

## Responsible Investment Factsheet

31.12.2025

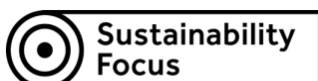
This is a marketing communication. Please refer to the prospectus and KID/KIID for the Fund, which contain detailed information on the Fund's characteristics and objectives, before making any final investment decisions. All data as at above date, unless otherwise stated. Past performance does not predict future returns.

### Fund ESG Ratings

MSCI ESG Rating™:



Produced by MSCI ESG Research as of 31.12.25.



The Sustainability Focus label indicates that a fund invests mainly in assets that focus on sustainability for people and/or the planet. March 25

### Fund Profile

#### Benchmark

MSCI World

#### Investment Objective

An equity fund which invests in companies in the solar, wind, hydro, geothermal, biofuels, biomass and energy efficiency sectors.

The Fund is actively managed and uses the MSCI World Index as a comparator benchmark only.

#### Investment Case

The Fund invests at least 80% in companies involved in sustainable energy or energy technology sectors. We believe that over the next twenty years the sustainable energy sector will benefit from the combined effects of strong demand growth and improving economics of renewable energy supply. The sector is likely to benefit from both public and private support for low carbon technologies.

#### Domicile

United Kingdom

### Risk

WS Guinness Sustainable Energy Fund is an equity fund. Investors should be willing and able to assume the risks of equity investing. The Fund invests at least 80% in companies involved in sustainable energy or energy technology sectors; it is therefore susceptible to the performance of those sectors, and can be volatile. The value of an investment and the income from it can fall as well as rise as a result of market and currency movement, you may not get back the amount originally invested. Details on the risk factors are included in the Fund's documentation, available on the website [www.waystone.com](http://www.waystone.com). If you are in any doubt about the suitability of investing in this Fund, please consult your investment or other professional adviser.

### Fund Approach to Responsible Investment

ESG Integration	✓
Exclusions <sup>1</sup>	✓
Controversial weapons <sup>2</sup>	✓
Thermal coal <sup>3</sup>	✓
Fossil fuel extraction <sup>4</sup>	✓
EU Paris-Aligned Benchmark	✓
Voting	✓
Engagement	✓

<sup>1</sup>Further details can be found in the fund's [Exclusion Policy](#), available on our website.

<sup>2</sup>Cluster munitions, landmines, and biological and chemical weapons.

<sup>3</sup>Companies that generate more than 30% of revenues via thermal coal extraction or thermal coal power generation.

<sup>4</sup>The Fund excludes companies with over 5% revenue exposure to the exploration and production of oil or gas.

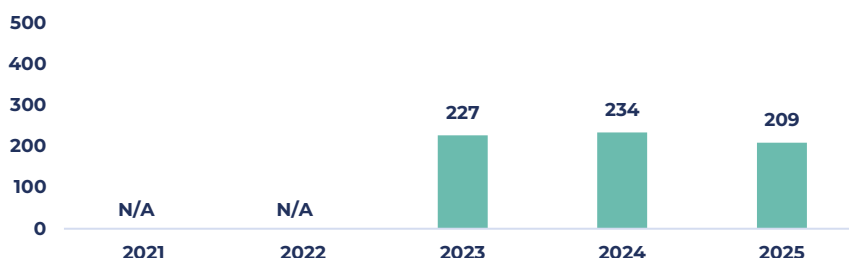
### ESG Integration Summary

Company ESG analysis is carried out to monitor how the fund's constituents contribute to its sustainable investment objective. Reviews also consist of a good governance assessment and confirm that an investment does not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective. Analysis considers what the company itself, the SASB materiality framework, and MSCI deem material, along with in-house knowledge of the company.

The investment team think of ESG factors through both 'top-down' and 'bottom-up' analysis. 'Top-down' ESG can be described as the various short and long-term trends associated with the global energy transition, and include issues such as government incentives and subsidies, urban pollution, energy security, and carbon taxation. 'Bottom-up' analysis is performed through qualitative reviews of material ESG risk factors, which use public sources of information and insights from ongoing company discussions. Further information is available in the fund's Approach to Responsible Investment and ESG paper, available [here](#).

