

What Investment

B E C A U S E M O N E Y M A T T E R S

NEW OFFERS

Our independent panel examines what the latest funds have to offer investors. Each product has been given a star rating, representing its overall value for money, based on cost, terms and conditions and investment potential

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Product of the Month – April 2010

Co-operative Investments Sustainable World Trust

The Sustainable World Trust targets the investment opportunities that result from a shift in consumer attitudes towards sustainable business practices.

All funds within the range target companies that are set to benefit from major global changes such as urban regeneration, the ageing global population or climate change.

Managed by Mike Fox, the fund can hold an asset mix of between 60 per cent and 85 per cent equities, and between 15 per cent and 40 per cent in fixed interest and cash. It can also hold up to 20 per cent in alternative investments.

In line with Co-



operative Investments' ethical investment policy, the trust does not invest in companies that are involved in armaments, animal testing for cosmetic purposes, tobacco or mining.

Joanne Roberts says:

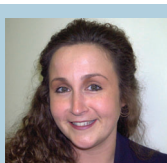
Investing in sustainable company-focused funds is good for all investors over the longer term. The world is changing, and companies that think ahead and plan for change are companies to be invested with. They are more likely to deliver sustainable profits and returns for shareholders.

Minimum investment: £1,000
Initial charge: 5 per cent
Annual management fee: 1.5 per cent
Contact: www.co-operativeinvestments.co.uk

This fund is well diversified into various sustainable areas but holds up to 85 per cent in global equities, with the rest in fixed interest investments and cash. Co-operative Investments seems to be aiming this fund at investors wanting lower risk, and this concerns me.

Even a fund 85 per cent invested in defensive FTSE 100 stocks is deemed to be high-risk for investors.

That said, for investors willing to hold for the longer term and risk volatility of around 30 per cent each year, this fund could be a valuable portfolio holding.



Joanna Roberts is managing director of Staffordshire-based IFA Roberts Clark Group