

# The ESG Report

ESG's impact on the fund industry

**The ESG Report was known as the Briefing Report. It has been renamed as it is now entirely focused on ESG matters.**

## Sustainable investing: who benefits?

Does sustainable investing do much for the planet? It has been fantastic for fund managers' profits but has it had any real impact on the environment?

In the July issue of the Briefing Report, the ESG Report's predecessor, the point was made that the real goal of ESG investing is to make a positive difference to the world. Getting a good risk adjusted return is of course important too, but for many if not most of those who allocate to this fast-growing investment category it is secondary. The real goal is to help save the planet.

But is sustainable investing really making much of a positive difference? This question is rarely asked. A debate may be about to open up on this topic. Can or should sustainable investment outcomes be quantified or measured?

Carbon emissions are of course easy to measure. They are now monitored all the time. The difficulty comes in trying to map reductions in emissions to sustainable investment activity. Would at least some of that reduction in carbon emission have happened anyway? *Continued on page 13 >>*

## Employee well-being: part of ESG

93% of respondents to a large pan European poll conducted by IFI Global have said that employee mental well-being has become a more serious issue as a result of the pandemic. IFI Global conducted the poll with managers and service providers in Ireland, Luxembourg and the UK.

The poll also asked companies if the majority of their staff will be returning to work from the office, for the majority of the working week, from this autumn onwards. Just 16% said yes. Hardly any of the poll respondents who are based in London will be back in the office for majority of the week this autumn. A greater proportion of poll respondents who are based in Dublin and Luxembourg will be returning to the office for most of the week.

Mental well-being is one of the areas that is being increasingly looked at under the 'G' of ESG. As a result of the isolation that many have had to endure during the pandemic it has become an important part of employee welfare for many firms.

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