

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 **3 - Good Health and Well-being**, **9 - Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure**, and **11 - Sustainable Cities and Communities**.



## Tackling energy inefficiency in urban environments

As cities expand and industries grow, energy consumption is on the rise, [with cities now contributing to over 70% of global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions](#). Urban areas account for 60% of the world's energy use, and is expected to increase by 35% over the next 20 years. The surge in energy demand puts pressure on outdated infrastructure, leading to significant energy waste, higher costs, and increased environmental impact. A major part of this issue is ageing [power grids which, during distribution, lose between 8 and 15% of the electricity generated from plants](#).

### FUND IN FOCUS

#### Impax Environmental Leaders Fund



Siemens receives investment from the Impax Environmental Leaders Fund, which invests in companies that are developing innovative solutions to resource challenges in environmental markets. Other companies in the fund include [Schneider Electric](#) and [Carrier Global](#).

### COMPANY

**Siemens:** Boosting efficiency with Smart Grid Technology

## SIEMENS

Siemens is at the forefront of addressing these challenges through its innovative smart grid technology. Smart grids are advanced electrical grids that use digital communication technology to detect and react to local changes in electricity usage. It uses a digital twin which replicates the physical asset in a virtual environment, mimicking its behaviour. It uses smart sensors to collect data which, in turn, allows for more efficient distribution of energy, reducing losses and enhancing the stability of power supply.

In 2023, Siemens implemented its smart grid solutions to numerous cities worldwide, significantly improving the efficiency and reliability of power networks.

One standout example of Siemens' smart grid technology in action is its [deployment in the city of Vienna](#), Austria. Siemens' smart grid system in Vienna integrates renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind, with the existing power grid. By doing so, it optimises energy distribution and storage, ensuring that renewable energy is used effectively and reducing reliance on fossil fuels. The system can respond dynamically to changes in energy demand and supply, reducing power outages by 30%.



3

GOOD HEALTH  
AND WELL-BEING



## Closing mental health treatment gaps

There continues to be a gap in addressing workplace health needs, particularly mental health.

[Over 60% of US adults with mental health challenges report cost and access barriers to receiving care.](#) The shortage of behavioural health providers exacerbates this, with projections indicating a deficit in the US of [over 7,000 professionals by 2030.](#)

Additionally, [43% of workers fear stigma when disclosing mental health conditions,](#) limiting support seeking. These challenges reduce productivity, contribute to burnout, and strain health systems, highlighting the critical need for solutions that track and improve workplace health outcomes.

### FUND IN FOCUS

**T. Rowe Price US Impact Equity Fund**

# T. Rowe Price



Elevance Health receives investment from the T. Rowe Price US Impact Equity Fund, which looks to invest in US listed companies are expected to generate a positive impact on the environment and/or society either currently or in the future. Other companies held by the fund include [Eli Lilly](#) and [UnitedHealth Group.](#)

### COMPANY

**Elevance Health**



Elevance Health is a leading health insurance company focused on improving healthcare access, outcomes, and affordability. Elevance helps address behavioural and social health disparities, through its [Whole Health Index \(WHI\)](#), which evaluates over 90 data points across clinical, social, and global health domains. By identifying vulnerable populations, WHI guides targeted interventions that improve health outcomes.

Elevance Health supports workplace mental health through data-driven programs informed by its WHI. For example, by integrating telehealth and behavioural health service, Elevance has helped expand access to care, particularly for employees facing barriers. [During the COVID-19 pandemic, telehealth usage for mental health surged by over 50%,](#) demonstrating its role in addressing access challenges. Additionally, Elevance's focus on reducing stigma and promoting wellness policies aligns with broader efforts to address [the estimated \\$47 billion annual cost of untreated workplace mental health issues in the U.S.](#)

The WHI also informs broader initiatives in behavioural health, integrating physical and mental health care. This approach combats siloed treatment systems, improving access and affordability while addressing systemic barriers like food insecurity or housing instability. Such tailored programs not only improve individual health but also reduce disparities across communities.



## 11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



# Addressing transport emissions in Germany

Transport is a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions in Germany, with road transport alone responsible for a significant share. [In 2022, the transport sector accounted for 20% of the country's total emissions.](#) Reducing these emissions is essential to meet [Germany's climate target of becoming net zero by 2045](#), and creating more sustainable urban environments. One of the primary challenges is shifting transport from road to rail, which produces significantly lower emissions. However, achieving this shift requires substantial investment in rail infrastructure to make it a more efficient and attractive option for both passengers and freight.

WELLINGTON  
MANAGEMENT

### FUND IN FOCUS

#### Wellington Global Impact Bond Fund

The German Federation Green Bond receives investment from the Wellington Global Impact Bond Fund, a fund committed to generating social impact alongside a financial return. Other examples of bonds the fund invests in include green bonds issued by [Italy](#) and [Spain](#).

### COMPANY

#### German Federation Green Bond: Investing in Rail Transport



The German Federation Green Bond is making significant strides towards UN SDG 11 by investing heavily in rail transport. In 2023, [€8.9 billion was allocated towards the transport sector, with a particular focus on enhancing the rail network.](#) This investment focuses on expanding and electrifying rail lines, upgrading existing infrastructure, and building new routes.

Electrification is a key component, as it reduces the reliance on fossil fuels and significantly lowers carbon emissions. By lowering track access charges for freight operators and supporting the development of combined transport systems, the German Federation Green Bond initiative aims to make rail freight more competitive. This encourages businesses to move goods by rail instead of road, reducing traffic congestion and emissions.

Additionally, upgrading rail infrastructure helps reduce bottlenecks, improve service speeds, and increase capacity, making rail a more viable option for both long-distance and local travel.



Want to learn more about the UN Goals, and why we use them? Ask for a copy of our latest annual Impact Report at your financial adviser.

## 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.

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

EQ Investors Limited is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (539422). Registered in England & Wales at 6th Floor, 60 Gracechurch Street, London EC3V 0HR. Company Number 07223330. EQ/1124/1000

