

IMPACT INVESTING MONTHLY

June 2024

Your monthly update on impact investing

Impact Investing at AOWM

Seeking companies that
turn a profit making a
sustainable impact on
society and the
environment

June's update includes a company highlight on Unilever, visualizations on global population, and links to further resources on these fronts. As always, if you would like to talk about impact investing in general or your impact portfolio specifically, please do not hesitate to email me.

Grace and Peace,



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Company Highlight on Unilever

Unilever (unilever.com) is a British global consumer goods company with roots that go back to the late 1800s and the production of soap as well as butter and margarine. Unilever has five focus areas today: Beauty & Wellbeing, Personal Care, Home Care, Nutrition, and Ice Cream. Unilever's mission and purpose is "making sustainable living commonplace."



Unilever

Our sustainability goals

Climate	Nature	Plastics	Livelihoods
Net zero emissions across our value chain by 2039.	Resilient and regenerative natural and agricultural ecosystems.	An end to plastic pollution through reduction, circulation and collaboration.	A decent livelihood for people in our value chain, including by earning a living wage.
Reduce absolute operational GHG emissions (Scope 1 & 2) by 100% by 2030 from a 2015 baseline.	95% volume of key crops to be verified as sustainably sourced by 2030.	Reduce our virgin plastic footprint – by 30% by 2026, and 40% by 2028, from a 2019 baseline.	Help 250,000 smallholder farmers in our supply chain access livelihoods programmes by 2026.
Reduce absolute Scope 3 energy and industrial GHG emissions* by 42% by 2030 from a 2021 baseline.	Implement Regenerative Agriculture practices on 1 million hectares of agricultural land by 2030.	100% of our plastic packaging to be reusable, recyclable or compostable – by 2030 (for rigids) and 2035 (for flexibles).	Suppliers representing 50% of our procurement spend to sign the Living Wage Promise by 2026.
Reduce absolute Scope 3 forest, land and agriculture (FLAG) GHG emissions** by 30.3% by 2030 from a 2021 baseline.	Help protect and restore 1 million hectares of natural ecosystems by 2030.	Use 25% recycled plastic in our packaging by 2025.	Help 2.5 million SMEs in our retail value chain grow their business by 2026.
	Maintain no deforestation across our primary deforestation-linked commodities.	Collect and process more plastic packaging than we sell by 2025.	
	Implement water stewardship programmes in 100 locations in water-stressed areas by 2030.		

See Unilever's sustainability goals to the left and more about recent updates to its sustainability strategies and plans [here](#). Unilever ranks 76th in Corporate Knights Global 100, a list of public companies that are "driving the transition to a low-carbon, circular economy" according to research by Corporate Knights.

Resources

“Visualizing How a Population Grows to 7 Billion”

Adam Cole, NPR
October 31, 2011
(2 min video)

World Population Prospects 2022

United Nations
Department of Economic and
Social Affairs
(38 pages)

“Why Unilever’s Downshift on Sustainability is Good News”

Joel Makower, GreenBiz
November 6, 2023
(4 min read)

Net Positive: How Courageous Companies Thrive by Giving More Than They Take

Paul Polman & Andrew Winston
October 5, 2021
(352 pages)

What is Impact Investing?

The term **“Impact Investing”** focuses on investments made *“with the intention to generate positive, measurable social and environmental impact alongside a financial return.”*¹ Many people talk about this intersection of social, environmental, and financial values as a focus on the **triple bottom line of people, planet, and profit.**² Others also highlight the ways that environmental, social, and financial values are really **“blended values,”**³ given that the operations, products, and services of any business always have effects (whether positive or negative) on society, the environment, and the financial bottom line.

“ESG” is a term that stands for “Environmental, Social, and Governance” factors that can affect a company’s long term financial health as well as well-being for broader society and the environment. The term ESG was coined in a 2004 United Nations report entitled, “Who Cares Wins: Connecting Financial Markets to a Changing World,” and this report highlights the ways *“successful investment depends on a vibrant economy, which depends on a healthy civil society, which is ultimately dependent on a sustainable planet.”*⁴

ESG analysis usually focuses primarily on how a changing world (socially and environmentally) might affect a company’s financial return. Impact analysis usually focuses on how a company’s operations and products affect society and the environment. The two types of analysis are distinct but complementary and can be used to help you blend your values with your investments.

Sources

¹ Thegiin.org; see also rockefellerfoundation.org/from-the-archives/global-impact-investing-network-giin/

² “Triple bottom line,” *The Economist*, Nov 17, 2009. economist.com/news/2009/11/17/triple-bottom-line

³ Blendedvalue.org

⁴ UNepfi.org/fileadmin/events/2004/stocks/who_cares_wins_global_compact_2004.pdf

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