

Investor Returns



Greening our portfolio

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At a Synod/Presbytery meeting in 2015, the members agreed to amendments of the Ethical Investment Policy. These amendments were discussed at great length and a proposal was put forward to exclude companies which extract coal from the ground for the production of energy, from the Uniting Church SA's investible universe.

We know that the burning of fossil fuels to create energy results in increased carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Coal used to produce energy results in the emission of carbon, both on a nominal and per unit of energy basis.

The members agreed to exclude companies that extract coal for the production of energy from Uniting Church SA's investments. This meant that BHP Billiton and Rio Tinto, which are two of the better known and obvious

coal extractors, are now outside of the guidelines for investing the Church's funds.

Upon examination of the Church's investment portfolio, and follow up on the operations of other companies that the Church has invested in, it became apparent that AGL Energy extracts coal from a mine which they own in Victoria, next to one of their coal power plants. Due to this extraction operation, the Resources Board on recommendation from the Ethical Investment Working Group, agreed to place AGL Energy on its investment exclusion list.

It is worth noting that the Uniting Church's Ethical Investment Policy is specific in its exclusions (i.e. coal extraction), and that employees, contractors, investors and the Board of AGL Energy are not 'unethical' by association, but the Church has made a decision to exclude AGL due to this one activity of its company.

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Welcome to our Winter Green edition of Investor Returns

The Uniting Church has been a strong advocate on environmental issues. The health of our planet is of the utmost importance to most of us, and many of us are trying to make a difference. These differences may be small or large, may be in the form of reducing landfill, minimising our use of clean water or reducing our carbon footprint.

Over the past couple of years, the Uniting Church Investment Committee and the staff of UC Invest have sought to become environmentally friendlier. The implementation of initiatives is a start, as we seek to find better ways to do things so our impact on Earth is reduced.

There is plenty we can still do, but in this issue we have highlighted several things we've done that have had a positive impact.

We can all do our little bit.

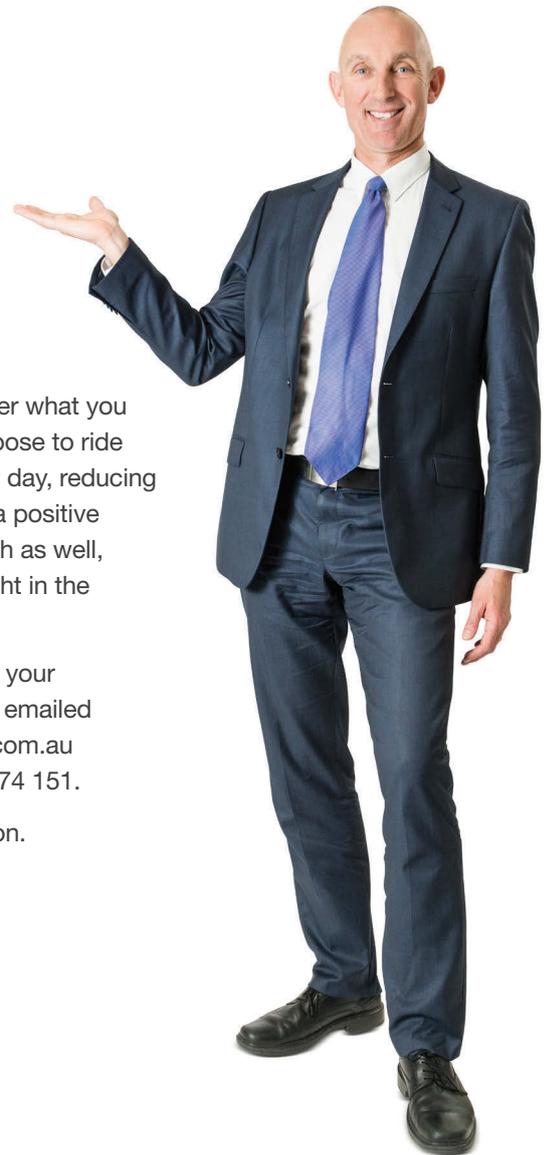
I encourage you to consider what you can do. For example, I choose to ride my bike to the office every day, reducing car emissions (it also has a positive impact on my overall health as well, if I can keep my bike upright in the wet weather).

