Cornerstone Capital Group was founded to serve investors who want to align their investments with the issues that matter to them most, while earning competitive financial returns. We work with individuals, families, foundations & endowments, and other advisors to craft highly customized investment portfolios tailored to clients’ specific impact priorities and financial goals. We base our recommendations on rigorous research processes that incorporate consideration of material environmental, social and governance issues alongside a detailed vetting of the investment strategy from a financial perspective.

At Cornerstone we believe socially conscious investing is a truth, not a trend. Our focus is on outcomes, not optics. We bring exceptional rigor and analysis to our investment strategy and provide a uniquely powerful, practical approach. We align your investments with the issues that matter to you most, without sacrificing anything — except indifference.

Cornerstone Capital Group
In 2015 the United Nations introduced its 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and, with it, 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs represent a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. They are a call to action for all stakeholders — governments, civil society, international organizations, the private sector and individuals — to align their activities to support the 2030 Agenda.

Each of the 17 SDGs is further refined by targets that can be more readily translated into actions. These targets highlight the interconnected nature of the goals; for example, strategies to achieve the goal of ending poverty are intertwined with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth, all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests.

Through an in-depth analysis of the underlying social, environmental and economic dynamics of the SDGs, Cornerstone identified an important common denominator: the concept of **access**. The Access Impact Framework connects the SDGs to investable themes by identifying the underlying social, environmental and economic access themes to which it aligns.

The concept of access provides a critical link between the Sustainable Development Goals, their investment, business activity and investment opportunity. The Framework maps each SDG to each access theme and weights that mapping by the strength of alignment between the two.

The final piece of Cornerstone’s Access Impact Framework incorporates company-level ESG metrics with proprietary industry and manager-level analysis to derive insight into the alignment of investment portfolios with our manager analyses, and thus in turn with the Sustainable Development Goals.
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Using Access to Telecommunication Systems as an example, owning a mobile phone or internet access theme to which it aligns:

To illustrate, below are the connections between SDG 5: Gender Equality and the key access themes to which it aligns:

**The Case for Aligning Portfolios with the Sustainable Development Goals**

The concept of access provides a critical link between the Sustainable Development Goals, business activity and investment opportunity. The Framework maps each SDG to each access theme and weights that mapping by the strength of alignment between the two.

**The Access Impact Framework:**

Connecting the SDGs to Investable Themes

Coronet’s Access Impact Framework incorporates company-level ESG metrics with proprietary industry and manager-level analysis to derive insight into the alignment of investment portfolios with our access themes, and thus in turn with the Sustainable Development Goals:

**Methodology Snapshot**

- **Companies:**
  - We identify SDGs to which a company’s operations & governance, products & services, and/or shareholder engagement activities
  - Using Coronet’s proprietary company-level ESG metrics

- **Industries:**
  - We assess the company-level impact of an industry on our access themes
  - We develop a scoring methodology for each access theme

- **Fund Manager/Strategy**
  - We analyze how their portfolios contribute to increased access in support of the achievement of the SDGs
  - Reports can be customized to highlight SDGs that clients have identified as their impact priorities.

**The final piece of Cornerstone’s Access Impact Framework incorporates the company, industry and manager analyses into a total portfolio report. This report shows clients how their portfolios contribute to increased access in support of the achievement of the SDGs.**

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The Case for Aligning Portfolios with the Sustainable Development Goals

Each of the 17 SDGs is further refined by targets that can be more readily translated into actions. These targets highlight the interconnected nature of the goals: for example, strategies to achieve the goal of ending poverty are intertwined with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth, all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests.

Through an in-depth analysis of the underlying social, environmental and economic dynamics of the SDGs, Cornerstone identified an important common denominator:

The need for increased access to key social, economic and environmental systems.

In 2015 the United Nations introduced its 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and, with it, 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs represent a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. They are a call to action for all stakeholders – governments, civil society, international organizations, the private sector and individuals – to align their activities to support the 2030 Agenda.