### Fund Weighted Average Carbon Intensity (WACI)\* in tCO<sub>2</sub>e/\$M revenue

The Fund's carbon intensity is measured and reported from 2023 onwards.



Source: Guinness Global Investors, CDP; Coverage: 100% (2023, 2024, 2025).

\*The Weighted Average Carbon Intensity (WACI) metric is calculated by multiplying the carbon intensity (emissions relative to revenue in millions USD) of each fund holding by its portfolio weight (the value of the holding relative to the total value of the portfolio, excluding cash). Carbon intensity is based on Scope 1 and 2 emissions. Scope 1 emissions are direct greenhouse gas emissions from sources that are owned or controlled by the company. Scope 2 emissions are indirect greenhouse gas emissions from the generation of energy purchased by the company (Reference: GHG Protocol). Coverage refers to the percentage of the carbon intensity data available at the date of publication for underlying fund holdings (as a percentage of total assets excluding cash).

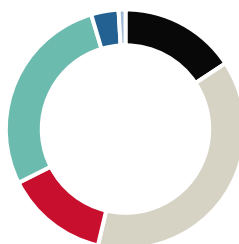
### Stewardship

Stewardship activities form part of the investment process applied by the team. We believe that resourcing our stewardship activities within the investment team itself, with dedicated assistance as required, is the best way to ensure effective stewardship. The investment team's ESG incorporation approach often informs their proxy voting and engagement activity. In a spirit of transparency, we disclose fund-level voting and engagement statistics and case studies for calendar year 2025 below.

### Voting

The investment team make their own voting decisions based on their own research, supported by proxy voting research from Glass Lewis. All voting is undertaken by the investment team, with oversight provided by our Responsible Investment Committee. In order to vote, some markets require shares to be temporarily immobilised from trading until after the shareholder meeting has taken place (referred to as 'share blocking'). Some other markets require a local representative to be hired, under a Power-of-Attorney (POA), to attend the meeting and vote on our behalf. In such instances, it may sometimes be in clients' best interests to refrain from voting. But in all other circumstances we endeavour to exercise our voting responsibilities on clients' behalf. For more information, please see our Voting Policy, available on our website.

Voting Overview - UK*	
Number of companies available to vote	31
Number of available proposals	494
% voted	100%
% did not vote**	0%
% votes in line with management	78%
% votes against management	22%



Votes against management by topic (%)\*\*

Audit/Financials	16%
Board Related	38%
Capital allocation	14%
Compensation	28%
Shareholder proposals	1%
Other	4%

\*\*\*May not sum to 100% due to rounding.

\*1st January 2025 to 31st December 2025

Source: Glass Lewis; Guinness Global Investors 31.12.25

\*\*This includes where we do not vote in jurisdictions where share blocking is in effect or power of attorney requirements apply.

### Voting Case Studies



**Eaton** is a global power management company. At the 2025 AGM, we voted against the re-election of CEO and Chair, Mr. Craig Arnold. Our rationale for this vote was primarily driven by concerns over the tenure of Lead Independent Director (LID) Gregory Page, who has been on the board for 22 years. We believe that long tenures of directors can undermine the independence and objectivity of the board, as they may develop close relationships with management and other directors. We also advocate for the separation of the Chair and CEO roles to reinforce checks and balances and avoid the concentration of decision-making power.



**Installed Building Products (IBP)** is a building products installation company. In 2025, we did not support the election of independent director and Chair of the Audit Committee, Mr Lawrence A. Hilsheimer, alongside 24% of other shareholders.

