

ACTIVATE YOUR MONEY

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



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Background

Sustainable Development Goals, or SDGs, is a framework for addressing some of the most critical challenges that plague our world. The framework originated at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, which was held in Rio de Janeiro in 2012. Representatives from over 30 countries were involved in the design of the SDGs. The designers of the framework aspired to create a set of universal goals that addressed the most urgent environmental, political, and economic challenges facing all of us. On September 25, 2015, the SDGs were ratified by the 193 member countries in the United Nations.

The SDGs provide a new model for how you can put your money to work. They offer a simple way to prioritize the values you want to see reflected in your investments. Because they are straightforward and easy to use, the SDGs are becoming a de facto standard among many values aligned investors. When you use the SDGs to guide your investments, you become part of a movement that is larger than yourself. You join governments, businesses, and citizens from around the world who are working toward a common set of goals. By participating, you can amplify the impact of your investments.

Additional information about the SDGs can be found at: <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

Assignment

Spend 5 to 10 minutes considering the list of 17 SDGs. Try to identify the 1 to 5 goals that speak most directly to you and reflect the issues that you would most like to modify through your resources. Don't worry if you are not absolutely sure of your choices. Even though it may be difficult, try not to select more than 5 SDGs. Mark your selections on the sheet or track them some other way.

After you have make your choices, share your thoughts in a group discussion. Be curious about how your selections match with, or don't match with, other people's choices. Perhaps you will feel even more committed to the original choices you made after some discussion, perhaps you will feel differently. There are no wrong answers. This is an introspection on your own values.

When you have completed your discussion, put this worksheet away for a week or two. Then bring it out again and reconsider your choices. Do they still feel right or would you like to make some changes?