
Socially directed investments encompass a very wide range of industries, but common to all is a central purpose of delivering a social or environmental return. Typical investments include:

Community Business

Businesses that serve the local community – e.g. Training and enterprise trusts, development trusts, work projects for disadvantaged people.

Community Property

Property that is occupied by organisations that benefit the local community or that have a social or environmental purpose – e.g. Affordable housing, property for social action groups, village halls, community centres

Fair Trade

Retailing of clothing, food, drink or other goods that are certified with the Fair Trade Mark – e.g. Fair trade coffee retail, fair trade cafes, fair trade manufactured products, financing of fair trade.

Micro-credit

Small-scale loans to small business or co-operatives in developing countries – e.g. Fair trade clothing producers, honey producers, craft co-operatives, micro-scale agriculture.

Organic Food

Producers, retailers or wholesalers of food and drink that has been certified as organic – e.g. Organic farms, organic food retailers, organic food producers.

Renewable Energy

Production and distribution of energy from renewable sources, with a focus on generators that are owned by the local community- e.g. Community owned wind farms, small scale hydro power.

Social Welfare

Care for disadvantaged or excluded groups – e.g. Support for people with learning difficulties, drug treatment.

Sustainable Forestry

Forestry run on a certified sustainable basis – e.g. FSC certified hardwood forestry