In this context, we define access as the ability of individuals and societies to:

- Access to health and education
- Access to financial services
- Access to clean water and sanitation
- Access to safe, sustainable, affordable, and modern energy
- Access to a safe and secure living environment
- Access to affordable and quality housing
- Access to information technology and communications systems
- Access to food security
- Access to affordable, quality essential healthcare services
- Access to clean, affordable and sustainable transportation
- Access to quality and affordable education for all
- Access to financial options suitable to their needs
- Access to universal health coverage
- Access to safe, secure, habitable and affordable housing
- Access to clean air
- Access to clean water and sanitation
- Access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy
- Access to affordable, secure, and habitable housing
- Access to information and communications technology
- Access to adequate housing and living conditions

The concept of access provides a critical link between the Sustainable Development Goals, a company’s activity and investment opportunity. The Framework maps each SDG to each access theme and weights that mapping by the strength of alignment between the two.

Each of the 17 SDGs and many of the 232 underlying targets and indicators specifically cited the need for increased access to key social, economic and environmental systems.

The Access Impact Framework: Connecting the SDGs to Investable Themes

The final piece of Cornerstone’s Access Impact Framework incorporates the company, industry and manager analysts into a total portfolio report. The report shows clients how their portfolios contribute to increased access in support of the achievement of the SDGs. Reports can be customized to highlight SDGs that clients have identified as their impact priorities.

The Access Impact Framework incorporates company-level ESG metrics with proprietary industry and manager-level analysis to derive insight into the alignment of investment portfolios with the access themes, and thus in turn with the Sustainable Development Goals:

**Methodology Snapshot**

**Companies**

We integrate ESG data on each company into the framework to derive insight into the alignment of investment portfolios with the access themes.

**Industries**

We compare the portfolio level thematic alignment to the industry thematic alignment.

**Fund Manager/Strategy**

We look at firm governance, shareholder engagement activities, and investment approach and access to several other social, environmental and economic systems that support progress toward the achievement of SDG 5.

**To illustrate, below are the connections between SDG 5: Gender Equality and the key access themes to which it aligns:**

**Gender Equality:**
- Access to financial services
- Access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy
- Access to a safe and secure living environment
- Access to affordable and quality housing
- Access to information technology and communications systems
- Access to health and education
- Access to financial options suitable to their needs
- Access to universal health coverage
- Access to safe, secure, habitable and affordable housing
- Access to clean air
- Access to clean water and sanitation
- Access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy
- Access to affordable, secure, and habitable housing
- Access to information and communications technology
- Access to adequate housing and living conditions

Using Access to Telecommunication Systems as an example, owning a mobile phone or having an internet connection provides women with access to online financial services tools, educational resources, healthcare services, and career opportunities. Access to telecommunication systems increases access to several other social, environmental and economic systems that support progress toward the achievement of SDG 5.
Cornerstone’s Access Impact Framework offers a proprietary methodology for investing in alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. It bridges the gap between the SDGs and granular metrics on specific environmental, social and governance issues. We use the Access Impact Framework to illustrate for our clients the ways in which their investment portfolio supports the continued viability of our planet, and the health and well-being of our society.

Sustainable Development Goals: The Global Imperative
The SDGs are a call to action for all of society to work together for positive social, environmental and economic change. How can investments align to support the SDGs?

Access: A Common Denominator
Increasing access to social, environmental and economic systems is key to achieving the global goals.

Fair Treatment and Equal Opportunity
Healthcare Services
Financial Services
Telecommunication Systems
Education
Clean Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
Adequate Housing and Living Conditions

Companies
We integrate ESG data on operations & governance, and apply a proprietary scoring by relevance to the access themes.

Access Impact Report
Access Theme Mapping: We identified 11 access themes to which the SDGs are mapped.

Alignment Heat Map
Clients can see how effectively their portfolios enhance access to the themes that matter most to them—highlighting their individual contribution toward advancing the SDGs.

CONTACT US
To learn more, speak with a representative of Cornerstone Capital Group. We would be happy to discuss your goals and interests.

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Sustainable Development Goals: The Global Imperative

The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a call to action for all of society to work together for positive social, environmental and economic change. How can investments align with these global goals? We base our recommendations on rigorous research that incorporates consideration of material environmental, social and governance issues alongside a detailed vetting of the investment strategy from a financial perspective.

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