THE GOOD GUIDE TO INVESTING FOR IMPACT WITH IFISAs

How to use your ISA to fund real-world projects and earn tax-free returns

GOOD WITH MONEY

MORE MONEY, FEWER PROBLEMS

In partnership with:

ethex

Triodos Bank

Contents

Introduction: Investing in the real economy

For many people, investing can feel distant, abstract and disconnected from everyday life - numbers on a screen rather than something real. That's especially true for the **19 per cent** of people in the UK who choose to keep their ISAs only in cash - a safe haven, yes, but hardly inspires excitement or connectedness.

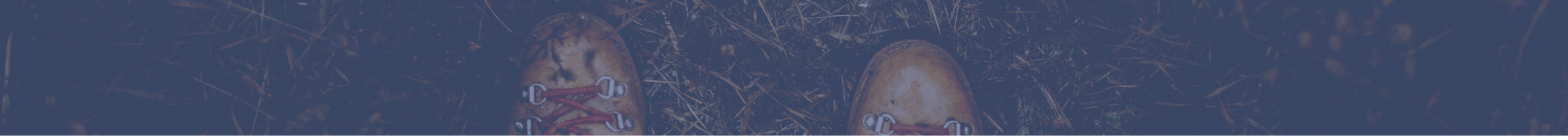
Whether it's pension money invested in the default fund, an attractive sounding cash-based interest rate, or even a global corporate tracker fund, it's often unclear what your money is actually doing beyond the balance figure on a screen - or whether it aligns with your values.

Increasingly, investors are seeking greater transparency, more control, and a clearer understanding of the real-world impact of their money. They want to know not only the potential growth in value of their investments, but what their money is supporting. Is it helping to build something useful? Is it improving lives? Is it contributing to solutions rather than problems?

This isn't just about *where* your money is invested, it's about *what your money actually does*.

Some Innovative Finance ISAs (IFISAs) offer a different way to invest. Rather than buying shares in large public companies via stock markets, these IFISAs, available on platforms such as our Guide sponsors' Triodos and Ethex, allow you to lend your money directly to specific projects, businesses or organisations. In return, you receive interest payments and you can see exactly what your investment is helping to fund.

For example, your money could help finance a UK-based renewable energy installation, such as a community solar project generating clean power for homes and businesses. It might support the construction of social housing, providing affordable homes for families who need them.



Or it could help fund healthcare facilities, clean cooking solutions, or low-carbon transport across the globe - all projects designed to deliver tangible social and environmental benefits alongside a financial return.

This direct connection between investor and outcome is one of the defining features of these positive impact IFISAs. It transforms investing from something distant and impersonal into something practical, visible and meaningful. This creates a stronger sense of engagement and confidence for investors, because they understand both the purpose and the potential return of their investment.

However, as with many investment choices, the different products available can be confusing and, following recent regulatory changes effective from 6 April 2026, opening up the types of investment permitted to be held within IFISAs to include Cryptoasset Exchange Traded Notes (cETNs), investors need to ensure they conduct full research on their selected IFISA platform as well as the underlying investments.

And of course, like all investments, IFISAs carry risk. Returns are not guaranteed, and it's important to understand how IFISAs work, how providers manage risk, and how to choose opportunities carefully. When used thoughtfully, they can form a valuable part of a diversified portfolio - especially for investors who want their money to work harder in more ways than one.

This guide, brought to you by leading crowdfunding platforms **Triodos** and **Ethex**, will explain what IFISAs are, how they work, and how to access them safely and confidently. We'll cover the benefits and risks, how returns are generated, what to look for in a provider, and how to decide whether this type of investing is right for you.

Ultimately, these IFISAs offer something many traditional investments cannot: the ability to see the real-world difference your money is making, while still working towards your financial goals.

Don't invest unless you're prepared to lose all the money you invest. These are high-risk investments and you are unlikely to be protected if something goes wrong. Take 2 mins to learn more on our sponsors' websites.

What does impact investing actually mean?

As sustainable and impact investment options have grown, so have the terms used to describe them - impact, ESG, sustainable, responsible. They're often used interchangeably, which can leave investors unsure what they're actually choosing.

Before considering an IFISA, it helps to understand how it differs from other types of investing.

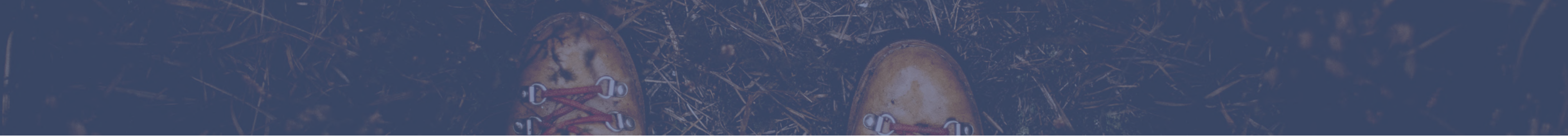
Traditional stocks and shares investing

Traditional investments in stocks and shares have a primary goal of financial return, with little consideration of environmental or social impact beyond legal requirements. Either investors' money is pooled with other investors into a fund, and then allocated across many companies, or investors buy shares in individual companies. Fund managers often only disclose the fund's top 10 largest holdings, so there can be limited visibility into what activities are being financed.

