



Ethical Investment Association rewards fund providers for transparency on green and ethical investment

London, 10th September 2008 – **Henderson Global Investors, Insight Investment, Jupiter Asset Management and Standard Life Investments achieve Gold in first Ethical Investment Association (EIA) Transparency Awards to be presented today.** The EIA is recognising these product providers based on their adherence to the European SRI Transparency Guidelines, the leading pan-European tool with which providers are demonstrating their commitment towards transparency on green and ethical issues. The EIA supports efforts towards greater clarity and openness in order to help customers and financial advisers make informed choices through a better understanding of green and ethical funds' policies and practice.

The EIA is also publishing a report surveying the adoption of those guidelines by UK funds, entitled "All Clear: Current Practice and Future Drivers for Transparency by UK Green and Ethical Investment Funds using the European SRI Transparency Guidelines" which includes commentary by leaders in the financial services industry. **The awards are being given out and the report is being published during the UK's first ever Financial Planning Week (www.financialplanningweek.org).**

To download the report, see the Ethical Investment Association's website at <http://www.ethicalinvestment.org.uk/uploads/EIASRITransparencyGuidelinesReport.pdf>

Robin Keyte, Chair of the Ethical Investment Association said:

“High quality financial planning requires an understanding of the full range of client needs, including their social, environmental and ethical interests. There is also an increasingly strong financial case to be made for considering green and ethical issues as part of all client portfolios. This report and the Transparency Guidelines make it easier to compare funds on the market, enabling financial advisers to provide better advice on green and ethical investments, and consumers to make more informed investment choices.”

Chris Cummings, Director General of the Association of Financial Advisers (AIFA) said, “We welcome the EIA’s report, which will help advisers work out how ethical funds compare. IFAs are seeing an increased demand for green and ethical investment products, and we are keen to ensure that advisers are equipped with the best information available so they can advise their clients appropriately. We hope that the EIA’s report will help create a positive climate for ethical investments.”

Nick Cann, CEO of the Institute of Financial Planning (IFP) said:

“The IFP is very pleased to support this initiative which sits so well with the principles behind Financial Planning and the rationale behind the inaugural Financial Planning Week 8-14 September. Transparency is essential if the reputation of our profession is to improve further. The more we can do across all aspects of Financial Services to encourage and promote best practice, ultimately, the better the results will be for consumers.

Contact

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Notes to Editor

Ethical Investment Association

The Ethical Investment Association (EIA) is the not-for-profit training and membership organisation established in 1998 by independent financial advisers practising socially responsible investment, for the benefit of other financial advisers. The organisation commits to expanding the ethical investment market and to improving access to advice on ethical investment to the public. It works to encourage service providers and grant makers to assist in the development of new tools and research products to simplify the provision of ethical investment advice. Information about the Ethical Investment Association can be found at: <http://www.ethicalinvestment.org.uk>

About the European SRI Transparency Guidelines

The European SRI Transparency Guidelines were created in November 2004 to increase accountability to consumers. As well as helping customers to make informed choices through a better understanding of funds' policies and practice, the Guidelines create greater clarity for asset managers, research providers and other stakeholders. As of May 2008, there were 45 signatories of the Transparency Guidelines, representing over 140 SRI funds. Of these, 8 signatories were from the UK.

The Guidelines were developed by the European Social Investment Forum (Eurosif) in partnership with UKSIF and other national Forums which work together to lead the marketing, promotion and implementation of the Guidelines. In May 2008, a new logo for use by signatories was launched to help further implement and raise the awareness of the Guidelines across Europe. Only signatories to the guidelines are able to use the Transparency logo.

Further information on the European SRI Transparency Guidelines, including the full list of signatories is available at www.eurosif.org/publications/european_sri_transparency_guidelines



About Financial Planning Week

Financial Planning Week aims to alert everyone to the importance of Financial Planning to their lives. Financial Planning Week is coordinated by The Institute of Financial Planning (IFP) and runs from 8th-15th September 2008. The overall aim is to get consumers to take some positive action during the week in respect of their own financial plans, no matter how small, which will help them start to identify what they want from life and then how they plan to get there. For more information visit www.financialplanningweek.org.uk