

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 11 - Sustainable cities & communities, 4 - Quality education, and 9 - Industry, innovation & infrastructure.

### 11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



## Tackling the under-supply of social housing in the UK

The UK is facing a housing shortage, with the government [aiming to build 300,000 new homes](#) every year to match demand and keep housing costs

affordable. On top of not meeting this target, the gap between market rents and affordability is widening – making it harder for many lower income families to find suitable homes.

[A UK social housing review](#) carried out just prior to the pandemic found that 8.4 million people in the UK live in inadequate housing. This includes overcrowding, homelessness and unsafe housing. Registered social housing providers are crucial, but there is room for private capital to complement government spending to address this desperate challenge.

### FUND IN FOCUS

#### Threadneedle UK Social Bond fund



Orbit received investment into its bond issue via the Threadneedle social bond fund. Other housing associations supported with capital to finance more social and affordable homes include [Onward Homes](#) and [Paragon Housing Association](#).

### COMPANY

#### Orbit Group



Orbit Group is one of the UK's largest builders of affordable housing. The proceeds of the financed bonds contribute to new home construction, acquisition, refurbishment, and management of existing stock.

The organisation is run for social good, where all profits are re-invested to tackle the housing crisis and enhance communities. In the last reporting year, [Orbit delivered 848 new properties](#) and continued to provide social and affordable homes for over 100 thousand tenants.

More recently, [Orbit has offered 26 of its properties to Ukrainian refugees](#). Apart from its impressive social value creation ([about £7.9m in 2020](#)), Orbit has created a 2025 sustainability strategy that also targets re-investment into making its buildings more energy efficient – reducing carbon footprints.





## Using technology to deliver personalised lifelong learning

The education sector is undergoing significant changes and growth. While traditionally it was focused on school-age and university learners, there is now a shift towards life-long learning and digitalisation. In a post-pandemic world, more adults want to build tangible skill-sets to develop their careers and use more immersive digital experiences to learn.

To fill this corporate and lifelong learning demand gap, while continuing to cater to the growing younger generation in developing nations, the learning market is expected to grow to [become a 10 trillion dollar industry by 2030](#).

### FUND IN FOCUS

#### Schroders Global Sustainable Value Fund

## Schroders

Pearson received investment through the Schroders Global Sustainable Value Fund, which invests in companies that are undervalued by the market yet display leading sustainability characteristics. Another holding company extending access to digital services is [Telefonica Germany](#).

### CASE STUDY

#### Pearson PLC



Pearson is a global education company that is a market leader in providing professional learning and certification, and university educational materials.

The company's mission is to support individuals across their entire lifetime learning journey: from the books read at university, the professional qualifications sat at their first job, to the skill-gap assessment their employer enrolls them into to support career progression.

[In 2021](#), Pearson helped over 11 million students through digital resources, enrolled 275 thousand new students in online courses, was teaching 1.5 million people English and facilitated 16.8 million professional skill tests.

In addition, Pearson is on track to achieve its ambitious net-zero emissions targets that are verified by the [Science-based targets initiative](#).







## Constructing green buildings with 3D modelling software

As the global population shifts and urbanises over the next 30 years, the construction industry will need to build [an average of 13,000 buildings every day](#) in urban areas.

Yet, this is an added challenge in respect to climate change. The real estate sector contributes [close to 40% of global carbon emissions](#) – split between the embodied emissions in construction, and the ongoing emissions associated with energy use in the building.

A “[Green building](#)” is a building that, in its design, construction and operation, reduces or eliminates negative impacts, and can create positive impacts on the climate and natural environment.

### COMPANY

**Autodesk**



Autodesk is an engineering software company, which provides architects with 3D design tools. Through digitally modelling the design of a building or product, the software creates significant material savings and waste prevention in the prototyping and design process, while also preventing mistakes in their implementation.

In respect to real estate specifically, Autodesk's 3D integrated models allow architects to optimise the ongoing electricity and energy use through simulations. This way, its solutions help clients [lower the ongoing carbon emissions](#) and waste associated with their buildings and in turn, advance their green credentials.

Additionally, Autodesk is offering software that helps plan for the physical impacts of climate change – like flooding or storms – and enhances cities' adaptation preparedness. All of this software is cloud-based, run on renewable electricity, helping Autodesk to meet its [operational sustainability targets](#).

### FUND IN FOCUS

#### BMO Responsible Global Equity



Autodesk received investment from the BMO Responsible Global Equity fund, investments in companies providing sustainable solutions and improving their net-impact on the UN Goals.

Other companies that are enabling enhanced energy and material efficiencies include [Acuity Brands](#) and [Aptiv](#).



*Want to learn more about the UN Goals, and why we use them? Ask your financial adviser for a copy of our annual Impact Report and a statement from our online impact calculator.*

## 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.

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