**MONEY MATTERS**

**Speakers**

Petra Deavall, Responsible Investment Consultant with SJP and expert speaker on behalf of our local financial planner, Traprain Financial

Andrew Watson: Climate Advocate from Climate Talks, has been involved with Friends of the Earth, Divest Lothian and Holyrood, and is part of a group working on the new Fossil Free Parliament campaign

Andrew Shannon: Partner in Circularity Capital

**Impactful quotes to share with others**

‘In the last 12 months, the Big 5 UK high street banks – Barclays, HSCB, Santander, NatWest and Lloyds – provided $37bn to fossil fuel companies’ – Make My Money Matter

‘Between them, 35 of the world’s major banks – many of them household names – have provided $2.7 trillion (£2 tn) to fossil fuel companies since the Paris Agreement on climate change was adopted at the end of 2015 – 2020 report from Rainforest Action Network (BBC news)

‘Having a green pension can be 21 x more powerful at cutting our carbon than stopping flying, going veggie and changing energy provider combined’ – Make My Money Matter

**Sources of information**

<https://makemymoneymatter.co.uk/> - Green My Pension campaign : has both an online letter we can send our pension funds and an online letter we can send our banks; and has a number of reports on pensions

<https://www.switchit.green/> Switch It is a not-for-profit organization that makes it easy for anyone to move their money out of institutions that fund fossil fuel companies.

Ethical Consumer <https://www.ethicalconsumer.org/money-finance/shopping-guide/current-accounts> - gives a guide on what to look for when choosing who to bank with, mortgage providers, insurance, investment funds and rates them according to a range of criteria

<https://good-with-money.com/> and <https://good-with-money.com/category/good-lists/> : lists best investment platforms, funds, pension funds, ISAs, lenders, insurers

InfluenceMap ‘Climate Funds: Are they Paris aligned’ 2021 report – an analysis of ESG and climate-themed equity funds

**Banks**

Bank Track <https://www.banktrack.org/> **BankTrack** is the international tracking, campaigning and NGO support organisation focused on banks and the activities they finance.

Banking on Climate Chaos 2023 Report: gives information on how much each bank invested in fossil fuels in 2022 <https://www.bankingonclimatechaos.org/>

Influencing the bank from within: Share Action charity promotes responsible investment, by coordinating shareholders at major banks to file resolutions aimed at phasing out investments in fossil fuel energy companies

Best Banks (source Ethical Consumer and Andrew Watson)

* Starling Bank
* Triodos (consistently wins ethical awards, strict lending criteria and transparent about investments)
* Nationwide (widely available savings accounts and cash ISAs)
* Cumberland Building societies
* Cooperative bank (actively avoids fossil fuels)
* Charity Bank (strict lending criteria and transparent about investments)
* The Ecology Building Society (strict lending criteria and transparent about investments)

Credit unions or building societies are less likely to be funding fossil fuels due to the way they invest

Least ethical banks (source Ethical Consumer)

* HSBC: worst rating for climate change – no policy against investing in and financing fossil fuel projects and companies; in 2021 had shares in Shell; contributed $55 bn to financing some of the most devastating fossil fuel projects in development. (Is one of the world’s biggest financiers of fossil fuels (source Bank Green))
* Barclays: highest financier of fossil fuels out of all UK and European banks; and 7th highest in the world
* JP Morgan : worst rating for carbon management and reporting; major financier of fossil fuels (JP Morgan Chase was the biggest financier of fossil fuels in 2022 – source Banking on Climate Chaos.org)
* Lloyds banking group (Lloyds, Halifax, Bank of Scotland) invested $15.1 billion since the Paris Agreement. In October 2022 Lloyds pledged to stop funding fossil fuel *projects* but made no such project for fossil fuel *companies* (source Bank Green)

**Pensions**

Pension Scheme Climate Action checklist: has listed 9 questions we can ask our pension provider <https://makemymoneymatter.co.uk/> - under Resources / Climate Action Business tool

There is often an option to switch personal pensions into an ethical fund, which typically screens out some fossil fuel companies. Some ethical pension funds hold onto shares in certain companies to engage in stewardship – actively using ownership of a company to improve its’ practices.

<https://shareaction.org/> Provides information about what we can do with our pensions, how to influence at AGMs etc, <https://shareaction.org/savers-resource-hub/pension-power-what-world-is-our-money-building>

Best Pension funds (source Ethical Consumer)

* NEST’s ethical fund
* PensionBee’s Impact Plan (invests in companies tackling some of the world’s greatest social and environmental problems – source Good With Money)
* Pension Bee Fossil Fuel Free Plan (source Good With Money)
* The People’s Pension Pension
* Penfold Pensions (uses a mix of ESG as well as social responsible investing; removes any investments that underperform – source Good With Money)
* Although Aviva doesn’t score highly, its global collaborations for systems change are sector leading; and a number of self select ethical funds to choose from (e.g Liontrust Sustainable Future range – source Good With Money)

Pension funds to avoid (source Ethical Consumer)

* Nutmeg (JP Morgan Chase)
* Vanguard

**Mortgages**

Best Mortgage providers (source Ethical Consumer)

* Ecology Building Society
* Yorkshire Building Society
* Leeds and Coventry Building Societies
* Cooperative bank

Least ethical mortgage providers (source Ethical Consumer)

* Barclays
* Lloyds
* HSBC
* Royal Bank of Scotland
* TSB
* Natwest
* Bank of Scotland
* Santander
* Halifax
* Coutts

**Insurers**

Insurers recommended (source Ethical Consumer)

* Naturesave: insurance for home, travel, renewable energy, businesses and charities
* Ecclesiastical for home insurance

**Investing (source Andrew Shannon)**

Investor networks:

* <https://toniic.com/> ‘a global community of asset owners seeking deeper positive net impact across the spectrum of capital’
* <https://thegiin.org/> : Impact investing

And for those wanting to delve into the world of positive impact investments……:

Summary of Sustainable Finance Directive Regime (SFDR)

* <https://assets.kpmg.com/content/dam/kpmg/ie/pdf/2021/03/ie-sustainable-finance-disclosure-reg-sfdr.pdf>
* <https://www.eurosif.org/policies/sfdr/>

Detailed overview of SFDR Article 8 & 9 - known as light and dark green funds.

* <https://www2.deloitte.com/content/dam/Deloitte/ie/Documents/Audit/IE_SustainableFinanceDisclosureReg_Article8Funds.pdf>
* <https://www2.deloitte.com/content/dam/Deloitte/ie/Documents/Audit/IE_SustainableFinanceDisclosureReg_Article9.pdf>

Using engagement as a tool to influence (source Rachel Stewart, Traprain Financial)

* <https://www.sjp.co.uk/sites/sjp-corp/files/SJP/product-and-services/investments/responsible-investing/SJP14227_stewardship_engagement_report_2022.pdf>

**Campaigns**

* <https://www.wearemoneymovers.com/>
* Divest East Lothian
* Friends of the Earth East Lothian

*Disclaimer: the information provided here was current in May 2023 – for most up to date information please check the above sources.*