

### Sustainable investment research platform

Mistra, the Swedish-based Foundation for Strategic Environmental Research and one of the founding members of the EAI, has in January 2006 launched a 4,5 million EUR research venture *Sustainable Development: the New Role of Institutional Investors*. The research programme is conducted in two parts. One led by Evert Carlsson at Gothenburg School of Business, Economics and Law. And one led by Professor Lars Hassel at Umeå School of Business at Umeå University, Sweden, that aims to increase the understanding of how, through investments and corporate engagement, the financial sector can be the linchpin for achieving sustainable development goals.

Effective from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2007, the research program has launched a Sustainable investment research platform that aims to help institutional investors cope with barriers to successful implementation of sustainable investment strategies.

For more information please visit <http://www.sirp.se>

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### Harvard and Stanford top sustainability tables

Two of the three biggest US university endowment funds, Harvard and Stanford, have scored top marks for sustainable development. The Sustainable Endowments Institute defined sustainable development as an effort to ensure that meeting universities' investment needs did not compromise the requirements of future generations. It ranked 90 US endowment funds in terms of investment priorities, shareholder engagement, endowment transparency and environmental initiatives.

Each fund was graded A to D. Harvard, Stanford, Dartmouth College and Williams College were top-ranked with As. Yale got B+ along with University of Michigan and Middlebury College. Harvard is the largest endowment in the US with \$29bn (€22bn) in assets under management. Stanford is the third-biggest with \$14bn, while Dartmouth manages \$3bn and Williams \$1.4bn.

Three of the top funds were leaders in terms of investment priorities. Harvard, Stanford and Williams were praised for investment in community development and renewable energy funds and for prioritising investments to maximise profit.

To view the full article please visit: [www.efinancialnews.com](http://www.efinancialnews.com)

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### US\$1 million Alcan Prize for Sustainability 2007

The Alcan Prize for Sustainability is a \$1 million award that recognizes organisations demonstrating a comprehensive approach to addressing, achieving and further advancing economic, environmental and/or social sustainability. It is one of the world's most significant privately funded prizes. Additionally, Alcan grants valued at \$15,000 are awarded to the remaining nine shortlisted organisations, for the specific purpose of investment in certifiable training and capacity building for the organisation.

Recipients of the prize and grants are selected by an independent, high-level international panel of distinguished adjudicators. They consider past performance as well as evaluating how organisations will continue to contribute to, and have an impact on, sustainability through their ongoing activities.

To enter or nominate please visit: [www.alcanprizeforsustainability.com](http://www.alcanprizeforsustainability.com)

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### European venture capital targets sustainability

European investors put €1.25bn into sustainable venture capital products last year, while total private equity hit record levels of financing, according to the European Social Investment Forum (Eurosif). Eurosif's executive director, Matt Christensen, said: "We are seeing an extraordinary upward growth curve in private equity and venture capital," adding that last year the asset class hit "record levels of financing" in both Europe and the US.

To read the full article, please visit: [www.ipe.com](http://www.ipe.com)

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If you are an asset owner or fund manager who would like to see investment research that better addresses extra-financial issues or are otherwise interested in EAI, we would like to hear from you. To receive more information please contact Jennifer Walmsley at [j.walmsley@hermes.co.uk](mailto:j.walmsley@hermes.co.uk) or +44 (0) 20 7680 2847.