



## PRESS RELEASE

# Innovative online platform for positive investment wins 'Sustainable Finance' Award

**London, 24 March 2015** – Ethex has been named as the winner of the Sustainable Finance category of the Sustainable City Awards 2014-15. Shared Interest Society and sriServices both received the 'highly commended' award. The winning entries were announced and celebrated at an awards ceremony held at Mansion House last night, 23 March 2015.

Ethex is the UK's first not-for-profit platform for positive investors. Ethex has created a marketplace in which anyone can browse, choose, compare and invest in a range of positive investments and build their own positive investment portfolio in social and environmental businesses and at the same time fully understand the risks they are taking. Since its launch in 2013, Ethex has enabled over £13.5m of investment in this way. Please visit [www.ethex.org.uk](http://www.ethex.org.uk) for more information.

Shared Interest Society is a unique fair trade lender, providing loans and credit services to businesses and communities in the developing world. To date almost 9,000 people in the UK have become members and invested share capital of over £31 million. Please visit [www.shared-interest.com](http://www.shared-interest.com) for more information.

sriServices works to advance sustainable and responsible investment in retail financial services. Its goal is to improve individual investor access to investments that can help drive the transition towards more sustainable lifestyles. sriServices focuses on the mainstream financial advisory community. Please visit [www.sriServices.co.uk](http://www.sriServices.co.uk) for more information.

Allia and Social Enterprise Assist, a joint venture led by the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) and Legal & General were the runners-up, having been shortlisted as innovative contributions for the Sustainable Finance Category.

An expert judging panel tasked with collectively deciding on the winner and highly commended entry for this year's 'Sustainable Finance' award featured Rishi Madlani, Director of Sustainable Energy at RBS, Rodney Schwartz, CEO of ClearlySo, and Lindsay Smart, Head of UK and US Markets at Vigeo, together with the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee of the City of London Mark Boleat who chaired the panel.

UKSIF has worked in partnership with the City of London to deliver the 'Sustainable Finance' category of the Sustainable City Awards since 2007. The 'Sustainable Finance' category focuses on innovation in the sustainable investment and finance industry, advancing sustainability through financial services with demonstrated positive impact.

**Lisa Stonestreet, Programme Director at UKSIF said:**

"UKSIF is proud of our long-standing partnership with the Sustainable City Awards. UKSIF members and others continue to do outstanding work in the field of sustainable finance, ensuring that the UK remains a world leader in this area. It is a pleasure to acknowledge and reward those who have had a particular impact over the past year. Congratulations to Ethex, Shared Interest Society, sriServices and the other organisations shortlisted."

-ENDS-

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**Notes to Editor**

**About the UK Sustainable Investment and Finance Association (UKSIF)**

The UK Sustainable Investment and Finance Association (UKSIF) supports the UK finance sector as a global leader in advancing sustainable development through financial services. We promote and support responsible investment and other forms of finance that advance sustainable economic development, enhance quality of life and safeguard the environment. Founded in 1991, UKSIF has approximately 240 members and affiliates including pension funds, asset managers, research providers, financial advisers, banks and non-governmental organisations. For more information, please visit [www.uksif.org](http://www.uksif.org).

**About The Sustainable City Awards**

The City of London first launched the Awards in 2001 and they have grown to become the UK's foremost sustainability awards scheme. The Awards recognise and reward outstanding achievement in sustainable development by businesses, public sector and voluntary organisations which span twelve categories – from Sustainable Food, to Building Sustainable Communities. Winners and highly commended entries from the categories are also in the running to win the Sir Peter Parker Award for the business which best demonstrates leadership in sustainability and the Sustainable City Awards Overall Winner.

Further information on the Sustainable City Awards, can be found at: [www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/sca](http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/sca).