



For Immediate Release

UKSIF Champions Sustainable Investment Opportunities in Alternative Asset Classes for Pension Funds

London, 4th November 2008 — UKSIF, the responsible investment association, publishes a report today spotlighting sustainable investment opportunities in alternative asset classes. “Sustainable Alternatives” looks at the growth in the number of sustainable opportunities in alternative asset classes available to pension funds including in private equity, property and infrastructure. In recent years, pension fund trustees have allocated more assets to alternatives, a trend which has coincided with increased commitment to responsible investment (RI) policies. The discussion paper is available at www.uksif.org/sustainablepensions

With this paper, UKSIF aims to generate debate as to how pension funds can best take advantage of emerging sustainable investment opportunities. The examples given illustrate that any pension fund may be able to use sustainable investment opportunities to the financial benefit of pension scheme members. The paper is published as part of the UKSIF Sustainable Pensions Project.

Adam Ognall, UKSIF Deputy Chief Executive said:

“Both alternative asset classes and sustainable investments can promote a long-term investment horizon, and we are pleased to see these two trends converging with sustainable investments being developed across a range of asset classes. This report will provide a context for pension funds exploring the opportunities that sustainable investments in alternative asset classes can provide.”

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Editors Notes

About UKSIF

UKSIF is the membership network for sustainable and responsible financial services. UKSIF promotes responsible investment and other forms of finance that support sustainable economic development, enhance quality of life and safeguard the environment. It also seeks to ensure that individual and institutional investors can reflect their values in their investments. UKSIF's 200+ members include fund managers, investment banks, pension funds, consultants, research providers and financial advisers. For more info, visit www.uksif.org

About UKSIF Sustainable Pensions Project (SPP)

The UKSIF Sustainable Pensions Project (www.uksif.org/sustainablepensions) was launched in 2006 to assist UK occupational pension funds in adopting more sustainable and responsible investment strategies. It seeks to encourage the pension schemes of companies which are leading the way on corporate responsibility (CR) practices and local government pension funds to consider environmental and social issues also in their pension fund investment decisions. It believes that this should help to protect and enhance long-term shareholder value and financial returns for the scheme beneficiaries.