ESG investing

Another, more traditional term, ESG stands for Environmental, Social and Governance. ESG investing incorporates these factors into financial analysis and risk management.

ESG funds typically favour companies with lower carbon emissions, stronger labour practices or better board oversight. However, ESG is often about assessing risk and resilience rather than deliberately creating positive impact. A company can score well on ESG metrics while still operating in sectors some investors may find controversial, such as fossil fuel extraction, deforestation, or 'sin stock' sectors like armaments, tobacco, or gambling.



Sustainable investing

Sustainable investing goes a step further than simple exclusions. Rather than just screening out harmful sectors, it actively selects companies aligned with long-term environmental or social trends - such as renewable energy, clean technology or healthcare innovation.

However, the primary objective is still financial return. The sustainability angle is about investing in businesses that are better positioned for the future and aligned with structural trends. You are usually buying listed shares or funds, pooling your money with other investors and owning a small part of a company.

The focus is on what the company does overall - not on financing a specific project or measuring a defined social outcome.

Impact investing

Impact investing raises the bar further. Here, the intention is not only to avoid harm or back future-facing sectors, but to create a measurable positive outcome alongside a financial return.

Impact investments are usually designed with a clear objective from the outset - for example, generating renewable energy capacity, increasing access to affordable housing, or expanding financial inclusion. The social or environmental outcome isn't a side effect; it's part of the investment's core aim.

In public markets, this might involve specialist thematic funds focused on climate solutions or social infrastructure. But even then, you're generally buying shares in companies delivering those services rather than directly financing a defined project.

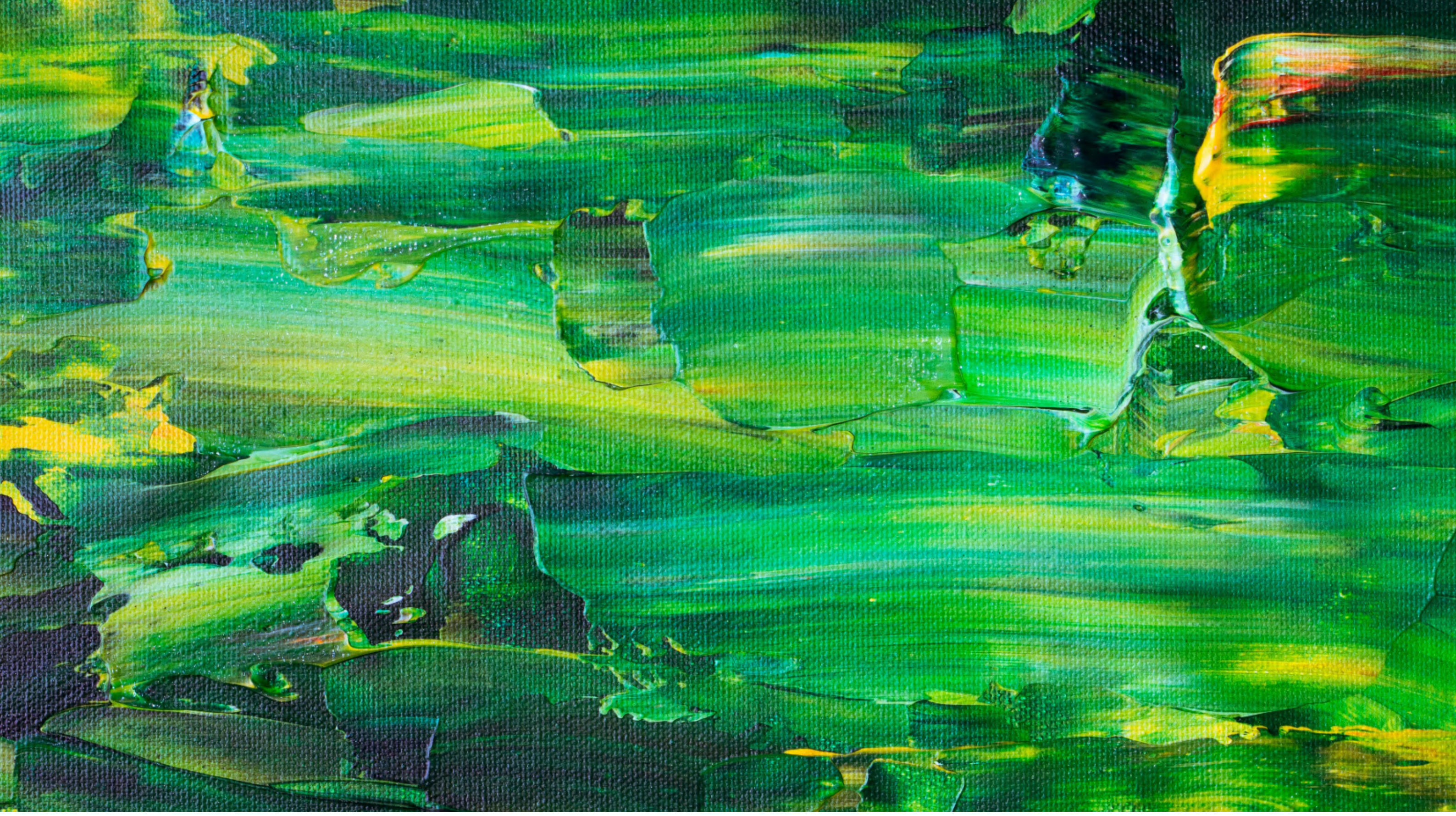
Impact investing asks a different question. It's not just "Is this company responsible?" but "What change is this capital helping to create - and can we measure it?"

