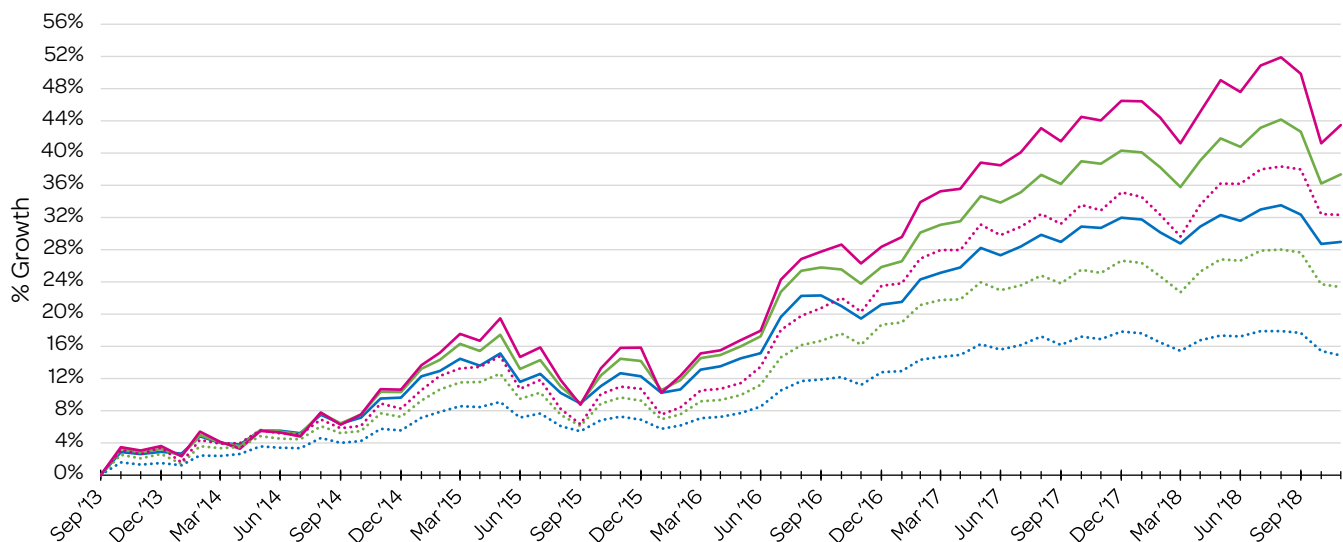
Companies range from providing resource-efficient farming equipment, like Kubota Corp, to sustainably farmed seafood products, like Marine Harvest.







Next steps:

You can download a Positive Impact Portfolio brochure, view factsheets and invest online via the EQ website. Please get in touch for further information:

 eqinvestors.co.uk
 **020 7488 7110**
 positive@eqinvestors.co.uk

Cumulative performance since inception 30/09/2013 to 30/11/2018



Annual performance		Dec 17 - Nov 18	Dec 16 - Nov 17	Dec 15 - Nov 16	Dec 14 - Nov 15
Positive Impact Cautious		-1.34%	9.42%	6.04%	2.85%
ARC Cautious *		-1.74%	5.11%	3.69%	1.42%
Positive Impact Balanced		-0.96%	12.04%	8.15%	3.75%
ARC Balanced *		-1.42%	7.67%	5.99%	1.82%
Positive Impact Adventurous		-0.41%	14.07%	9.06%	4.62%
ARC Steady Growth *		-0.45%	10.50%	8.38%	1.91%

Risk warning
 Past performance is not a guide to future performance. The value of investments and the income derived from them may go down as well as up and investors may get back less than they originally invested. The Positive Impact Portfolios are available in seven different risk profiles, of which three are shown here. Inception dates may vary; please see factsheets for full details.

EQ Investors Limited, Centennium House, 100 Lower Thames Street, London EC3R 6DL

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