As always, we are open to your suggestions which can be emailed through to info@ucinvest.com.au or call the team on 1300 274 151.

I hope you enjoy this edition.

Paul

Paul Barnett



Reusable KeepCups

It is estimated that Australians throw away 1 billion waxed coffee cups every year. The majority of these cups end up in landfill and the waterproof waxing inhibits nature from breaking them down.

Those of us that love maths wouldn't take too long to determine that on average, every adult in Australia is likely to have at least one take away drink each and every week, which is driving the enormous landfill problem.

KeepCups were designed to avoid the use of throw away coffee cups and at UC Invest we support this mission. We have designed our own branded KeepCups. We are increasingly seeing coffee outlets support this approach by offering discounts when the reusable cups are brought instore.

UC Invest branded KeepCups are still available for free at our office if you are passing by.





Help us reduce paper clutter

In 2015 we sent over 23,000 individual pieces of mail; everything from account statements and notifications to general correspondence.

“While we’re never going to eliminate the need to post items to investors, we would certainly like to see a significant fall in the number of items we post out”, said Andrew Fechner, Assistant Manager.

“One way that investors can help us reduce our impact in this area is to request electronic statements. Our eStatements are a great way to reduce paper clutter and also do your bit for the environment.”

If you would like to switch to eStatements simply call our office on 1300 274 151.

eStatements - Q & A

How do I access eStatements?

You can only access eStatements via our secure web portal, UC Invest Online. If you haven’t already registered for UC Invest Online access you will need to contact our office first.

How often are eStatements generated?

We generate eStatements monthly and send out an email notification when the PDFs are ready for viewing or downloading.

Why should I register for UC Invest Online?

In addition to eStatements, you have 24/7 access to all of your investment and transaction information. Some investments also allow you to request a withdrawal online.



Reusable shopping bags

It has been several years since legislation in South Australia was put in place to reduce the amount of plastic bags used at supermarkets and other retail outlets. Marine biologists have found residual plastic bags in places as far away as Antarctica.

Additionally, more recent research has shown many fish in areas of the world have micro plastic particles within them, which is passing through the food chain, and may be ingested by humans.

Recently UC Invest ordered a new batch of reusable UC Invest branded bags designed to keep perishables cooler until they are refrigerated at home. They have now been delivered to our address. Please feel free to ask for a complimentary bag or two if you are visiting, and do your bit to reduce the need to produce and use plastic bags.



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ANSWER:

A deck of playing cards.



Solar Energy being produced on the Synod Building

If you have read recent Investor Returns articles you will have noted that on the roof of 212 Pirie Street there are many large black tiles converting solar energy into usable energy for the building. It is a large 100 kW system using hundreds of solar panels. The building has over 3,000 square metres of tenanted floor space and many employees housed within it. Other than weekends, the power generated is used within the building.

After the first two months of its operation (March and April were mainly sunny), the system was producing approximately 300 kilo watt hours per day. In dollar terms that is around \$93 of electricity per day. The solar panels are reducing the amount of carbon that would have been produced for the building's energy needs, by approximately 4 tonnes per month (this figure varies depending on which energy supplier is used).

We are also seeking ways to reduce the amount of electricity we use within the building. As the solar panels have shown us, we can indeed do things that lead to outcomes that are significant.



Thank you!

"Thanks to your investment the Wattle Centre is a quiet and comfortable place where students can focus on their studies. The new space provides a real sense of community and an opportunity to develop relationships with others."

Renae and Joshua, Students, Pedare Christian College



Invest with someone who invests in your community.

Visit us at ucinvest.com.au or call us on 1300 274 151.

