

Sustainable Investment

At the date of writing we are fast approaching the General Election and we are being bombarded on all fronts by the various political parties with a variety of messages. Avoiding the issue of Brexit one of the clear themes emerging is a growing awareness of climate change, and the whole issue of sustainability.

In the financial world this is not a new theme as Sustainable/Ethical investments have been marketed for many years, but it is true to say that this area has seen a massive rise in interest and increasingly this is seen as offering new opportunities.

Most important of all sustainable investment is not only for investors who want their investments to make a positive contribution but there is a compelling investment case for all investors taking this approach. Long-term transformative developments, such as technological and medical advancements, not only have positive impacts on society, they have the potential to deliver returns for investors as well.

Once we start to look at ethical or sustainable funds there is a wide range of choices and terminology that investors may encounter. One approach is where fund managers look at Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) factors. This approach looks at a company's environmental, social and governance practices, alongside more traditional financial measures.

Another approach referred to as Socially Responsible Investing (SRI) involves fund managers actively removing or choosing investments based on specific ethical guidelines.

Finally, some fund managers will look at Impact Investing. This involves investing in companies, organisations and funds which have the commercial purpose of solving social or environmental problems.

One of the most common practices is for a fund manager to apply positive or negative screening. A positive screening strategy means a fund will seek to invest in those companies with a commitment to responsible business practices, positive products and/or services.

Negative screening is perhaps the most commonly recognised strategy which means that a fund will not invest in companies that do not meet the ethical standards by which the fund is run. For example, not investing in tobacco or defence companies



Other managers may follow an 'engagement policy' by using the influence of shareholders to challenge companies about their environmental or social performance. This means entering into a dialogue with companies to improve their environmental or social policies and to promote industry 'best practice'.

When researching appropriate funds Sabre looks in detail at the fund strategies that we design to ensure that they meet client's views on risk and have the capability to meet their specific investment objectives. Increasingly however, we do ensure that the strategy adopted reflects individuals' views about sustainability and positive engagement.



Be prepared at Christmas

Christmas is an exciting time of year where we are busy making plans to celebrate. In all of the excitement, consider some small steps to help protect you, your property and possessions:

- If you are away for some time over Christmas, consider having a trusted person check on your property, adjusting lights and curtains, parking on the driveway and clearing any post that builds up.
- Ensure burning candles are not left unattended or lit close to decorations and cards.
- Will you post anything on social media? If so, consider your privacy settings to ensure that you restrict who can see your posts which could highlight that you are not at home and therefore your house could be empty.
- If you're out shopping in your car, lock any purchases in the boot, with the parcel shelf covering them.
- Don't overload electricity sockets with fairy lights, decorations, or too many household goods. Ensure that fairy lights are switched off at night or when you are not in the house.
- If you are lucky enough to receive any high value Christmas presents, check that they are insured on your home insurance as many policies will have a single article limit.

Top Tax Tips

Income shifting – Married couple should consider transferring income generating assets to their spouse in order to utilise their respective tax-free personal allowances. This exercise is particularly effective where one party pays income tax at the higher rate/additional rate and the other is a non-taxpayer/basic rate tax-payer.

Staying Safe on the Roads

Winter often brings us ice and snow on the roads, making driving conditions difficult. Taking a few minutes to prepare your car could save you a lot of time and trouble when the bad weather hits – and reduce your chances of being involved in an accident or breaking down.

Check your car is in good working order before setting off, particularly the lights, and make sure there's enough fuel for the journey. Also check your tyre treads – less than 1.6mm is illegal, but the deeper the better for keeping control on snow and ice.

Fill your washers with a high-grade screen wash to avoid freezing – never try to defrost your windscreen with hot water as you could crack it – and check your oil and water. Stock up with a few winter driving essentials, such as de-icer, ice scraper, blanket, torch, coat and gloves, boots, old carpet/car mat and a shovel. It's also a good idea to take a hot flask, too.

When you're actually on the road, always leave plenty of space between you and the car in front – stopping in snow and ice can take up to ten times the usual distance. And drive gently. To avoid spinning, accelerate very gently and if you start to skid, pump your brakes to stop the wheels locking. Ultimately, if the forecast or conditions are bad, only drive if your journey is absolutely necessary.



All the staff at Sabre would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year

