

THE GRANT THORNTON IRISH FUNDS SUSTAINATHON N 2022

LAUNCHING SEPTEMBER 2022

irishfunds.ie

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Sustainathon

- The Irish Funds Member Engagement Working Group, established in October 2018, was tasked with increasing the engagement of Irish Funds with its members. One of their action points was to develop a challenge that will allow all member firms to contribute.
- The Sustainathon is a collaborative event aimed at creating solutions to the sustainability challenges faced by the Irish Funds Industry.
- It is centered around the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Participants will be asked to assess and identify achievable and impactful steps that the Irish Funds Industry can implement - the proposed solutions could relate to product innovations, new platforms for engagement, corporate initiatives, use of technologies, or other ideas.

Sustainathon 2020 winners

Green Team Network

The aim of the Green Team Network is to facilitate knowledge sharing and collaboration in relation to addressing sustainability goals cross companies within the Irish Funds industry. Members of this network will pool their ideas, resources and campaigns which will result in savings on time, effort and cost across the industry.

Co-Founders:

Suzanne Senior, BlackRock

Magdalena Supernat, SS&C

Aedín O'Leary, Independent Director

Aisling McCaffrey, Grant Thornton

Mentor:


Shona O'Hea, Grant Thornton

Mission Statement

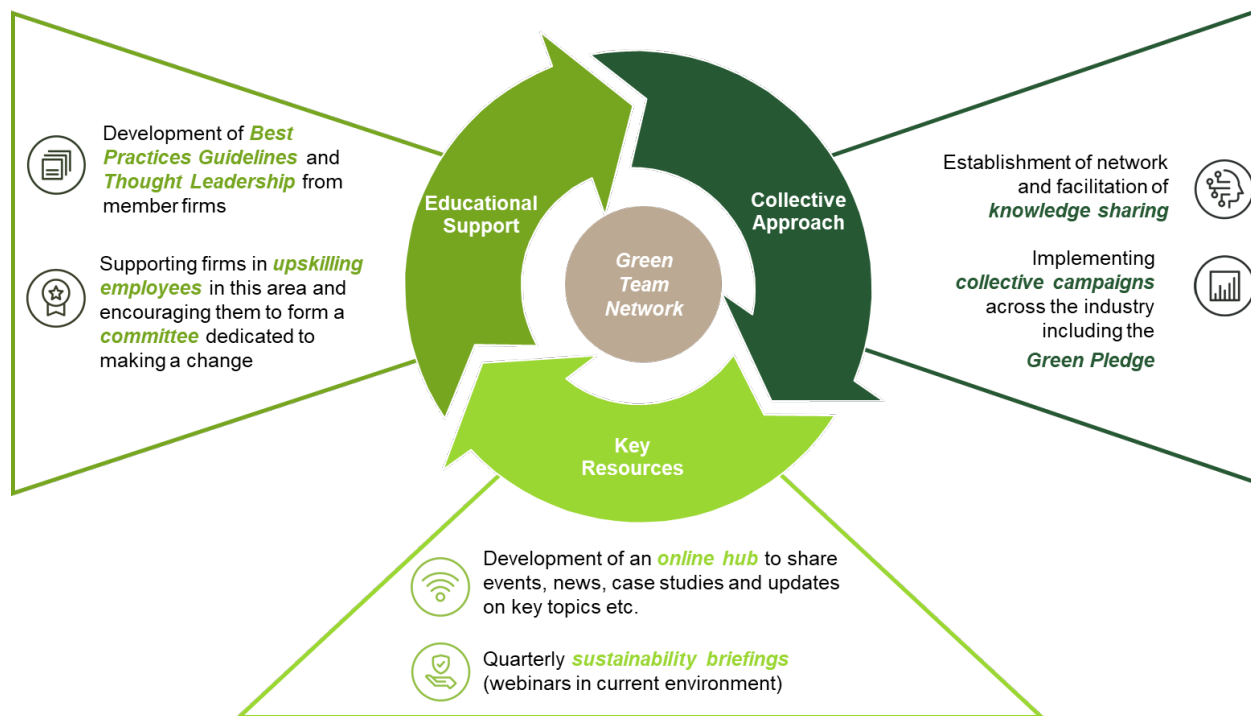
Provide a forum to connect and empower the Irish Funds Industry firms to support change towards a more sustainable environment. The network will support member firms' efforts to close the gap between intent, action and impact.

