#### Module 11 Article

# **How Has ESG Investing Become So Popular?**

### For Most ESG Investors, It's About The Why?

Environmental, social, and governance (ESG) investing is a growing trend that has become increasingly popular in recent years. This type of investing focuses on companies that prioritize green initiatives, social responsibility, and good corporate governance.

The primary motivation for investors looking into ESG and Social Impact investments is the potential for financial gains. Many companies that focus on sustainability have higher return rates than those who do not invest responsibly. Studies have found that companies that score highly in ESG criteria tend to have outperformed their conventional counterparts over the long term due to increased consumer demand, lower costs due to efficiency gains, reduced volatility as a result of better risk management, and improved access to capital.

# **But It's About The Money**

In addition to financial benefits, there are also significant social benefits associated with ESG investments. Companies that invest responsibly can often generate positive public relations effects by creating goodwill among stakeholders; which can lead to improved brand recognition and customer loyalty.

Moreover, many organizations focus their efforts on advancing sustainable development goals (SDGs), such as promoting renewable energy sources or reducing air pollution levels - both of which can benefit society at large in terms of healthier ecosystems and reduced poverty levels within developing nations respectively.

Finally, investors may also look into ESG & Social Impact investments due to their impact on the environment by reducing the production of harmful emissions or conserving resources - thus helping mitigate global climate change risks.

#### **How Investors May Invest In ESG**

Certain investors may want to invest in certain environmental, social, and governance (ESG) companies because of the potential for a higher financial return. ESG investments have become increasingly popular because of their ability to generate a positive social or environmental outcome while still providing economic benefits to shareholders. This is especially attractive for investors looking to make a positive impact on society and the environment.

One example of an ESG-focused investment strategy is sustainable investing. This involves selecting stocks and other investments that promote positive environmental and social outcomes as well as strong financial performance. Sustainable investing has been shown to reduce risk and increase returns by focusing on companies with good ESG ratings that are also financially sound. For example, studies have found that businesses with high ESG scores have significantly outperformed their peers over time, leading many investors to take advantage of this trend.

Other types of ESG investments can be more focused on specific issues such as climate change or gender equality. Investing in companies with strong sustainability practices is a way for investors to support efforts to mitigate climate risks and combat inequality in the workplace. By investing in these businesses, investors can help them grow while reaping financial rewards from their success. Similarly, investors who are passionate about addressing global poverty or improving access to healthcare may be drawn to investments in healthcare startups or those dedicated to tackling world hunger.

## The Bottom Line on ESG Investing

For some investors, investing in an ESG company means more than simply making money; it's also about making a difference in the world they live in and supporting causes they believe in while still earning profits. As such, it's no surprise that so many people are turning towards this form of responsible investing when making decisions about where they put their money. With its potential for both financial and social returns, ESG investing is proving itself as an attractive option for those wanting both financial gains and a sense of purpose from their investments.