

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

Our quarterly updates feature examples of these companies and funds; here we will focus on three relating to Goals 4 - Quality education; 7 - Affordable and clean energy; and 9 - Industry, innovation and infrastructure.



Ensuring access to high-quality science

Inclusive and quality education for everyone provides a powerful vehicle for sustainable development and future

prosperity. While the focus of development dialogue remains on tackling the barriers to high-quality education at school age, affordable lifetime learning presents an opportunity for all adults, whatever their interests or experience.

Scientific research is being carried out across the world, and while our global knowledge base grows by the day we need to find ways to leverage technology in order to democratise access to it. Especially, we need to improve access to scientific, medical or technological research findings across the world as it enables better informed decisions by both policy makers and private sector corporates.

FUND IN FOCUS

Ninety-One Sustainable UK Equity Fund



RELX plc has received investment through Ninety-One's (formerly known as Investec) Sustainable Equity Fund, which is a UK focused equity fund. The fund invests in companies who are considered to be making a positive contribution to society and/or the environment through sustainable and socially responsible practices, products and/or services.

EXAMPLE HOLDING

RELX



RELX is a British provider of information and analytics for the public, academics, and professional customers around the world. Through ScienceDirect, [RELX is able to offer anyone access to the world's largest platform dedicated to peer-reviewed primary scientific and medical research](#). By serving the needs of scientific, technical and medical markets, ScienceDirect has established itself as a global platform where academics can publish their research to a global audience, and readers can benefit from a faster and more efficient way of working.

Focusing on using its platform and technology for good, RELX has developed their '[SDG resource centre](#)'. This categorises and highlights any news or research findings relevant to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), and enables easy sharing of these with the most relevant stakeholders in order to enable best-informed decision making to accelerate sustainable development. RELX therefore leverages its market-leading position to enable a transition to the technological-based future for education and democratisation of knowledge.

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



Lighting the road to smart cities and sustainability

As the world's population continues to grow, urbanisation is putting intense strains on cities' development as they house more individuals than the original infrastructure was built for.

This urbanisation trend is expected to continue, with more than 80 per cent of humanity is expected to live in cities by 2050. In theory, cities have the potential to be much more resource efficient and provide better livelihoods than dispersed rural settlements – but the challenge remains in realising this through smart and sustainable city planning.

For example, lighting is virtually indispensable from our modern lives – and this will continue with population and increased digitalisation. With lighting currently consuming 13% of the electricity share globally, innovative lighting solutions can reduce resource strain on our global cities, while dramatically improving individuals' wellbeing and productivity in global cities.

FUND IN FOCUS

Impax Environmental Market Fund



Signify received investments from the Impax Environmental Markets' fund which invests in companies whose products and services tackle environmental challenges globally. Another holding which focuses on energy efficient lighting is Dialight plc, specialising predominantly in providing lighting solutions to hazardous industrial environments, ensuring better worker and process safety.

EXAMPLE HOLDING

Signify



Signify is the world leader in lighting solutions. On the simplest level, Signify provides more energy efficient lighting technologies, such as connected LEDs, which are up to 80% more energy efficient when compared to the conventional technologies that they replace.

Signify's new business model 'light as a service' is emerging – which means city councils or business owners no longer own the devices but Signify does, providing full servicing and updating. Keeping the lighting solutions within the company's responsibility remit helps to prevent these from landing in landfill, and instead enables the sustainable circular re-use of resources by Signify.

Uniquely, Signify's Research and Development is focused on innovating the simple light product into providing various other societal benefits. For example, it's UV-C lighting disinfects air and surfaces from bacteria. By turning light sources into data points, Signify's 'Li-Fi' solutions provide internet connections through lighting, eliminating the need for more physical infrastructure to connect places digitally.





Helping Africa tackle its digital divide

Countries in Sub-Saharan Africa are falling behind targets to develop basic telecom infrastructure necessary to enable long-term prosperity for its citizens. As a result, the digital divide separating more rural areas from the African metropolises is a real challenge towards achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The lack of internet access is a significant barrier to social inclusion and economic empowerment, making everything from education to business innovation to financial services more difficult to attain. Additionally, internet access can help economies leapfrog certain technologies all together – skipping digitally ahead. For example, [digital/mobile banking is one of the first types of formalised financial services](#) for a large proportion of the current population.

EXAMPLE HOLDING

MTN



MTN is an emerging market mobile products and services provider, covering geographies across Sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East. [Lower-income and/or rural customers make up around 70% of the company's 251 million subscribers.](#) Through corporate bonds, the company is raising proceeds to build telecommunications infrastructure across the African continent, and to invest in breaking other barriers of access. MTN's [corporate strategy to enhance digital connectivity and reduce digital divides](#) includes coverage, affordability of physical handsets and data-plans, as well as education on the technology's applications.

The company has demonstrated progress on all of these themes, including training [3 million people in digital literacy and reducing the cost of entry-level data packages by 60% in 2 years.](#) The investment in new infrastructure from the bond proceeds will contribute to the expected doubling of its customer base by 2025 and narrowing Africa's digital divide.

FUND IN FOCUS

Wellington Impact Bond Fund

WELLINGTON MANAGEMENT®

MTN received investments in their bond issue from the Wellington Impact Bond fund, which is a global fixed income strategy targeting 'impact bonds'. These are bonds raised by corporates, governments and organisations to contribute additional positive solutions to the greatest societal and environmental challenges. Another investment in the fund that is tackling the digital divide is the Indian telecommunications company [Bharti Airtel](#).



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


SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



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.

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