4 workstreams - Communications & Structure / Online Platform & Education / Accreditation & Awards / The Green Pledge

Steering Committee Firms

 Grant Thornton

Green Team Network – What we are about



Green Team Network – Where we are now

- ❑ On 15 March 2021, the Green Challenge kicked off on LinkedIn and the Green Team Network website went live.
- ❑ We now have **1,300 LinkedIn** followers, **c. 450 subscribers** and **13 signatories** to the **Green Pledge**.
- ❑ The Green Team Network website has resources in relation to **Green at Home, in Community, in Industry** and **in the Workplace**. It also has an outline of the Green Pledge and a link to the online tool.

info@greenteamnetwork.ie

Green Team Network – Activities & Events

9 virtual and **3 in-person** events to date, including:

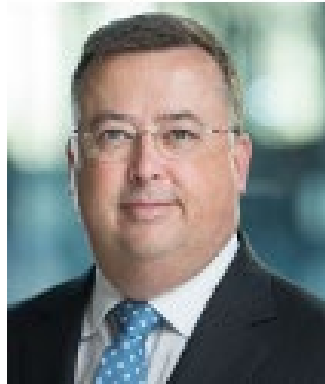
- ☐ Irish Funds conferences
- ☐ Launch of the **Green Pledge** – Climate Finance Week
- ☐ *“Running a Green Team”* Interview
- ☐ *“The Rise and Rise of Sustainability Roles”* webinar
- ☐ *“ESG across the Asset Classes”* webinar with IOB
- ☐ Panel representations -
 - ☐ Business Post ESG Summit, EWPN Networking Event
 - ☐ GRC World ESG Forum, Nvolve Webinar



Introducing our judging panel



Colin Feely
Head of Financial
Services Audit
Grant Thornton



Pat Lardner
CEO Irish Funds



Ann Shiels
Founder FinLexSus



Mark Harland
Head of Sustainability
IQ-EQ

Sustainathon 2022

- The **theme** is centred around Sustainable Development Goal 13: Climate Action “Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts”.



Sustainathon 2022

- The **task** is centred around action measure #5 (Increase Industry Commitments) of “Ireland’s Sustainable Finance Roadmap”. Sustainable Finance Ireland are the lead for action measure #5.



	DESCRIPTION OF ACTION MEASURE	LEAD	STAKEHOLDERS	DEADLINE
5	<p>INCREASE INDUSTRY COMMITMENTS</p> <p>There are an increasing number of Irish located financial services sector firms, large corporates and semi-states aligning themselves to relevant climate, wider ESG, net-zero and most recently nature-related commitments. Encouraging an increased level of participation, under the Sustainable Finance Skillnet, a programme will be developed to support those Irish located firms to develop their inhouse talent. Being a member of such platforms will ensure they are able to fully avail of best practice examples.</p> <p>Commitment examples include the UN Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI), the UN Principles for Responsible Banking (PRB), the UN Principles for Sustainable Insurance (PSI), the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD), Nature Action 100, and the recently launched Task Force on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD).</p> <p>Building on the UN-convened FC4S Network annual assessment programme, on a bi-annual basis Irish commitment will be mapped and measured for impact. Mapping efforts will also leverage off the Sustainable Finance Observatory tool, which has been developed by Finance for Tomorrow, Paris and allows for a financial centre to track commitments. An Irish equivalent will be developed.</p>	SUSTAINABLE FINANCE IRELAND	INDUSTRY, INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVE BODIES, UNPRI, UNPRB, UNPSI, TCFD, NATURE ACTION 100, TNFD, SFS	ONGOING

- The Sustainable Finance Roadmap was action measure #1 under the Ireland for Finance Action Plan 2021.

Sustainathon 2022

- The teams selected (consisting of 6 + 1 facilitator) will be tasked with developing solutions for financial centres to increase their industry commitments regarding Sustainable Development Goal 13: Climate Action in association with Grant Thornton and Irish Funds.
- Each team must submit a proposal outlining their solution at the end of the event.

Solutions could be corporate initiatives, new technologies, product innovations, new platforms for engagement, regulatory changes

Sustainathon 2022

The initiative is open to;

- individuals at any level from Irish Funds member firms
- college students from any discipline

Submissions will be scored based on pre-defined criteria;

1. ease of implementation
2. relevance to the industry
3. scalability
4. impact

Grant Thornton will support the winning initiative to assist in development and implementation. This could take the form of providing technical resources, the provision of workshops with Grant Thornton and the Green Team Network and/or helping to write a strategy document.

Registering

Register here by **30th September**: <https://www.grantthornton.ie/grant-thornton-irish-funds-sustainathon/>

- Once submitted, applications will be reviewed and shortlisted by a panel. Please note, there are a limited number of places available, we will not be able to offer all applicants a place at the event. Successful applicants will be contacted by email.
- Applicants will be put into multi-disciplined teams and each team will be assigned a facilitator.
- Shortlisted entries will be invited to take part in our two-day hackathon to work on their proposal and present this to the Judging Panel (in a Dragons' Den style), on 19th and 20th of October, where the winning entry will be chosen.
- The winning team will showcase their proposal at the Irish Funds Annual Global Funds Conference, in May 2023.

Timeline



Questions?

Or email us at GTSustainathon@ie.gt.com