Socially Responsible Investing (SRI) describes investment strategies that consider not only financial returns, but also the social good of any investment. This is a quickly growing field, with current estimates indicating there is over $6.5 trillion worth of investments in socially-screened portfolios in the United States alone. As a result, socially responsible investing has become greatly influential when it comes to global investment and business decisions.

By accepting and following SRI principles, companies and institutional investors are increasingly being viewed as vectors for social change, not dissimilar to that of politicians and governments. SRI can be implemented in several ways, including:

- **Divestment** – Removing stocks on ethical, rather than financial, objections

- **Negative screening** – Excludes the purchase of stocks or other investment based on pre-determined ethical criteria

- **Shareholder activism** – In which shareholders of companies communicate their concerns with corporate management through the submission of resolutions and voting proxies

- **Positive investment** – The making of investments in companies believed to have a positive social impact

While the principles of SRI were developed by the Quakers in the 1700s, SRI has since been adopted by a range of companies and
institutions, including state pension funds, corporate mutual and exchange-traded funds, and university endowments. Faith-based organizations have continued to be on the forefront of socially responsible investing; for example, the Episcopal Church, which has assets of over $10 billion, has a “no-buy list” that includes military contractors and for-profit prisons. While several different denominations of Christianity, as well as countless social justice organizations, are heavily involved in the realm of socially-responsible investing, the organized Jewish community has yet to leverage its assets and voice in this area.

The Jewish Council for Public Affairs believes that:

- Socially responsible investing provides an investment practice that considers both the rate of return as well as the positive societal impact.

- Religiously-affiliated organizations, organized as they are around values, are bound to seek correspondence between the values they profess and their investment policies and practices.

It is a duty of the JCPA to apply the principles of tikkun olam in all aspects of its work. Therefore, the JCPA commits to making socially responsible investment policies and practices an organic expression of our core beliefs to: (1) develop investment policies that insures Jewish values and social responsibility “are reflected” in their decision-making processes and (2) urges its affiliated Jewish Community Relation Councils to take steps to ensure that Jewish values and our commitment to social responsibility, as well as the rate of return, are reflected in investment policies

The community relations field should:
• engage and must be committed to responsible investment principles for the long-term.

• Participate in associations, conferences, shareholder meetings, etc., and provide education for pro-Israel, pro-Jewish advocates to engage in this space, and develop long-term relationships with corporate SRI leaders.