
POSITIVE CHANGE – THE U.N. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND HOW WE USE THEM

The Positive Change team use the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals to help identify and measure the contribution that individual companies are making to solving the global challenges that are facing our planet. So, what are they? And how do we use them?

The value of an investment in Positive Change can rise as well as fall and investors may not get back the amount invested.

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Baillie Gifford Positive Change aims to contribute towards a more sustainable world for future generations and generate attractive long-term returns. When we think about our contribution to a more sustainable world, one measure we use is the UN Sustainable Development Goals. There are 17 goals which have 169 underlying targets.

These goals aim to end poverty, protect human rights, build peaceful and inclusive societies and ensure the protection of the planet – all by 2030.

193 countries have agreed to the goals, but government and charities can't achieve this alone. It is estimated that between five to seven trillion US dollars of annual investment will be needed to make these goals a reality.

We believe that businesses and investors have the ability to drive change. Positive Change currently invests in around thirty companies which we believe are making a contribution towards a more sustainable world. We use the Sustainable Development Goals to help measure this contribution.

For example, we invest in Ørsted, a global leader in offshore wind power. Ørsted helps reduce our reliance on fossil fuels and reduce the rate of global warming. This maps to goal 7 – affordable and clean energy. In particular, underlying target 7.2 - By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix. The targets allow us to accurately map every company within Positive Change to the Sustainable Development Goals.

Although this sounds complex, so are the challenges facing the world.

The companies we invest in will change over time but what will not change is our aim to make attractive investment returns and contribute towards a more sustainable world for future generations.

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