



Responsible investing: Charting a sustainable advantage

RBC Global Asset Management's 2018 Responsible Investing Survey reveals the latest views, actions and intentions of institutional investors and consultants related to responsible investing and ESG. The Survey drew responses from more than 540 participants located around the world, including the U.S., Canada, Europe and Asia. Here are some interesting findings from the survey:



RESPONSIBLE INVESTING GOING MAINSTREAM

72% of respondents use ESG principles as part of their investment approach and decision making.



ESG ANALYSIS AS AN INVESTMENT TOOL

90% of respondents believe ESG-integrated portfolios are likely to perform as well/better than non-ESG integrated portfolios.



GENDER DIVERSITY: MARKET FORCES ARE NOT ENOUGH

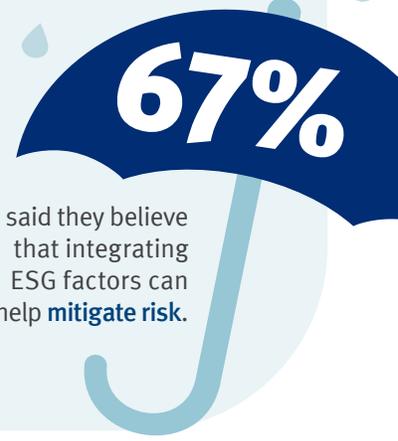
42%

believe that the best method for achieving greater board diversity is through **shareholder action**.



75%

believe that gender diversity on corporate boards is important to their organization.



67%

said they believe that integrating ESG factors can help **mitigate risk**.

FOSSIL FUEL DIVESTMENT

63%

believe that engagement is equally as or more effective than divestment.



IMPROVING ESG-RELATED DATA

46%

believe that shareholders should take the lead in influencing companies to provide **better ESG-related information**.



ESG ANALYSIS MOVING BEYOND EQUITIES

60%

of respondents **incorporate ESG factors** into their fixed-income portfolios.

Institutional investors around the globe are adopting ESG principles in greater numbers.

Conclusion

Institutional investors around the globe are adopting ESG principles in greater numbers. This year's survey reveals that the remaining barriers are mostly logistical, not philosophical. Institutional investors, boards of directors and stakeholders increasingly understand the value of ESG analysis and are increasingly demanding it be incorporated into the investment process. Yet, the gaps in information and resources revealed in the survey illustrate that there is more to be done in the effort to build a fully functional, efficient and transparent market around ESG investing that meets the needs of institutional investors and the consultants and managers that serve them.

Our approach to responsible investing

At RBC GAM, we believe that being an active, engaged and responsible owner empowers us to enhance the long-term, sustainable performance of our portfolios. We recognize that the rights we have as a large, global investor come with the obligation to actively use those rights in a responsible way. We are committed to incorporating ESG into our investment process and see it as an opportunity to identify relevant risks while uncovering sources of value for clients.

Proxy voting is a key part of RBC GAM's engagement process as it provides an important way for us to convey our views to boards and management. Our active approach to proxy voting:

32,848 2017 total
ballot items voted



For more information on responsible investing or to read the full 2018 RBC Global Asset Management Responsible Investing Survey, visit rbcgam.com/cgri

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