


Endowments with Impact Support Programme

What is it and how can you get support?





What is the Endowments with Impact Support Programme?

About the Programme

The Impact Investing Institute's Endowments with Impact Support Programme has been designed to help foundations who are:

- Exploring updating their investment approach in their endowment;
- Want to learn more about impact investing in an endowment context;
- Are seeking to come to a decision about whether impact investing is right for them;
- And, if they do want to become an impact investor, require support and guidance to update key documents and get started in delivering the new approach.

The programme enables foundation leadership, be that an engaged trustee, a CEO or senior manager, to **access independent education, guidance and facilitation** to explore whether impact investing can and should be a part of a foundation's strategy and come to an internal collective view. Our support aspires to take foundations from "should we be delivering impact investing in the endowment?" to an agreed impact investing vision at executive and board level that is meaningful to the foundation's mission, with a clear sense of how to execute.

Key questions that this programme will support foundations to come to collective answers on include:

- What is impact investing in the main endowment?
- How is it different from – and related to – social investment approaches?
- Is it legally permitted for us to be an impact investor?
- What are case studies of good practice in impact investing in a foundation context?
- How will this help us deliver our charitable purpose?
- What are some of the arguments for a foundation to adopt this different investment approach?
- What does the product set look like for impact investing? How does this strategy play through in private and public markets?
- Can impact investing deliver a market rate return and impact?
- How do we create an approach that works for our foundation?
- How do we create an Investment Policy Statement that reflects our new intent?
- How do we resource this strategy internally?
- How do we work with our managers to deliver this new strategy?

The Impact Investing Institute's expertise in supporting Endowments

About us

The Impact Investing Institute is an independent non-profit, set up in 2019 to connect capital to impact. We act as a bridge between new economic ideas and mainstream capital markets to accelerate the impact investing field. Since 2021 we have been working to encourage charitable endowments to become impact investors through practical guides, peer learning, in-depth advisory support, and addressing barriers.

Our expertise in this area is further evidenced by our recent market mapping publication, [Mapping the UK Values-Driven Investment Landscape](#), which provides a comprehensive overview of the values-driven investment landscape in the UK and the opportunities available to foundations.

Practical guides

We have delivered a range of materials for the sector, including [“Endowments with impact: Why do it? And how to get started”](#)¹ and [“Evolving your endowment: Driving change through impact investing”](#)², which draw on real-life experiences to provide a roadmap for foundations to take the practical steps to invest with impact. We have also produced a series of [case studies](#)³ of philanthropies delivering impact investing.

Peer learning

Over the last four years, we have created trusted peer spaces for candid conversations on values-aligned and impact investing through two strands of convenings:

- **Family Office Convenings:** Small, invitation-only gatherings for family office principals, focused on real-world decision-making over theory, delivered through curated dinners and sessions.
- **Endowment Convenings:** Small, structured gatherings for trustees, investment committee chairs and senior charity executives, built around practical entry points for those new to or in the earliest stages of impact investing.

We have co-created a learning programme with the Association of Charitable Foundations (ACF), Big Society Capital (BSC) and the Charities Responsible Investment Network (CRIN), which has been run over multiple years and trained a cohort of foundations with combined assets of over £3bn.

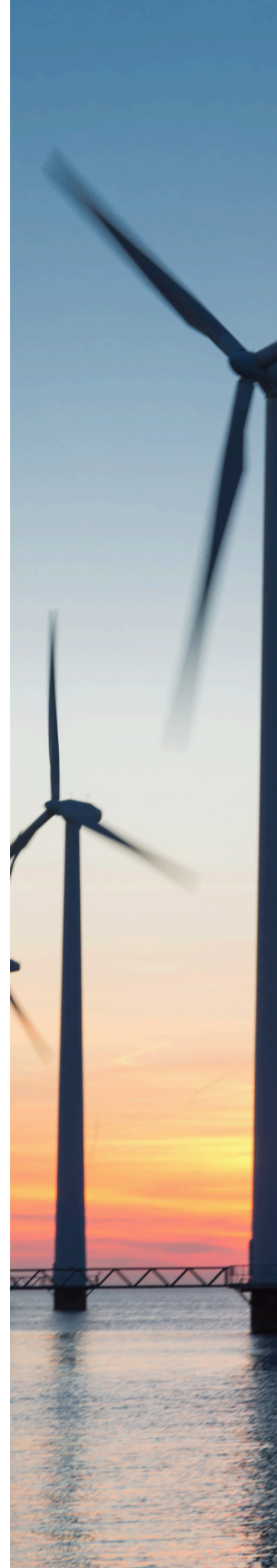
In-depth advisory

We have engaged extensively with foundations, supporting their senior leadership as they decide to become impact investors – through workshops, meetings, and tailored support – and helping them update their Investment Policy Statements to enable impact investing.

¹ <https://www.impactinvest.org.uk/resources/publications/investing-with-impact-in-the-endowment/>

² <https://www.impactinvest.org.uk/resources/publications/endowment-guide/>

³ <https://www.impactinvest.org.uk/our-work/iii-case-studies/endowments/>



Illustrative outcomes from our work

Through this programme, we have supported foundations to:

- Build board-level alignment on impact investing strategies
- Transition from exploration to implementation within a defined timeframe
- Integrate mission into endowment decision-making
- Strengthen engagement with investment managers on impact
- Develop credible, investment-ready policy frameworks

Our support programme has already made a meaningful difference for a number of foundations and over the last 4 years, we have worked directly with organisations with assets totalling over £1.2billion.

What will the support look like?

The Institute's role is to support internal decision-making, facilitate learning, and help foundations chart a path toward becoming impact investors.

Recognising that every foundation is different, the programme is flexible and tailored to each organisation's context, priorities, and stage of journey. A typical engagement runs over the course of six months and includes the following:

Initial scoping and advisory conversations

- 2–3 sessions with the core internal team to shape approach, build internal momentum, and identify key decision points

Board and stakeholder engagement

- 2–3 targeted conversations with trustees or investment committee members to build understanding and address concerns

Facilitated workshop

A structured session for board, investment committee, and senior team to align on:

- The definition of impact investing for the foundation
- Strategic objectives
- Implications for governance and policy

Investment Policy Statement development

- Hands-on support to draft or refine policies that embed impact investing into the foundation's investment framework

Investment in the programme

We are happy to present an introduction into impact investing for boards of trustees and families on a pro bono basis. For a longer and more bespoke engagement, we operate on a cost recovery basis. We will always aim to be as transparent as possible about our costs.

Our standard engagement of six-months involved support is typically benchmarked at £10,000. We recognise that no two foundations are the same, and our support can be tailored to the specific needs, scale, and priorities of your organisation. Please get in touch to discuss what an engagement might look like for you.

How can you get support?

If you are interested in securing support from the Impact Investing Institute, please get in touch with sophia.omar@impactinvest.org.uk for an initial conversation. While impact investing is relevant at all scales, our support is typically best suited to foundations that:

- Have an endowment over the size of £20m.
- Are in a moment of change – for example, reflecting on their strategy, reshaping their board and investment committee, retendering their investment management, or being open to exploring something new.
- Have a senior leader who is passionate about this agenda and eager to bring a broader group into their thinking.

For more information please contact Sophia Omar, Senior Programme Manager:
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