

## What is sustainable investing?



Sustainable investing means investing in companies that manage environment, social and governance (ESG) risks effectively and excluding companies where there is evidence of bad behaviour or harmful activities. At first glance, you might think it's all about buying into "green" or environmentally friendly companies. But there is so much more to ESG than that. For example, investing based on your values might mean considering ESG factors such as:

- Environmental factors which measure the impact on the environment such as climate change, carbon emissions, pollution and deforestation.
- Social factors which measure the impact on society like employee working conditions and inclusion and hiring programmes, racial diversity, inequality.
- Governance factors which consider issues such as corporate pay (how much top executives earn compared to other workers), ethics (whether a company is involved in bribery or corruption), tax transparency and board management.

## What do we mean by sustainable preferences?

We are obliged under EU law to ask you about your sustainable preferences to see if you would like ESG factors to be considered when we are assessing the funds we have that may be suitable for you. Under EU law, sustainable investment preferences are divided into three categories:

### 1. Environmentally sustainable investments

Environmentally sustainable investments are investments that contribute substantially to one or more of six environmental objectives set out in an EU classification system (known as the "EU Taxonomy"), while at the same time not doing any significant harm to any of the remaining objectives. The six environmental objectives under EU law are:

- Climate change mitigation
- Climate change adaptation
- Sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources
- The transition to a circular economy

- Pollution prevention and control
- Protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems

### 2. Sustainable investments

Sustainable investments are investments in economic activities that have an environmental or social objective, provided that such investments do not significantly harm any environmental or social objective. The investee companies must follow good governance practices. Sustainable investments may or may not be aligned with the EU Taxonomy. These are known as "Article 9" or "dark green" investments.

### 3. Investments that consider how the investment strategy may negatively impact any ESG factors

These investments consider the negative impact of investment decisions on ESG factors for example factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters. These investments often promote environmental or social characteristics and invest in companies that follow good governance practices. These investments types are known as "Article 8" or "light green" investments.

# Sustainable Investment and Sustainable Preferences Guide

## What can we offer you where you tell us that you have a sustainable investment preference?

We currently offer Article 8 Funds through our range of saving, investment and pension products. Typically our sustainable product range will not invest in certain “restricted” companies, e.g. a company that makes controversial weapons, or that would actively select investments based on certain ESG characteristics. These funds do not have a sole ESG objective.

When we ask you if you have a sustainable preference, we are asking you whether you would like to invest in one of our Article 8 Funds.

We do not currently offer Article 9 or Taxonomy aligned funds because accurate ESG data may not always be available, however, we are continuing to monitor this area with a view to offering these type of investments in the future.

To find out more about our Article 8 Funds please visit [Sustainable Investing Hub](#) within the “Our ESG Fund Range” section or talk to the Advisor in your local Bank of Ireland branch.

## What can we offer if you do not have a sustainable investment preference for your entire portfolio?

We can offer investments that are not promoted as having ESG factors or objectives. These investments may bring other benefits to your portfolio, not currently available through investments that align with sustainability preferences. To find out more about all of our investments (including those with non ESG factors), please visit:



**Fund Centre**



**Talk to the Advisor in your local Bank of Ireland branch**

**Warning: The value of your investment may go down as well as up.**  
**Warning: These funds may be affected by changes in currency exchange rates.**  
**Warning: If you invest in these funds you may lose some or all of the money you invest.**

Terms and conditions apply. Exit tax (up to 41% currently) applies to gains on life assurance investment policies. A Government levy (currently 1% of the premium amount) applies to all premiums paid to a life assurance policy.

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