Direct investing via IFISAs

This is where impact IFISAs differ. Again, you pool money with other investors. But instead of buying shares through a fund, you lend money directly to projects, organisations or infrastructure via a platform.

Platforms such as the sponsors of this guide, **Ethex** and **Triodos Crowdfunding**, offer a range of projects - everything from financing large-scale renewable energy installations and social housing developments to healthcare facilities and low-carbon transport solutions.

Rather than following the peaks and troughs of a company's share price, the return instead comes from the interest payments made by the borrower.

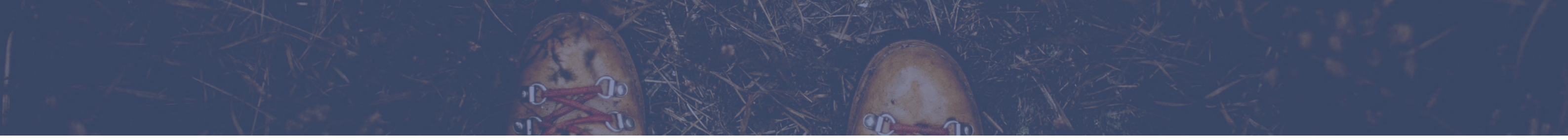


Why investing in IFISAs can counteract greenwashing

Because fund-based investing operates through layers of managers and portfolios, it can sometimes be difficult to trace the real-world outcome of your individual investment.

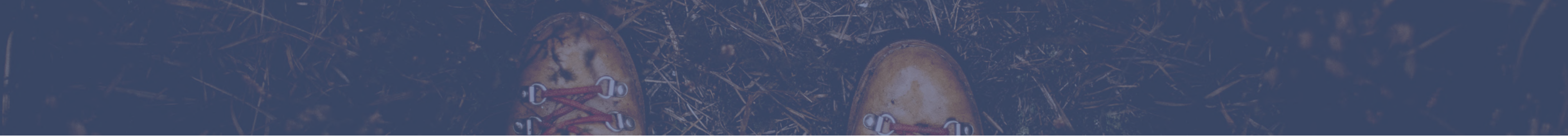
This complexity also creates space for ‘greenwashing’, where investment funds can be badged as ‘sustainable’ or ESG-aligned yet in reality consist of the same underlying investments as mainstream funds or fail to deliver any meaningful environmental or social change.

Direct investing through an impact IFISA offers greater transparency - you can see clearly the projects being financed, how funds are used and what outcomes are being achieved. While risks still apply and the usual due diligence is essential, there’s often a more direct connection between capital and impact not available with other ISA options - and that transparency can make a meaningful difference both financially and ethically.



What is an IFISA

- An Innovative Finance ISA (IFISA) is a type of Individual Savings Account (ISA) introduced by the Government in 2016. It was created to allow individuals to earn tax-free returns from peer-to-peer lending and other forms of debt-based investment.
- Like all ISAs, an IFISA sits within your annual £20,000 ISA allowance. That means any interest or returns you earn inside the account are free from UK income tax and capital gains tax.
- You can split your allowance across different ISA types such as Cash ISAs, Stocks and Shares ISAs and IFISAs as long as you don’t exceed the overall £20,000 limit in a single tax year.
- The key difference is what your money does. Instead of holding cash in a savings account or buying shares in companies, an IFISA allows you to lend money through a platform to businesses, projects or organisations. In return, you receive interest payments over an agreed term.
- All IFISAs must be offered by platforms authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA). However, unlike cash savings, investments in an IFISA are not protected by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS), and your capital is at risk.
- From 6 April 2026 it will also be permitted to hold crypto assets within an IFISA. Neither Ethex nor Triodos Crowdfunding offer crypto assets within their IFISA wrapper products.



What are the different types of ISA?

	Limit	Risk level	Typical interest/return	Features
Cash ISA	£20,000	Low	Up to around 4.5%	Allows savers to deposit savings up to the annual limit in accounts covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme.
Stocks and Shares ISA	£20,000	Low to high depending on type of fund or shares held	Varies depending on risk level, performance and fees. Equity not debt and therefore capital growth rather than interest	Up to £20,000 can be mix of stocks and shares and cash, can be "flexible" so you can take money out and put it back in without losing the tax-free status of that bit of your allowance.
Junior ISA	£9,000	Low to high depending on type of fund	Varies depending on risk level, performance and fees. Capital gains rather than interest	Cash or stocks and shares or a combination of the two. In the child's name so does not form part of your £20,000 annual allowance. The child can access the pot when they reach 18.
Innovative Finance ISA	**£20,000**	**Medium to high depending on diversification/ interest rate**	**Varies – around 5-8%. Debt-based, therefore pays interest not capital growth**	**Introduced April 2016. You can have multiple IFISAs but all new contributions in a single tax year must go into the same IFISA.** **From 6 April 2026 it will also be permitted to hold crypto assets within an IFISA. Neither Ethex nor Triodos Crowdfunding offer crypto assets within their IFISA wrapper products.**
Lifetime ISA	£4,000 (this counts towards your annual £20,000 ISA limit)	Low to high (cash or stocks and shares)	Varies depending on type/risk level, performance and fees. Equity not debt, therefore pays capital growth not interest	Government will top up annual savings of up to £4,000 with a 25% bonus (so a maximum of £1,000 per tax year). You must be aged 18 to 39 to open a LISA and the government will pay the bonus until you are 50. Savings in the LISA must be used to either buy a first home or towards a pension. Pension can be accessed from age 60. Part of annual £20,000 allowance.

