Sustainable Investing at UNH

Sustainability is a core value at the University of New Hampshire, underpinning our academics, research and practice. Since 2017, UNH is one of a small number of institutions of higher education in the United States to hold the STARS Platinum rating from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE), placing UNH at the highest level of sustainability performance among colleges and universities. Substantial enhancements in the area of sustainable investing at the UNH Foundation have been essential to UNH achieving and maintaining the Platinum rating.

Integrating ESG factors into the fund manager selection and monitoring process is a responsibility shared by the Investment Committee, Foundation staff and our investment consultants. As required in our investment policy statement, we consider material ESG factors when evaluating current and prospective managers. The actions listed below describe elements of the Foundation’s current process that are undertaken for all managers, where possible and relevant to their decision-making process.

• Review fund manager’s responsible investing policies and implementation, if any, and encourage the consideration of sustainable investing principles, including when voting proxies.

• Issue ESG due diligence questions to fund managers annually, review responses and follow-up with managers where appropriate.

• Include responsible investment as a standard agenda item at periodic Investment Committee performance review meetings.

• Engage with the Committee on Investor Responsibility, an advisory body consisting of UNH students, faculty, staff, alumni and others who share an interest in promoting sustainable investing at UNH.

• Collaborate with other higher education institutions directly and through affinity organizations, such as the Intentional Endowments Network (IEN) and the Principles for Responsible Investing (PRI).