

Sustainable Investment Policy

Policy Adopted in: 2020

Policy Updated in: 2024

Application

This policy is applicable to all stakeholders involved in the investment decision-making process, including university management, financial officers, investment managers, and other relevant parties.

Purpose

Galgotias University is committed to adopting responsible investment practices that not only focus on financial returns but also consider environmental, social, and governance (ESG) factors. This policy establishes a framework for integrating sustainability principles into our investment decisions, in alignment with India's growing emphasis on ESG considerations in financial markets.

The University aims to achieve financial sustainability while contributing to a positive social and environmental impact. This policy guides how we evaluate investments, make informed decisions, and ensure that our investments reflect our mission, values, and commitment to sustainability.

Policy Statement

Galgotias University is dedicated to sustainable and responsible investment practices that reflect our core values of environmental sustainability, social responsibility, and ethical governance. We strive to invest in a way that balances strong financial returns with positive contributions to society and the environment.

Key Objectives:

1. Align Investments with Our Mission and Values

The University commits to investing in opportunities that support environmental sustainability, social responsibility, and ethical governance. Investments will align with our core values and contribute to a more sustainable future.

2. Maximize Long-Term Returns

Financial sustainability is key for the University. By integrating ESG factors into investment analysis, we seek opportunities that deliver both strong financial performance and positive societal impact. We aim to make informed decisions that ensure the long-term health of our investment portfolio, benefiting both the University and society.

3. Manage Risk

ESG factors present both risks and opportunities. We incorporate ESG risks into our traditional financial risk analysis (e.g., market, credit risk) to make responsible investment decisions. A comprehensive risk assessment enables us to mitigate ESG-related risks while capitalizing on opportunities.

Investment Strategy

1. Positive Screening

We prioritize investments in companies with strong ESG performance. This includes considering:

Environmental stewardship: Focus on resource efficiency, pollution control, and renewable energy adoption.

Social responsibility: Commitment to fair labor practices, community engagement, and promoting diversity and inclusion.

Good corporate governance: Emphasizing transparency, accountability, and ethical business conduct.

Sustainable supply chain management: Ensuring responsible sourcing practices and minimizing negative environmental and social impacts throughout the supply chain.

2. Negative Screening

We exclude investments in companies whose operations are associated with significant negative impacts that conflict with our sustainability goals. This includes:

Fossil fuels: Depending on the University's specific investment goals and risk tolerance, this may involve divestment from fossil fuel-related investments or a preference for companies transitioning to clean energy.

Controversial weapons: Companies involved in the production or trade of controversial weapons.

Tobacco: Investments in the tobacco industry are excluded.

Human rights violations: Companies with a history of severe human rights violations are excluded from our investment portfolio.

Implementation

1. Investment Committee

The University's Investment Committee is responsible for overseeing the implementation of this policy. The committee comprises individuals with expertise in finance, sustainability, and legal matters, ensuring that ESG considerations are integrated throughout the investment process—from setting investment goals to evaluating and monitoring investments.

2. Investment Managers

When selecting external investment managers, the University will prioritize those who demonstrate strong ESG integration practices. The University will establish clear ESG criteria that potential investment managers must meet to be considered, ensuring alignment with our sustainability goals.

3. Engagement

The University engages with companies in its investment portfolio to encourage positive changes in their ESG practices. This engagement may include:

Constructive dialogue with companies on ESG issues.

Proxy voting on ESG resolutions.

Collaborating with other investors to promote sustainable business practices across the portfolio.

4. Reporting

The University will regularly monitor the performance of its investments and report on progress towards sustainability goals. The report will include metrics on the ESG performance of the investment portfolio, the impact of investments on sustainability issues, and details of engagement activities with investee companies. These reports will be made available to stakeholders to ensure transparency and accountability.

Governance and Oversight

The Sustainable Investment Committee will oversee the implementation and monitoring of this policy. The committee will:

Review and ensure that all investments align with the University's ESG goals.

Recommend improvements and new initiatives for advancing sustainability within the investment portfolio.

Stay updated on best practices, evolving ESG regulations, and trends in sustainable investment.

Review and Revision

This policy will be reviewed regularly to ensure its effectiveness, relevance, and alignment with evolving global standards on sustainability and ESG integration in financial markets. Updates will be made as necessary to reflect changing regulations, market trends, and the University's long-term sustainability goals.

Conclusion

Galgotias University's Sustainable Investment Policy reflects our commitment to responsible stewardship of financial resources. By integrating ESG factors into our investment decisions, the University aims to not only achieve strong financial returns but also contribute to the global effort for a more sustainable and equitable future. Through this policy, the University positions itself as a leader in sustainable investment practices within India's higher education sector.