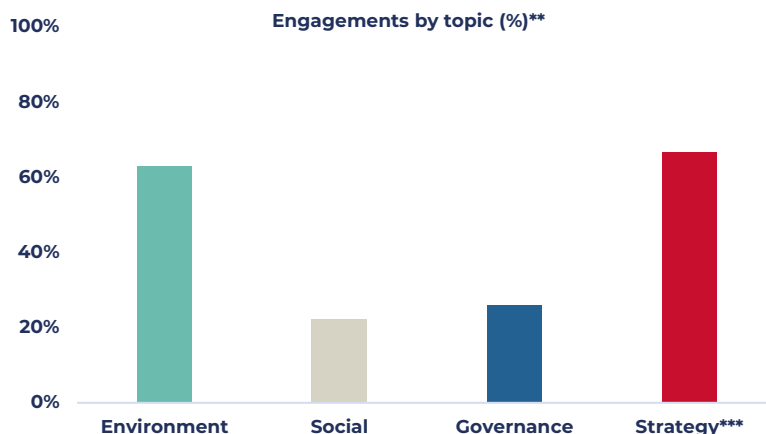
Our decision reflected concerns that Mr Hilsheimer may be overboarded given his other board and executive commitments. These include serving as Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Greif, a publicly traded industrial packaging company, since 2014, in addition to his roles at Root Insurance and its publicly traded parent, Root, Inc., where he serves as Lead Independent Director and Chair of the Audit Committee.

We believe that excessive external commitments can adversely affect a director's ability to effectively discharge their responsibilities, and we will continue to monitor board capacity and director commitments as part of our ongoing governance oversight.

### Engagement

The investment team focus their engagement efforts on seeking to ensure that the strategies of portfolio companies are aligned with delivering the low-carbon transition. Desired engagement outcomes including growing our companies' positive impacts, reducing their negative impacts, and shrinking their operational emissions. For more information, please see the team's latest Impact Report.

Engagement Overview*	
Number of company interactions	62
Number of engagements	27
Engagements by topic	
Environment	63%
Social	22%
Governance	26%
Strategy***	67%



\*1st January 2025 to 31st December 2025  
Source: Glass Lewis; Guinness Global Investors (31.12.25)

\*\*In some cases, multiple topics are covered in a single meeting and the totals do not add up to 100%.  
\*\*\*Strategy includes disclosures, opportunities in sustainable products, positive impact, and regulation.

### Engagement Case Studies



**Infineon** is a global leader in automotive power semiconductors. Since 2021, we have engaged with the company regarding its remuneration structure, raising concerns about the heavy reliance on relative Total Shareholder Return (TSR) within the long-term incentive plan, which we view as an ineffective incentive metric.

Following ongoing written engagement and meetings with management between 2022 and 2024, we encouraged a greater emphasis on returns-based and ESG metrics and signalled potential vote escalation. Ahead of the 2025 AGM, Infineon confirmed changes to its remuneration framework, reducing TSR weighting to 40% and increasing the focus on operational and ESG metrics, broadly aligning with our recommendations. We therefore supported the Remuneration Policy at the 2025 AGM.



**Xinyi Solar** is the world's largest manufacturer of solar glass, a highly energy-intensive product, resulting in elevated scope 1 and 2 emissions. Despite this, we view the company as a key contributor to climate change mitigation given the critical role of solar glass in renewable energy, with a short carbon payback period.

We have engaged with Xinyi on emissions disclosure and target-setting since 2019, encouraging longer-term and science-based commitments, including scope 3 disclosure. In January 2025, the company confirmed it would include initial scope 3 emissions disclosures in its 2024 Sustainability Report. While formal science-based targets are still in development, we welcome this progress and will continue to support the company's transition towards SBTi-aligned targets.

### Collaborative engagement



We are a member of **CDP**, which allows us access to environmental data for all companies that report to CDP. Through our membership, we participate in collaborative engagements, such as the **CDP Non-Disclosure Campaign (NDC)**. The NDC aims to drive further corporate transparency around climate change, deforestation and water security, by encouraging companies to respond to CDP's disclosure requests.

## Initiatives

We participate in relevant industry initiatives to promote the proper functioning of markets, responsible investing, and the management of market-wide and systemic risk. Where appropriate, members of the investment team will use initiatives to engage collaboratively with portfolio companies.