Why IFISAs can be a win/win for impact and investors

IFISAs were introduced in 2016 to widen access to finance both for investors and the businesses and projects that, after the financial crisis in 2008, had struggled to raise funding through traditional banking channels.

By allowing individuals to lend directly through regulated platforms within a tax-efficient ISA wrapper, the government effectively opened up a new flow of capital from everyday investors to the real economy, helping to support the UK's green transition at the same time.

Renewable energy, energy efficiency upgrades, clean transport, social housing and community infrastructure all require long-term capital.

While institutional investors play a major role, community-based or early stage technology projects often fall below the funding threshold for institutional capital, meaning there can be significant finance shortfalls, particularly among smaller-scale or locally delivered projects.

Yet collectively, these projects could help to deliver the UK's climate and social objectives.

With the ISA regime under review following Chancellor Rachel Reeves' aims to channel a greater proportion of UK savings towards UK businesses and infrastructure, IFISAs offer a practical way to help meet the goal of connecting personal capital with real-world outcomes, enabling individual investors to directly support the green transition at the same time.

By actively participating in positive impact sectors, investors move from being passive, detached participants in financial markets, to active contributors to economic and environmental progress.

All while aiming for a competitive return.

What your money actually funds — and how returns are generated

One of the defining features of these impact-focused IFISAs - in contrast to other ISA options - is transparency - you can see and even potentially visit what is being built, delivered or expanded with your money.

A range of projects are offered by different platforms, for example:

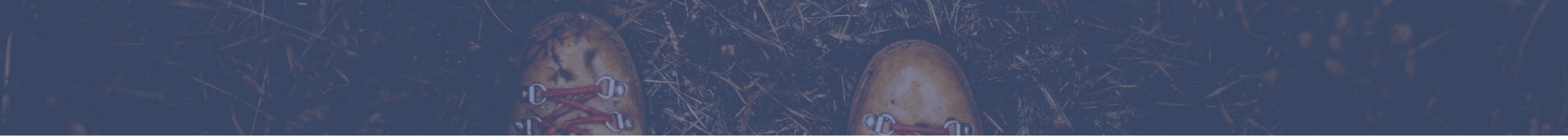
Triodos Crowdfunding is currently offering a bond with Thrive Renewables to help develop and build two new wind farms and support the creation of community energy. The bond will pay 5.5 per cent interest per year, with a five-year term and a minimum investment of £25.

And over on Ethex, as well as a community energy bond from Bath & West Community Energy paying 5.5 per cent, ethical lender Salad is offering its fifth bond paying an 8 per cent return. Its previous four IFISA bonds raised £3.65 million from 1,281 individual investments.

Other solutions can be accessed via other platforms, for example, Abundance offers a range of municipal investment bonds with minimum investment amounts of just £5.

Lendwise is an education-focused peer-to-peer platform that enables investors to target returns of up to nine per cent by funding its flexible, fixed-rate loans to postgraduate students and borrowers undertaking other professional qualifications. Minimum investments start at £1,000.

Folk2Folk enables investors to earn monthly income lending directly to UK businesses from farms to food producers, to local builders, leisure projects and community enterprises. Investments are secured against UK land or property, and target returns of up to 8.5 per cent.



Energise Africa offers investments in pioneering organisations bringing clean and affordable energy access to families and communities living off-grid in sub-Saharan Africa, with target returns of up to eight per cent.

Across all these examples, there’s one common thread: impact alongside return.

While the projects vary, the financial mechanics are generally straightforward:

- When you invest via these sorts of IFISAs, you are usually lending money. In return, the borrower agrees to pay you interest over a fixed term. This is distinct from the new permitted IFISA investments in Cryptoasset Exchange Traded Notes (cETNs). It is important to do your research on your chosen IFISA platform, the types of investments it offers, and the types of companies or sectors your money will be used to support.

- Returns are typically paid as fixed interest, often annually or semi-annually. In most cases, your capital is repaid at the end of the term.

- IFISA investments are usually fixed term, commonly ranging from three to 10 years.

- However, unlike publicly traded shares and collective fund units, these investments are not generally liquid. You should expect to hold them until maturity unless a secondary market is available, and even then, exit is not guaranteed.

Stated returns may differ according to the underlying investment on offer. For example, infrastructure projects may offer moderate and relatively stable longer-term returns, whereas investments in earlier-stage businesses or international projects may offer higher rates which reflect the higher risk profile of these sorts of investment.

A note on risk

It's important to remember that your capital invested in IFISAs is at risk, meaning that if a project underperforms or fails, you could lose some or all of the money you invest.

And, unlike cash savings, IFISA investments are not protected by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS).

Returns are not guaranteed, and IFISA investments are typically illiquid. Most investments run for a fixed term of three to ten years, and you should expect to keep your money invested for the full period. Some platforms offer secondary markets, but the option of selling early is not guaranteed and may involve selling at a discount.

