

THE POTENTIAL FOR SOCIAL INVESTMENT TO FINANCE THE ACTIVITY OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL NGO SECTOR IN NORTHERN IRELAND



Useful links

For general information on social investment see Big Society Capital www.bigsocietycapital.com or Good Finance www.goodfinance.org.uk. The links below provide more information about the types of social investment products available for guidance only.

	Product type	Description	Useful Links
Debt Finance	Secured loan	A loan given against security of an asset, which can be repossessed with failure to repay loan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Charities Aid Foundation www.cafonline.org/ Charity Bank https://charitybank.org/ Esmée Fairbairn Land Purchase Facility http://esmeefairbairn.org.uk/what-we-fund/social-investment/ Social and Sustainable Capital (SASC) (Third Sector Loan Fund) http://socialandsustainable.com/seeking-investment/third-sector-loan-fund/ Triodos www.triodos.co.uk Ulster Community Investment Trust (UCIT) www.ucitltd.com/ Unity Trust www.unity.co.uk/
	Unsecured loan	A loan that does not take security over an organisation's assets. Because the risk for the lender is greater, interest rates are usually higher than for secured loans.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Big Issue Invest http://bigissueinvest.com/ CAF Venturesome www.cafonline.org FSE Group (Social Impact Accelerator Fund) www.thefseggroup.com/social-impact-funding SASC http://socialandsustainable.com UCIT www.unity.co.uk/
	Charity bond	Bonds issued as a form of long-term debt to expand business operations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allia http://allia.org.uk/ Investing For Good www.investingforgood.co.uk/ Triodos www.triodos.co.uk
Equity Finance	Equity/Quasi equity	An investor owns a stake of the investee organisation, usually in the form of shares. Quasi-equity investment is for organisations that are not able to issue shares.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bridges Ventures http://bridgesventures.com/ CAF Venturesome www.cafonline.org Impact Ventures UK www.impactventuresuk.com/

Product type	Description	Useful Links
Community Shares	A mechanism for community-based social businesses to raise money through issuing shares to local people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ethex www.ethex.org.uk Resonance (Community Share Underwriting Fund) www.resonance.ltd.uk/ Cooperative Alternatives (NI) www.coopalternatives.coop/
Alternative forms of non-grant finance	Crowd-funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crowdfunder UK www.crowdfunder.co.uk/ Indiegogo www.indiegogo.com Crowd Cube www.crowdcube.com Kickstarter www.kickstarter.com
	Payments for ecosystems services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EKO Green Carbon run by Encourage Capital (US Scheme) http://encouragecapital.com/ DEFRA schemes http://ecosystemsknowledge.net/resources/programmes/pes-pilots
	Social impact bond	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bridges Ventures (SIB Fund) http://bridgesventures.com/ Numbers4Good http://numbersforgood.com/ Social Finance www.socialfinance.org.uk/ Triodos www.triodos.co.uk

Capacity building support available in Northern Ireland

- Chief Officers Third Sector (CO3) www.co3.bz/
- Community Shares Ready! www.coopalternatives.coop/
- Development Trusts NI www.dtni.org.uk
- Good Finance www.goodfinance.org.uk/
- Housing Executive NI www.nihe.gov.uk/
- HLF Catalyst www.nienvironmentlink.org/projects/hlfcatalystproject.php
- Inspiring Impact Northern Ireland <http://inspiringimpactni.org/>
- NICVA www.nicva.org/
- School for Social Entrepreneurs www.the-sse.org/about-school-for-social-entrepreneurs/schools/
- Social Enterprise Northern Ireland www.socialenterpriseni.org/
- Third Sector Leaders Programme—Ulster University www.ulster.ac.uk

For information about social investment in Northern Ireland's environment sector, please contact Carol Forster, Operations Manager, Northern Ireland Environment Link on Carol@nienvironmentlink.org or Nigel McKinney, Director of Operations, Building Change Trust on nmckinney@communityfoundationni.org

For information about NPC's approach to this research, or any queries about our work on social investment, please contact Abigail.Rotheroe@thinkNPC.org