The GIIN’s Corporate Impact Investing Initiative

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The Global Impact Investing Network (GIIN) launched the corporate impact investing initiative to explore and mobilize ways corporations can both make impact investments and leverage partnerships with impact investors to achieve sustainability goals. The aim of the initiative is to help companies better deliver on their social and environmental goals and commitments, while also achieving shareholder and business objectives, by connecting them with a new set of tools and resources.

CONTEXT

The world is working to tackle urgent sustainability crises, including addressing critical social needs arising from COVID, lessening inequalities, and accelerating climate action. Companies have long track records of working with nonprofit and public sector partners to address these challenges. Now, pioneering companies are recognizing impact investors as potentially powerful new partners in implementing sustainability strategies. Some are leveraging impact capital to address issues of shared interest and using impact investing instruments to gain additional social impact benefits from corporate financial assets. These nascent efforts represent extraordinary opportunities for corporations to leverage their financial resources and technical expertise to accelerate sustainability strategies to support a just transition to a sustainable future.

The initiative will focus on uniting the complementary strengths of corporations and impact investors to drive more capital into addressing urgent problems, like closing the funding gap for the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

ACTIVITIES

Interested companies are invited to engage with the initiative to share their perspectives and work, access educational resources and tools, and connect with other companies and investors to learn how to best unlock the potential of corporations and impact investing through the following ways:

LANDSCAPE REPORT

A corporate impact investing landscape report is the GIIN’s first step in exploring the role of corporations as asset owners and identifying opportunities for corporations to facilitate collaboration with impact investors. The GIIN’s landscape report will provide an overview of innovations underway and case studies on how corporations are leveraging impact investing approaches and partners to provide insights on the opportunities and options in working with these emerging strategies. Research interviews have started, with a final report targeted for the first half of 2023.

WORKING GROUPS

For corporates looking to engage beyond the landscape report, in late 2022 the GIIN will convene Working Groups from within its membership to shape and advance the initiative. To start, a Core Working Group will guide the Initiative as a whole, while an issue-specific Treasury Working Group focused on use of balance sheet/treasury assets will inform development of a Treasury Handbook.
LANDSCAPE REPORT

Share Your Approach and Strategy Via Interview

Share how you have considered or deployed impact investment instruments or partnered with investors to pursue a sustainability strategy in a Zoom interview to inform the report through 2022.

Report objectives

- Share the range of opportunities and emerging best practices on how corporations can integrate and leverage impact investing as part of their organizational strategies.
- Identify current gaps and future needs for scaling corporate impact investing practices and partnerships.
- Highlight how corporate sustainability commitments supported by impact investing translate into real, meaningful outcomes.

WORKING GROUPS

Build the Market through Working Groups

For corporates looking to engage beyond the landscape report, in late 2022 the GIIN will convene Working Groups from within its membership to shape and advance the initiative. The GIIN brings together both corporations and financial institutions through its global membership and convenings.

Benefits

- Community
  Members will engage with fellow corporates and investors who are actively innovating solutions and evolving product needs.
- Collaboration
  These connections can go beyond research and learning to new partnerships that realize business efficiencies and sustainability goals.
- Market development
  The initiative’s Working Group members will help inform and shape new tools and resources to help all corporations better deliver on their environmental and social goals, while also achieving shareholder and business objectives.

NEXT STEPS

- Following the release of the landscape report, the GIIN will host additional broad activities and free educational tools to share and build on its lessons and best practices.
- The GIIN will host roundtable discussions for interested corporates to preview the landscape report. The first convening is being considered around the GIIN Investor Forum 2022, with 2-3 follow-up meetings to discuss developments and best practices in Q4 2022 and Q1 2023, and a global re-convening at the GIIN Investor Forum 2023.
- If you are interested in engaging around the landscape report, remaining up-to-date on subsequent convenings and new research, or would like to learn more about GIIN membership and the initiative’s working groups, contact: Alonso Ortiz-Galan: aortiz-galan@thegiin.org.

ABOUT THE GIIN

The Global Impact Investing Network (‘GIIN’) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to increasing the scale and effectiveness of impact investing. The GIIN builds critical infrastructure and supports activities, education, and research that help accelerate the development of a coherent impact investing industry. The GIIN provides a platform for like-minded corporations and investors to engage in activities through its global membership program. GIIN members enhance their capacity to make and manage impact investments and connect through virtual and in-person members-only events.

Learn more on the GIIN’s website at: https://thegiin.org/membership/.

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