The underlying projects also come with a degree of risk. For example, construction delays, lower-than-expected revenues, operational issues or regulatory changes can affect a project's ability to repay investors.

Finally, while platforms offering IFISAs are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA), this does not protect you against investment losses.

None of this means IFISAs should be avoided - but they should be approached with care. As with all investments, IFISA investments should be considered carefully. Diversifying across multiple projects, limiting exposure to a sensible portion of your overall portfolio, and adopting a long-term perspective can help manage risk.

Pitfalls to avoid

Alongside understanding the risks, it's important to avoid some common pitfalls:

1 Investing too much in one project

It can be tempting to back a project you strongly believe in, particularly when the mission aligns with your personal values. But concentrating too much in a single offer increases exposure to project-specific risk. Spreading investments across multiple projects, sectors or even platforms helps manage this.

2 Misunderstanding the risk-return trade-off

Higher interest rates usually signal higher risk. Make sure you understand why a project is offering a particular return and what assumptions underpin the financial model.

3 Treating IFISAs like savings

Because returns are often fixed and interest-based, it can be tempting to see IFISAs as a higher-paying savings account. They're not. They are actually very different - you can lose your investment, and your money may be tied up for several years.

Ultimately, the IFISAs we're focused on in this Guide combine both real-world purpose and fixed-income returns so, for investors seeking both tangible impact and predictable interest payments, this can be a compelling combination, provided the risks are fully understood.

How to get started investing in an IFISA

While each IFISA platform has its own interface and investment opportunities, the basic journey is usually similar.

1 Open an IFISA account

Start by choosing your IFISA platform and creating an account online. The two sponsors of this guide are both great places to start, offering between them a range of IFISA projects for investment:

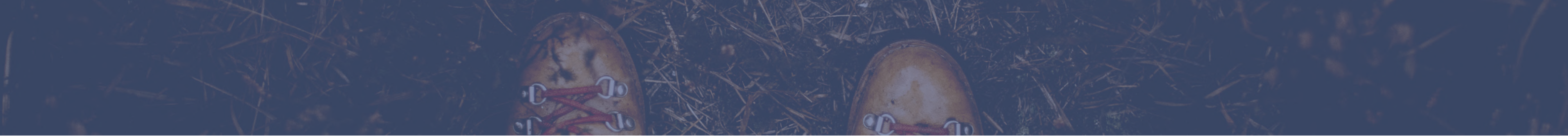
Ethex is currently offering a bond with Kent Community Energy to fund their development pipeline of solar arrays on community building rooftops across Kent.

Triodos Crowdfunding is currently offering a bond with Thrive Renewables to help develop and build two new wind farms and support the creation of community energy.

To invest in these opportunities, you'll typically need to complete an application, undergo a short ID check and answer some questions about your investing experience and attitude to risk - this is to ensure the product is appropriate and risks understood.

2 Fund your account up to a maximum of £20,000 per tax year

Once your IFISA is open, you can add money by bank transfer or debit card. Contributions count towards your annual ISA allowance (currently £20,000 across all ISA types). Some platforms set minimum investments per offer, so you may want to keep a small balance available to diversify across multiple opportunities. Minimum investments are typically £50 on both the Ethex and Triodos platforms.



3 Choose an investment offer

Explore the range of projects on offer on your selected platform by reviewing:

- the project or organisation you are funding
- target interest rate and payment schedule
- term length
- key risks and safeguards
- whether returns are fixed or variable
- any fees charged by the platform

You then decide how much to invest in each offer. Many investors spread funds across several projects in order to manage risk.

4 Confirm and invest

Review the terms, accept the risk warnings, and confirm your investment. Some offers ‘close’ once they reach their maximum funding limits, so timing can matter to ensure you don’t miss out on a particular project.

5 Receive returns and manage your portfolio

Returns are usually paid as interest and appear in your IFISA account. You may be able to withdraw interest, reinvest it into new offers, or let it accumulate. At the end of the term, your capital is repaid.

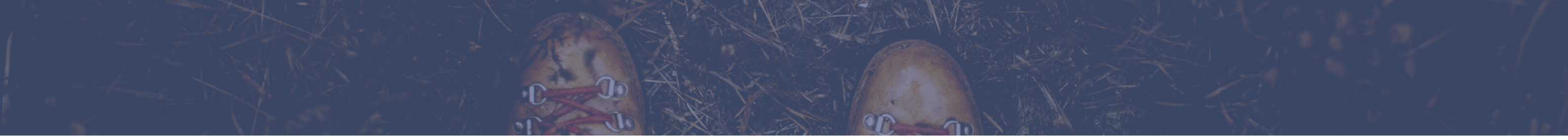
The Ethical IFISA is finding its moment

By Lisa Ashford
CEO, Ethex

Don't invest unless you're prepared to lose all the money you invest. This is a high-risk investment and you are unlikely to be protected if something goes wrong. Take 2 mins to learn more at www.ethex.org.uk

If you've found yourself doom-scrolling the news lately, feeling frustrated, worried and helpless about where things seem to be heading, you're not alone. And in the middle of all that uncertainty, more people are beginning to ask a simple question: can my money do more to make a difference?

