



## The Ecolint Endowment Fund: Frequently Asked Questions

### What is the Ecolint Endowment Fund?

Launched in Ecolint's Centenary year, the purpose of the Ecolint Endowment Fund is to provide maximum sustainable financial support to Ecolint in order to serve its mission in perpetuity. Core to the endowment's purpose is to balance the interests of current and future generations of Ecolint students. Gifts to the Endowment Fund will provide vital resources for Ecolint that can be counted on year after year.

In a world of economic uncertainties and global challenges, the Endowment Fund serves as a guardian, ensuring that Ecolint remains steadfast in its mission to educate for peace. Gifts to the Endowment Fund will directly impact our students, teachers and staff, both today and for generations to come.

### What does the Ecolint Endowment Fund support?

Donations to the fund can be used solely to support Ecolint. Donors may give to an established sub-fund, or they may establish a named fund within the Endowment to support a particular area of the school's work, to ensure in perpetuity a programme for which they have a particular affinity.

The established sub-funds to date are as follows:

#### **General Fund (Unrestricted)**

Through supporting the General Fund, donors help ensure that Ecolint can navigate unforeseen circumstances as well as seize opportunities as they arise.

#### **Scholarship Fund**

The Ecolint Scholarship Programme is a beacon of hope, creating pathways for young individuals to access a world-class education at the school. Scholarships enable young people with exceptional potential to benefit from a life-changing Ecolint education previously out of reach.

#### **Campus Innovation and Investment Fund**

Through supporting this fund, donors play a vital role in shaping the future of Ecolint, ensuring that our campuses remain a vibrant hub of learning, innovation, and community engagement for generations to come.



## Who manages the Ecolint Endowment Fund?

The Fund is hosted independently of Ecolint by Swiss Philanthropy Foundation (SPF), a Swiss-registered tax-exempt foundation based in Geneva.

The Fund is overseen by the Endowment Steering Committee, which includes a member of Ecolint's Board, a member of Ecolint's Development Office, an independent member, and a representative from Swiss Philanthropy Foundation. The Endowment Steering Committee provides oversight and strategic direction for the funds, adhering to a prudent investment policy.

Once the Fund capital reaches CHF 5 million, the Endowment Steering Committee will be strengthened with two additional independent members.

The Committee may call upon additional advisors on an *ad hoc* basis to provide additional expertise as necessary. Their advice is non-binding.

## How are donor-named funds established?

Restricted or unrestricted **named funds** may be established in perpetuity with a minimum gift of CHF100,000, to be used for a purpose to be mutually agreed between Ecolint and the donor. Pledges for a named fund may be fulfilled over a maximum term of five years.

You may give in your name, in a loved one's name, or in honour or memory of an individual, to support an area of Ecolint's work that is important to you and your family, subject to the guidelines in Ecolint's naming policy.

Should a group of individuals wish to come together to make a joint contribution of CHF100,000 (for example, the Class of 1963), it is possible to establish a named fund for that collective gift. In this case, however, the full CHF100,000 needs to be paid upfront in order to establish the named fund.

## Who decides on the use of income from unrestricted funds?

The Endowment Steering Committee will consider proposals from Ecolint once distributions from unrestricted funds reach a minimum of CHF 100,000 annually. Proposals may be put forward by Ecolint's Board, Development Office or Staff Association.

The Endowment Steering Committee may call on the services of the Ecolint Advisory Body to provide non-binding advice on these proposals. The Ecolint Advisory Body is composed of the Board Chair and Treasurer, Director-General and Director of Finance, and the President of the Staff Association (or his/her proxy). The ultimate decision on the use of unrestricted funds rests with the Endowment Steering Committee.

## How are the funds invested?

The Endowment Steering Committee defines the overall investment framework, in line with Ecolint's values. SPF is responsible for the management of the funds and the investment of these funds. SPF's Finance Committee has a supervisory role on all matters relating to investment policies, investment processes and asset allocation. SPF reports quarterly on the Fund performance to the Endowment Steering Committee.

### **Are the funds invested in perpetuity?**

A permanent endowment fund is an investment fund that is established to last forever. The gift is invested so the principal value may grow over time. Each year, a portion of the value of the fund is used to support the fund's purpose. Earnings in excess of this distribution are used to build the fund's market value. In this way, an endowment fund can grow and provide support for its designated purpose for generations to come.

In certain limited circumstances, however, it is possible for a donor to endow a gift over a shorter period of time (minimum 20 years) through an expendable endowment fund, in which case the School will have the right to draw down the capital as well as using annual income distributions.

### **How does the Endowment Fund differ from cash reserves?**

The Endowment Fund is designed to ensure the long-term interests of the school and its students, through investing capital in perpetuity. While the School's cash reserves may be drawn upon for immediate purposes, the goal of the Endowment is to preserve the capital, while the return on its investment helps to fund ongoing operations and major projects.

### **Who decides on the level of Endowment distribution each year?**

The Endowment Steering Committee decides on the level of distribution each year, taking into account the financial performance of the Fund and the obligation to maintain the long-term value of endowment assets after accounting for inflation.

### **Is there a minimum amount for a gift to the Endowment Fund?**

There is no minimum gift amount to the Ecolint Endowment Fund, though any gifts under CHF500 need to be made via Ecolint, as the minimum amount receivable directly by Swiss Philanthropy Foundation is CHF500. All funds given for the Ecolint Endowment Fund via Ecolint will be transferred to Swiss Philanthropy Foundation on a quarterly basis.

All gifts under CHF100,000 will either go into the General Fund (Unrestricted), or they can be allocated by the donor to another already established sub-fund (e.g. the Scholarship Fund). If no indication is given by the donor, the gift will be invested into the General Fund (Unrestricted).

Gifts of CHF100,000 can go either into an already established sub-fund, or into a separate, donor-named fund, the purpose of which will be agreed upon between the donor and Ecolint.

### **Are gifts to the Endowment Fund eligible for tax deductions?**

Swiss Philanthropy Foundation is a tax-exempt organisation so individual donations made by Swiss residents may qualify for tax deductions. Swiss Philanthropy Foundation will issue tax receipts for all donations made directly to the Ecolint Endowment Fund. For gifts less than CHF500, Ecolint will issue the tax receipt.

Donors based in the US can make a tax-deductible donation via [Myriad USA](#), and donors based in Europe can make a tax-deductible gift via the [Transnational Giving Europe](#) network. For more information on how to give via these platforms, contact [alix.demauny@ecolint.ch](mailto:alix.demauny@ecolint.ch).



## **How will I know how the Ecolint Endowment Fund has performed and the impact of my donation?**

Every year, donors to the Endowment Fund will receive an impact report, detailing the value and uses of the Fund.

## **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:

Ms. Alix de Mauny  
Director of Development and Alumni Relations  
[alix.demauny@ecolint.ch](mailto:alix.demauny@ecolint.ch)  
+41 (0)22 787 24 22

Ecole Internationale de Genève  
Development Office  
7, Rue Marie-Thérèse-Maurette  
CH-1208 Geneva  
Tel: +41 (0)22 787 24 00  
<https://supporting.ecolint.ch>

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