

Press Release

New guide urges church members to invest ethically

London, 13 October 2010 – A new 'Action Guide for Churches' has been launched to encourage Christians to apply their principles through their savings and investment decisions. The guide has been produced for National Ethical Investment Week (NEIW) in conjunction with the Ecumenical Council for Corporate Responsibility (ECCR). The guide, available at www.neiw.org, provides practical information on how to raise awareness of green and ethical options ahead of NEIW, taking place from 7-13 November. Rev. Raymond Singh, Vice Chair of ECCR will help launch the guide at an event in London this evening.

Commenting, Rev. Raymond Singh said: "Many churches now celebrate Fairtrade Fortnight. I hope this Guide will help church members think about where we invest our money and what it is used for. It includes excellent resources for worship and ideas for meetings and displays. Our aim is for ethical investment to become as widespread as fair trade among churches and their members."

Penny Shepherd, UKSIF Chief Executive, said: "By choosing a green or ethical option, savers and investors can make a positive difference to society and the environment. Green and ethical investments can promote transparency and encourage corporate social responsibility, help fund solutions to global problems, and may contribute to more sustainable profits in the longer term. We hope faith groups will use NEIW to raise awareness of the impact our financial choices can have.

"Ethical investing in the UK is rooted in the faith community. Churches, charities, and people of faith were the first to take account of ethical criteria when making investment decisions. Throughout the twentieth century, faith groups used their power as investors to address such issues as unfair labour practices, apartheid in South Africa, and arms trading. Since then, the number of ways to invest ethically has grown, as have the issues that green and ethical investments address."

The 'Action Guide for Churches' is sponsored by CCLA Investment Management as part of NEIW 2010 which is sponsored by The Co-operative Financial Services and Ecclesiastical Investment Management.

The guide outlines how church groups can get involved in NEIW:

- Contribute an item about green and ethical investment to your local church newsletter and/or website - sample text for your newsletters is included with this guide
- Order NEIW bookmarks and download posters and display them in your place of worship or community hall



- Ask your minister to focus an act of worship and/or sermon around green and ethical investment during the Week
- Hold a study group meeting or talk at your church on green and ethical investments. If you want to invite an independent financial adviser (IFA) to speak you can contact the nearest member of the Ethical Investment Association (www.ethicalinvestment.org.uk).

Contact

Tony Cox/Portia Roelofs, Linstock Communications
020 7089 2080
neiw@linstockcommunications.com

Notes to Editors

About National Ethical Investment Week

National Ethical Investment Week (NEIW), the campaign to raise awareness of green and ethical investment options, is coordinated by UKSIF – the sustainable investment and finance association, and sponsored by The Co-operative Financial Services and Ecclesiastical Investment Management. CCLA Investment Management are sponsors of the 'Action Guide for Churches'. NEIW 2010 will be held 7-13 November 2010. For more information, visit www.neiw.org.

About UKSIF

UKSIF, the sustainable investment and finance association, promotes responsible investment and other forms of finance that support sustainable economic development, enhance quality of life and safeguard the environment. It also seeks to ensure that individual and institutional investors can reflect their values in their investments. Founded in 1991, it has over 200 members including financial advisers, asset managers, research providers, pension funds, banks and non-governmental organisations. For more info, visit www.uksif.org.