The climate crisis is accelerating. Communities are grappling with rising energy costs and the loss of vital services. At the same time, millions of financially underserved households are being pushed towards high-cost credit when unexpected expenses hit, deepening cycles of stress and hardship. These are challenges unfolding now, in our own communities.



Policy change is essential. But so is investment.

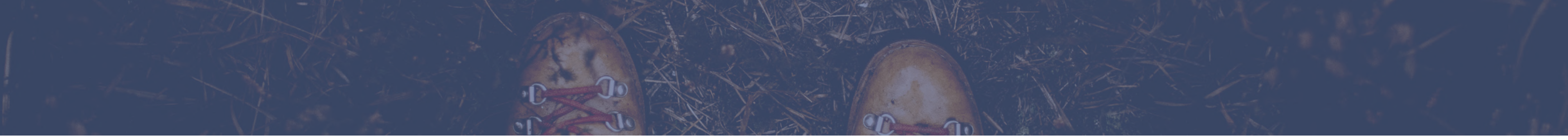
Over the past decade, the Innovative Finance ISA (IFISA) has quietly created a powerful opportunity for ordinary people to become part of the solution. With up to £20,000 of annual tax-free ISA allowance available, more people have been choosing investments that directly support organisations tackling climate change, boosting community resilience and championing financial inclusion, while still targeting a financial return.

Momentum is building.

Across the UK, ethical IFISA uptake has grown steadily as awareness increases and investors look beyond traditional ISAs and investment funds. Through Ethex, retail investors can choose ethical IFISA-eligible bonds that directly fund mission-led organisations, forming part of the funding mix that helps grassroots initiatives scale and succeed.

We have witnessed this shift first-hand. While uptake in standard IFISA investments is falling*, in 2025, over £1 million was transferred into the Ethex IFISA from other ISA providers, up from just over £680,000 the previous year.

Overall, IFISA investments on the Ethex platform increased by 42 per cent in 2025 and IFISA accounts made up 52 per cent of all investments on Ethex last year. That significant jump suggests that more people are waking up to the idea that their tax-free investments can contribute to real-world impact, not just financial outcomes.



A nicer kind of ISA is gaining ground.

Through Ethex and our sister company, **Energise Africa**, retail investors can choose ethical IFISA-eligible bonds that directly fund mission-led organisations. This model enables everyday investors to form part of the funding mix that helps grassroots initiatives scale and succeed.

One great example in 2025 was the ethical IFISA bond offer from The Big Solar Co-op, a community energy co-op that aimed to raise £800,000 but ultimately raised an extraordinary £1.8 million from 460 investors. The funds are supporting the construction of a ground-mounted, community-owned solar park, expanding clean energy generation owned by the people and helping accelerate the UK's transition to renewables.

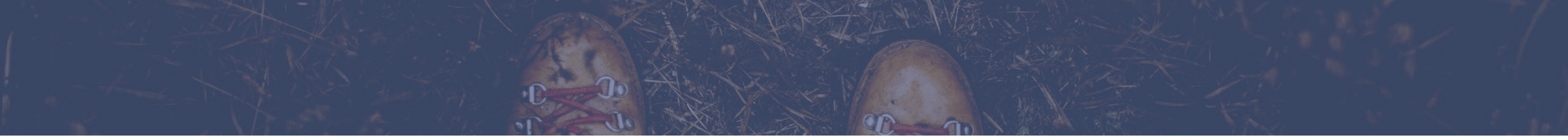
That appetite for community-led climate action shows no sign of slowing.

Currently open on Ethex is an ethical IFISA-eligible bond from Bath and West Community Energy (BWCE), one of the UK's most established community energy organisations. Since 2010, BWCE has installed 37 rooftop solar systems on schools and community buildings, five ground-mounted solar sites and a hydro scheme.

Now, BWCE is seeking investment in its ethical IFISA bond offer to finance the Fairy Hill Solar Array in Bath & North East Somerset. The community-owned and funded project will generate enough clean electricity to power around 800 homes, while accelerating BWCE's wider pipeline of local climate initiatives focused on carbon reduction, energy resilience and tackling fuel poverty.

So, as well as making use of their ISA allowance and targeting a 5.5 per cent return, investors will be supporting a pioneering local energy supply model that keeps value circulating within the community

This represents local climate action rooted in place, generating clean energy owned by communities rather than large corporations and delivering both environmental and social returns. Win. Win. Win.



Investing in a fairer financial system

Climate is not the only area where ethical IFISA capital is making a difference.

In March, ethical lender Salad returned to Ethex with its fifth ethical IFISA bond offer - now closed but look out for future offers. Its previous four ethical IFISA bonds raised £3.65 million from 1,281 individual investments.

Salad provides affordable loans to UK workers who are excluded from mainstream credit due to poor credit scores and are forced towards high-interest lenders. By offering fair, transparent finance, it helps families avoid spirals of debt and build financial stability.

For investors, backing Salad through an ethical IFISA is a direct way to support a fairer finance system that does not penalise people for modest incomes or compromised credit histories. It is money working to reduce financial stress rather than exacerbate it.

A shift in investor mindset

We believe that what we are witnessing is a shift in mindset from UK investors.

Increasingly, people are viewing their ISA allowance not simply as a government approved tax-efficient investment, but as a way to support the values they believe in while still targeting decent returns. The Ethex ethical IFISA provides a bridge between personal finance and collective positive progress.

