



The Ecolint Endowment Fund: Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Ecolint Endowment Fund?

Established during Ecolint's Centenary year, the Ecolint Endowment Fund exists to provide long-term financial support for the Foundation's mission – in perpetuity.

The Fund is designed to balance the needs of today's students with those of future generations, ensuring that Ecolint can continue to educate for peace for decades to come. Gifts to the Endowment are invested to create a lasting source of income that supports the school year after year.

In a world shaped by economic uncertainty and global change, the Endowment Fund helps safeguard Ecolint's future. It strengthens the Foundation's ability to invest in its students, teachers, programmes and campuses – both now and for generations ahead.

What does the Ecolint Endowment Fund support?

All donations to the Endowment Fund are used exclusively to support Ecolint.

Donors may contribute to one of the Foundation's existing sub-funds, or establish a named fund dedicated to an area of the school's work that is especially meaningful to them.

General Fund (Unrestricted)

The General Fund provides flexible support where it is needed most, helping Ecolint respond to emerging priorities, navigate unforeseen challenges and seize new opportunities.

Scholarship Fund

The Scholarship Fund expands access to an Ecolint education for young people with exceptional potential. Scholarships create life-changing opportunities for students who might otherwise be unable to attend the school.

Campus Innovation and Investment Fund

This fund supports the continued development of Ecolint's campuses and learning environments, helping ensure that they remain vibrant centres of innovation, learning and community for future generations.

Who manages the Ecolint Endowment Fund?

The Fund is held independently from Ecolint by the Swiss Philanthropy Foundation, a Swiss registered tax-exempt foundation based in Geneva.

Oversight is provided by the Endowment Steering Committee, which includes:

- two representatives from Ecolint's Board or operational leadership,
- three independent members,
- and one representative from the Swiss Philanthropy Foundation.

The Committee is responsible for the strategic direction and governance of the Fund, and operates according to a prudent long-term investment policy. External advisors may also be consulted when additional expertise is required.

How are donor-named funds established?

Named funds – either restricted or unrestricted – may be established with a minimum contribution of CHF 100,000.

These funds may support a purpose agreed jointly between the donor and Ecolint, creating a lasting legacy in an area of particular importance to the donor or their family. Pledges may be fulfilled over a period of up to five years.

Named funds may:

- honour an individual or family,
- commemorate a loved one,
- or recognise a collective contribution, such as a graduating class.

For collective gifts, the full CHF 100,000 contribution must be received before the named fund is established. Named funds are subject to the guidelines in Ecolint's naming policy.

Who decides how unrestricted funds are used?

Once annual distributions from unrestricted funds exceed CHF 100,000, the Endowment Steering Committee will review proposals submitted by Ecolint.

Proposals may originate from:

- Ecolint's Board,
- the Development Office,
- or the Staff Association.

The Committee may also seek non-binding guidance from the Ecolint Advisory Body,

composed of senior representatives from the Foundation and Staff Association. Final decisions regarding distributions remain the responsibility of the Endowment Steering Committee.

How are the funds invested?

The Endowment Steering Committee establishes the overall investment framework in alignment with Ecolint's values.

The Swiss Philanthropy Foundation is responsible for managing and investing the assets, under the supervision of its Finance Committee. Investment performance is reviewed quarterly by the Endowment Steering Committee.

The Fund is currently invested by Pictet Asset Management.

Are the funds invested in perpetuity?

Yes. The Endowment Fund is intended to exist permanently.

Contributions are invested so that the principal value of the Fund may grow over time. Each year, a portion of the investment return may be distributed to support the Fund's purpose, while remaining earnings are reinvested to preserve and strengthen the Fund's long-term value.

In certain circumstances, donors may instead establish an expendable endowment fund with a minimum duration of 20 years, allowing both investment income and capital to be used over time.

How does the Endowment Fund differ from cash reserves?

The Endowment Fund is designed to protect Ecolint's long-term future through permanently invested capital.

Unlike operational cash reserves, which may be used for immediate needs, the Endowment aims to preserve and grow its capital over time while generating annual support for programmes, operations and strategic priorities.

Who decides the annual distribution level?

The Endowment Steering Committee determines the annual distribution rate, taking into account:

- investment performance,
- inflation,
- and the long-term preservation of the Fund's value.

Is there a minimum amount?

There is no minimum contribution to the Ecolint Endowment Fund.

However:

- gifts under CHF 500 must be made through Ecolint,
- while gifts of CHF 500 or more may be made directly to the Swiss Philanthropy Foundation.

All gifts below CHF 100,000 are directed either to the General Fund or to an existing sub-fund selected by the donor. If no designation is made, gifts are allocated to the General Fund.

Contributions of CHF 100,000 or more may establish a donor-named fund.

Are gifts tax deductible?

The Swiss Philanthropy Foundation is a Swiss tax-exempt organisation, and donations from Swiss residents may qualify for tax deductions.

Additional giving options include:

- the [Ecolint American Foundation](#) for US based donors,
- the [Giving Europe](#) network for donors across Europe.

For more information, contact development@ecolint.ch.

How will donors receive updates?

Each year, donors to the Endowment Fund receive an annual impact report outlining:

- the Fund's performance,
- distributions and uses,
- and the impact of donor support across Ecolint.

How will my donation be publicly recognised?

At a minimum, we will be delighted to acknowledge all gifts to the Endowment Fund in Ecolint's Annual Donor Impact Report, although donors may choose to remain anonymous.

In what currency can I make a donation?

The Ecolint Endowment Fund can accept donations in any currency.

How do I make a donation to the Ecolint Endowment Fund?

To find out more, or to discuss a gift to the Endowment Fund, please contact:

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