#sustainableworld

EQ Sustainable World Portfolios

H1 2026 UPDATE



The EQ Sustainable World portfolios are managed with a dual mandate: to achieve long term capital growth by prioritising sustainability outcomes, investing through a multi-lens sustainability framework.

This bi-annual update for the EQ Sustainable World portfolio showcases case studies from the three key pillars:

Impact Solutions

We select specialist impact fund managers that invest in companies whose core products & services contribute towards the UN Development Goals.

ESG Leaders

By focusing on ESG Leaders, these funds invest in companies that are best managing environmental, social and governance risks (ESG).

Climate Focus

Invest in funds investing in companies that show climate change leadership. This includes climate solutions, low carbon leaders and those on a science-based pathway to transition.



Impact solution:

Improving educational opportunities in Belgium

Belgium faces a pronounced challenge of educational inequality. One in five 15-year-olds fails to meet minimum standards in mathematics, reading, or science[1].

The performance gap between advantaged and disadvantaged students in these domains stands at nearly 50 percentage points, exceeding the EU average[2].

Improving educational opportunities in Belgium

Grade repetition in Belgium is the highest in Europe and disproportionately affects socioeconomically disadvantaged students and those with migrant backgrounds. Early childhood education access also reveals disparities, only 33% of children in the poorest families are enrolled compared to 72% in the richest, a gap twice the OECD average. Over one-third of young adults with disabilities do not finish secondary education.

Company:

KBC, a major European bank-insurer, issued a €750 million Social Bond in May 2023, with the proceeds supporting key education and healthcare projects in Belgium. A central example is the funding of the Egied Van Broeckhoven School in Brussels, a public secondary school that opened in 2023 as part of a broader Flemish government initiative to enhance educational infrastructure.

Run by the non-profit Jesuit group “Ignatius Schools in Motion,” the school offers programs focused on STEM and “Welfare and Society,” aiming to equip students from all backgrounds for future employment and to address local youth unemployment challenges. Starting with 100 students but designed to serve up to 860, the school emphasises inclusion for disadvantaged youth and contributes to social cohesion by providing its facilities for wider community activities.

This case illustrates how targeted sustainable finance can create tangible social impact and strengthen community bonds in diverse neighbourhoods.

https://www.kbc.be/corporate/nl.html

1: brusselstimes.com/228054/european-commission-highlights-inequities-in-belgian-schools
2: op.europa.eu/webpub/eac/education-and-training-monitor/en/country-reports/



Fund in focus:

COLUMBIA THREADNEEDLE INVESTMENTS®

KBC received investment in its social bond issue via the CT Global Social Bond Fund, which seeks to invest in bond issuances that use proceeds to tackle a social issue. Other bonds tackling inequality, supported by the fund, include a social bond issued by the Chilean government and a bond issued by the International Bank of Reconstruction and Development.

ESG Leader:



Cisco Systems is an American multinational technology company that designs, manufactures, and sells networking hardware, software, and telecommunications equipment.

Cisco Systems is widely recognised as an ESG leader thanks to strong results and clear strategy spanning environmental, social, and governance priorities.

Environment

In 2024, Cisco reported a 22% reduction in total greenhouse gas emissions compared to 2023. The largest part of its emissions comes for the energy their products consume when being used, thus increasing the energy efficiency of products is key. For example, the Cisco UCS X-Series Modular System, which provides computing power for modern, AI-ready data centres, has been designed to improve energy efficiency and cooling when compared with previous UCS rack server releases.

Social

Cybersecurity is a material social issue for tech companies like Cisco. Not only does Cisco embed AI-driven defence into their solutions to ensure customers critical infrastructure is protected. The company has privacy and security experts that are in place to detect and notify and respond to security incidents. Furthermore being a leader in cyber- resilience, Cisco shares these principles, frameworks and strategies with organisations around the globe to ensure that the bar is raised for the industry.

Governance

Cisco Systems maintains a robust corporate governance structure featuring a Lead Independent Director, overseeing board balance and accountability. This setup ensures independent risk management and strong oversight, complemented by transparent ESG reporting aligned with stakeholder interests.

https://www.cisco.com/

CISCO

Fund in focus:

Nordea

Cisco Systems receives investment through the Nordea Betaplus Edge Global Sustainable fund, which holds global stocks with a tilt towards those with stronger ESG performance and which are not involved in any controversial activities.

Climate focus:

Manhattan®



Manhatten Associates is a supply chain and commerce software company whose platforms help its customers run warehouses, transport and inventory more efficiently. Its solutions cover stores, fulfilment centres and e-commerce channels.

Climate Solution company: Manhattan Associates

The companies cloud native “Manhattan Active suite” unifies planning and execution so customers can reduce wasted miles, inventory and packaging while maintaining service levels.

Manhattan Associates’ biggest climate impact comes from Scope 3 emissions, especially the transport and warehousing activities of its retail and logistics customers. Its decarbonisation strategy is therefore focused on lowering these emissions by increasing the efficiency of these logistics, rather than only focusing on its own offices or data centres.

The company’s transportation management software plans smarter routes, avoids unnecessary detours, and combines delivery loads so fewer trucks are needed for the same amount of goods. This cuts “empty miles”, improves how full each vehicle is, and directly reduces fuel use and CO_2 per delivery. In one example, a customer reduced empty miles by about 8% and total miles by nearly 8% through working with Manhattan Associates, while increasing trailer fill by around 7%, meaning less carbon for each item delivered.

Warehouse and inventory optimisation tools also help customers avoid over ordering and emergency shipments, so freight moves are planned, consolidated, and less carbon intensive.

Together, these improvements help shrink the Scope 3 footprint of many large brands and retailers in a way that is easy for end users: they keep using the platform to save money and improve service, and emissions fall as a by product of better efficiency.

https://www.manh.com/en-gb

Manhattan®

Fund in focus:

M&G Investments

Manhattan Associates receives investment form the M&G Global Sustain Paris Aligned Fund, which seeks to invest in globally listed that contribute towards the Paris Agreement climate change goal. Other companies driving decarbonisation in the fund invests in include Schneider Electric and Siemens.

Risk warning
Past performance is not a guide to future performance. The value of investments and the income derived from them may go down as well as up and investors may get back less than they originally invested.

EQ Investors Limited is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (539422). Registered at Ampa Holdings LLP, Level 19, The Shard, 32 London Bridge Street, London, SE1 9SG. Company Number 07223330. EQ/0126/1173

Certified B Corporation