Of course, investments in an ethical IFISA carry risks. But for a growing number of investors, the ability to see the tangible outcomes of their investment is a big part of the appeal.

Whether funding community-owned solar arrays or enabling affordable credit for financially underserved people, ethical IFISA investments are channelling vital funding to grassroots solutions that might otherwise struggle to access growth capital.

At a time when the UK urgently needs practical responses to climate change, energy insecurity and financial exclusion, this flow of capital powered by everyday investors matters.

More people than ever are recognising that their £20,000 annual ISA allowance can be part of building the fairer society and healthier planet we all need. And as awareness grows, the ethicalIFISA’s role in connecting savers directly to impact looks set to gather even greater momentum in the years ahead.

- **Source:** Commentary for Annual Savings Statistics: September 2025 from HM Revenue & Customs

IFISAs offer another way to align your money with your values

By Roger Hattam

Director of Retail Banking, **Triodos Bank UK**

Don't invest unless you're prepared to lose all the money you invest. This is a high-risk investment and you are unlikely to be protected if something goes wrong. Take 2 mins to learn more by reading the Risk summary on the Triodos website.

For some investors, the appeal of crowdfunding goes far beyond financial returns. It's about knowing where your money is going - and seeing the difference it can make.

One such Triodos Crowdfunding investor, Steve, says,

> *'I'm especially interested in the investments I make with my Innovative Finance ISA, and closely track their impact and performance.*
>
> *'I find it energising to invest in small companies, and incredibly rewarding to see how your money is helping to make a positive difference in local communities.*
>
> *'It feels exciting to have a hands-on approach, and to stay in close contact with the organisations you are supporting. As well as their financial performance, I always look at the stories of the impact the projects I fund are having on real people.'*

Over the past decade, crowdfunding has opened up new ways for individuals to support organisations working to solve some of the world's most pressing challenges. Rather than investing in distant markets, investors can choose specific projects they want to support.

At Triodos, this approach has enabled us to mobilise significant support for organisations creating positive change for people and the planet.

Since launching Triodos Crowdfunding in 2018, more than £212 million has been raised for 57 organisations across 94 different transactions and projects.

Behind those numbers are real-economy initiatives - from renewable energy to specialist education - funded directly by individuals who want their money to contribute to positive change.

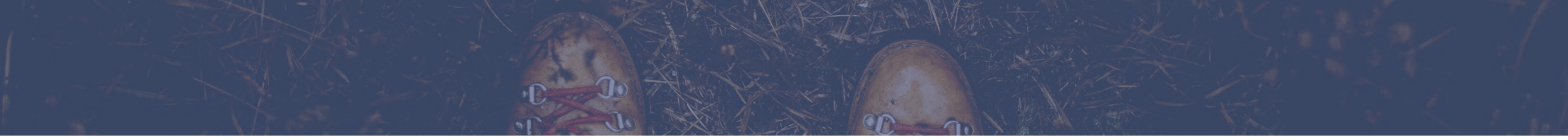
One example currently raising funds is Birtenshaw, a specialist education charity supporting children and young people with physical disabilities, complex health needs and learning disabilities.

Founded in 1956 by a group of parents of children with cerebral palsy, the organisation now operates schools, a specialist college, residential homes and adult services across the north west of England.

Birtenshaw is raising funds to redevelop its specialist college in Bolton. The current building was originally designed as a residential care home for older people and no longer meets the needs of modern specialist education.

The redevelopment will create a purpose-built facility including therapy spaces, accessible learning areas, a training kitchen and a community café. Capacity will increase from 40 to 80 learners, helping meet growing demand for specialist Education.

For investors, projects like this provide a clear connection between their savings and real-world outcomes.



Another investment option is the Thrive Renewables bond offer. Its portfolio includes 35 wind, solar, hydro, geothermal and battery storage projects.

Through its latest bond offer, Thrive is raising funds to help develop new wind farms in Scotland and Wales, as well as support community-led renewable energy Projects.

These investments demonstrate how individuals can play a direct role in financing the transition to a low-carbon economy.

For many investors, the distinctive feature of crowdfunding - and the IFISA - is the sense of connection it creates.

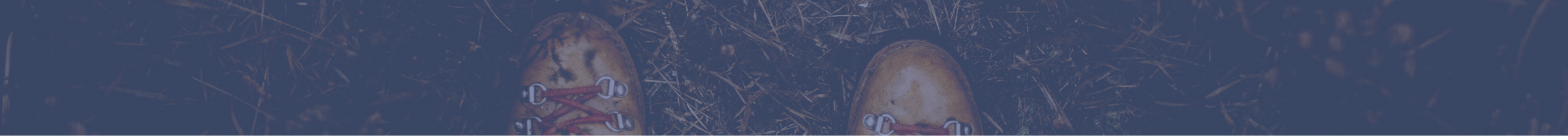
Rather than distant financial instruments, these IFISAs can offer not only a financial return, but a closer connection to the real-world outcomes your money is helping deliver.

For many investors like Steve, the combination of financial return and measurable impact makes crowdfunding through an IFISA an appealing complement to more traditional investments. The tax-free wrapper is an added benefit.

By connecting individuals directly with organisations creating positive change, crowdfunding offers a way to align personal finances with the kind of future many people want to see.

And for investors like Steve, that connection is what makes the experience so rewarding.

