

Driving change with responsible investing

Responsible investing (RI) products are designed for investors who are looking for **attractive return potential** and the opportunity to support companies that are committed to sustainability and social responsibility toward people and communities.

Desjardins and RI: A distinctive approach

To help you achieve your financial goals, whatever your investor profile, Desjardins offers **more than 25 RI product options**, making us a responsible investment **leader in Canada** with more than **\$3 billion in assets under management**.¹

Carefully selected companies

When developing responsible investment solutions, Desjardins puts the selected companies through a rigorous review of their ESG practices and an in-depth financial analysis. We believe that a company that cares as much about its **environmental, social and governance (ESG)** policies as it does about its financial performance is better equipped to meet the challenges of the global economy.



EXCLUSION OF PRODUCERS AND SPECIALIZED TRANSPORTERS OF FOSSIL FUELS, AND COMPANIES IN THE CIVILIAN FIREARMS², NUCLEAR ENERGY AND TOBACCO INDUSTRIES³

THE COMPANY'S **FINANCIAL HEALTH IS EVALUATED**



ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND GOVERNANCE **PRACTICES ARE EVALUATED**

Shareholder engagement

Once a company is selected, Desjardins maintains a relationship and takes various steps to ensure ongoing engagement.

DIALOGUING WITH COMPANIES TO IMPROVE ESG PRACTICES



TABLING PROPOSALS AT SHAREHOLDER MEETINGS TO IMPROVE ESG PRACTICES



VOTING AT SHAREHOLDER MEETINGS TO INFLUENCE ESG PRACTICES

What are ESG criteria?

Incorporating ESG criteria helps identify the various issues companies may be exposed to.

The companies we select apply ESG considerations to address challenges facing their industry.



Environmental

- Fight climate change
- Safeguard access to drinking water
- Preserve biodiversity



Social

- Enforce labour standards
- Respect human rights (e.g., child labour)
- Ensure social acceptability (e.g., First Nations)



Governance

- Promote board diversity
- Track executive compensation (e.g., incentives and bonuses)
- Recognize shareholder rights

Examples that speak for themselves!

Responsible investing can have a meaningful impact on environmental and social issues. For instance, at Desjardins, we offer the following products:

Desjardins SocieTerra Environmental Bond Fund invests in sustainable transportation and energy-efficient building construction.

Desjardins SocieTerra Cleantech Fund invests in companies involved in clean technology activities, including renewable energy and water treatment.

Desjardins SocieTerra Positive Change Fund invests in companies that are actively working to build a more sustainable world for future generations.

Return potential on par with traditional investments—sometimes even higher

A RETURN POTENTIAL THAT'S JUST AS ATTRACTIVE AS WHAT YOU'D GET WITH A TRADITIONAL INVESTMENT—SOMETIMES EVEN BETTER!

CONFIRMED BY MORE THAN 2,000 STUDIES!⁴

¹ As at December 31, 2019.

² Automatic and semi-automatic weapons designed for civilians.

³ See the Responsible Investment Policy for further information.

⁴ Source: Gunnar Friede, Timo Busch & Alexander Bassen (December 2015), ESG & Corporate Financial Performance: Mapping the global landscape, Aggregated Evidence from more than 2,000 Empirical Studies, Deutsche Asset & Wealth Management and Hamburg University. [https://institutional.dws.com/content/_media/K15090_Academic_Insights_UK_EMEA_RZ_Online_151201_Final_\(2\).pdf](https://institutional.dws.com/content/_media/K15090_Academic_Insights_UK_EMEA_RZ_Online_151201_Final_(2).pdf).