

Case study

Investing in the UK tram system & renewable energy in Europe

The Townsend Group (TTG) is an asset manager that finds investment opportunities for your pension fund in real assets, which are things like property, infrastructure and agriculture.

In 2021 TTG invested through an investment company called Meridiam. Below are examples of some of the numerous sustainable assets we have invested in through Meridiam.

Transport infrastructure

Through Meridiam, we have part-financed a number of transport systems, including the high-speed rail line between Tours and Bordeaux.

We've also invested in a number of tram systems including Nottingham in the UK but also cities in Italy, Canada and the USA.

We helped finance a project in the US to build a tunnel, which moved 80% of freight traffic out of the city centre, significantly improving the air quality of the region.



Tram system, Nottingham, UK

Social infrastructure

The Welsh Education Partnership is one of Meridiam's social infrastructure projects in the UK which uses technology to help refurbish primary and secondary schools. The aim is to improve the learning environment and develop highly energy efficient schools, which are carbon net zero, both in the construction and operational phases.

Energy infrastructure

Through this fund, we invest in energy infrastructure that offers people clean, renewable and reasonably-priced power, be it solar, wind, hydroelectric, biogas, biomass or geothermal. This has included part-financing more than 25,000 charging stations for electric vehicles in Europe. In all its investments, Meridiam is seeking to obtain positive environmental, social and governance outcomes which are aligned to the UN Sustainable Development Goals, alongside delivering positive financial returns.

The Fund measures how aligned the assets are against a 2°C trajectory and the associated climate risks and carbon footprint. The objective is to build a portfolio that is in line with The Paris Agreement to limit global warming to below 2 degrees Celsius, preferably to 1.5 degrees Celsius, compared to pre-industrial levels.