These are high-risk, long-term investments. You should carefully consider your financial situation, ensure you are comfortable with the risks and read the full offer documents before investing. Past performance is not an indication of future performance. Capital is at risk and returns are not guaranteed.



Are you ready to invest? Our handy checklist

Before committing money to an IFISA, it's worth stepping back and making sure it fits your broader financial picture. Use this checklist to sense-check whether you're ready.

1 Do you have emergency savings in place?

- ✓ Do you have at least 3–6 months' essential expenses held in easy-access cash?
- ✓ Would you be comfortable if your IFISA money was tied up for several years?

IFISAs are investments, not savings accounts. They are not suitable for money you might need at short notice.

2 Are you comfortable with capital at risk?

- ✓ Do you understand that you could lose some or all of your investment?
- ✓ Are you aware there is no FSCS protection?
- ✓ Have you read and understood the key risks in the offer document?

Higher returns reflect higher risk. If losing your money would cause financial stress, it may not be appropriate.

3 Is your time horizon long enough?

- ✓ Can you leave the money invested for 3–10 years?
- ✓ Are you comfortable with limited liquidity and no guaranteed early exit?

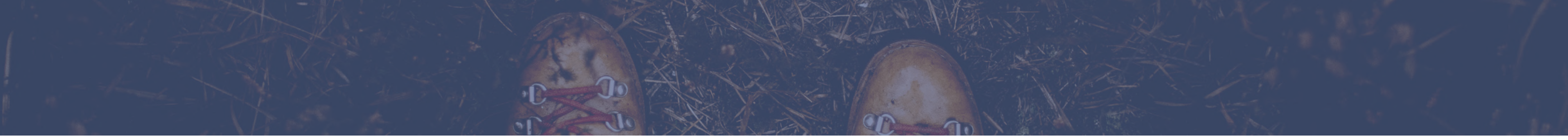
IFISAs work best when viewed as medium- to long-term investments.

4 Are you diversified elsewhere?

- ✓ Is this only a portion of your overall portfolio?
- ✓ Do you already hold a mix of assets (e.g. cash, pensions, stocks & shares)?
- ✓ Can you spread your IFISA allocation across multiple projects or platforms?

Diversification helps manage risk. Avoid concentrating too much in a single project or sector.

It's also important to think about how an IFISA complements - rather than replaces — other investments. An IFISA is usually an addition, not a substitute.



For most people, pensions will remain the largest long-term investment pot. Workplace pensions and SIPPs typically invest in diversified funds across global markets.

Reviewing your pension's fund choices (and switching to more sustainable or fossil-free options where available) is often the most impactful first step in aligning your money with your values.

A Stocks and Shares ISA or general investment account may hold ESG, sustainable or impact funds. These provide exposure to listed companies across sectors and geographies, offering liquidity and broad diversification.

An IFISA sits in a different space. It usually provides:

- Fixed-term, fixed-interest investments
- Exposure to private debt or infrastructure
- Direct funding of specific projects or enterprises

That means IFISAs can add asset class diversification (private debt rather than public equities) and project-level transparency to your whole financial portfolio.

Positioned sensibly, an IFISA can form part of a balanced ethical strategy:

- Pension ··► long-term diversified core
- Stocks & Shares ISA ··► liquid growth and thematic exposure
- IFISA ··► targeted, tangible impact with fixed-income characteristics

For many investors, IFISAs may represent a smaller allocation within a broader, well-diversified portfolio.

5 Does this align with your goals and values?

- Are you motivated by both financial return and real-world impact?
- Do you understand what the specific project will fund?
- Are you investing for growth, income, or both?

In summary, if you have emergency savings, a long enough time horizon, a diversified portfolio and a genuine understanding of the risks, an IFISA could form a considered part of your strategy and help deliver real-world impacts with your money at the same time.

Conclusion: Investing as a force for change

For many people, investing can feel rather detached: numbers on a screen, markets moving somewhere in the background. But, as we've explored throughout this guide, it doesn't have to be that way.

Some IFISAs offer something different: the ability to connect your capital with tangible, real-world outcomes. Whether that's renewable energy generation, social housing, healthcare infrastructure or purpose-led business, the link between money and impact is clearer and more direct. You can see not only what you might earn in interest, but what your money is helping to deliver in this world.

That transparency is at the heart of what being Good With Money means - aiming for a fair return while doing good at the same time.

At a time when the UK faces both economic uncertainty and the urgent need for climate transition, individual investors can play a meaningful, engaged role. The right IFISAs allow everyday savers to participate in traditionally institutional-focused outcomes, such as financing infrastructure, supporting communities and achieving positive environmental impacts.

Of course, pensions, Stocks & Shares ISAs and cash savings remain the backbone of most long-term financial plans, but impact-focused IFISAs can sit nicely alongside these products in your financial portfolio adding diversification, fixed returns and tangible impact.

There are risks, as we have noted above, so diversification and a long-term outlook are essential.

Ultimately, impact investing can be one of the most powerful tools for change - it can help shape business, the economy and society.

Choosing an impact IFISA means you're not only deciding where to invest your money, but also what you want that money to do in the world.

About Good With Money

Good With Money is a money website with a difference: it is all about how your money can do more good for people and planet, as well as line your pocket.

It created the Good Egg mark, a licence for financial services companies which make a positive impact.

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