### External company ratings

Signatory of:



We became signatories to the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment (UN PRI) in 2019, which provides external assurance on our stewardship approach broken down by activity.

In our latest Assessment Report, published in 2024, we received the following scores:



**Policy Governance and Strategy**



**Direct – Listed Equity – Active Fundamental**



**Confidence Building Measures**

## Industry Initiatives



**CFA UK's** mission is to build a better investment profession by serving the public interest by educating investment professionals, by promoting and enforcing ethical and professional standards and by explaining what is happening in the profession to regulators, policymakers, and the media. A member of the investment team at Guinness is part of the Sustainability Community Champions group.



As the trade body for the UK investment management industry, the **Investment Association (IA)** seeks to represent the industry interests, improve the investment landscape through thematic initiatives, which highlight topics such as diversity and inclusion, and by improving standards and best practice.



The **Independent Investment Management Initiative (IIMI)** aims to contribute effective financial regulation and promote client-centred models of investment management. Our CEO, Edward Guinness sits on the board of IIMI.



The **UK Stewardship Code 2020** sets high stewardship standards for those investing money on behalf of UK savers and pensioners. It comprises a set of 12 'apply and explain' Principles for asset managers and asset owners to demonstrate their stewardship role and performance.



The **UK Sustainable Investment and Finance Association (UKSIF)** aims to support its members to grow sustainable and responsible finance in the UK. It also seeks to influence policymaking that promotes the growth of sustainable finance. Our Responsible Investment Lead is Chair of the Industry Development Committee, and another member of investment team serves on the Board of Directors and the Membership Committee.



The **FAIRR Initiative (FAIRR)** is a collaborative investor network that raises awareness of the material risks and opportunities in the global food sector. By providing research and coordinating engagement, it helps investors drive more sustainable practices in the agriculture and protein sectors.

## Other Documents

### Corporate Documents

- Responsible Investment Policy
- Stewardship Code Report
- Good Governance Policy
- [Responsible Investment Glossary](#)

### Strategy Documents

- Approach to Responsible Investment and ESG
- 2025 Impact Report

# Guinness Global Equity Income

MSCI ESG Research LLC's ("MSCI ESG") Fund Metrics and Ratings (the "Information") provide environmental, social and governance data with respect to underlying securities within more than 31,000 multi-asset class Mutual Funds and ETFs globally. MSCI ESG is a Registered Investment Adviser under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940. MSCI ESG materials have not been submitted nor received approval from, the US SEC or any other regulatory body. None of the Information constitutes an offer to buy or sell, or a promotion or recommendation of, any security, financial instrument or product or trading strategy, nor should it taken as an indication or guarantee of any future performance, analysis, forecast or prediction. None of the Information can be used to determine which securities to buy or sell or when buy or sell them. The Information is provided 'as is' and the user of the Information assumes the entire risk of any use it may make or permit to be made of the Information. The information contained herein: (1) is proprietary to MSCI ESG and/or its content providers; (2) may not be copied or distributed; and (3) is not warranted to be accurate, complete, or timely. Neither MSCI ESG nor its content providers are responsible for any damages or losses arising from any use of this information. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

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If you decide to invest, you will be buying shares in the Fund and will not be investing directly in the underlying assets of the Fund.

**Documentation:** The documentation needed to make an investment, including the Prospectus, the Key Investor Information Document (KIID), and the Application Form, is available in English from the website [www.fundsolutions.net/uk/guinness-global-investors/](http://www.fundsolutions.net/uk/guinness-global-investors/) or from:-

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Waystone Management (UK) Limited is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

**Residency:** In countries where the Fund is not registered for sale or in any other circumstances where its distribution is not authorised or is unlawful, the Fund should not be distributed to resident Retail Clients.

**NOTE: THIS INVESTMENT IS NOT FOR SALE TO U.S. PERSONS.**

**Structure & regulation** The Fund is a sub-fund of WS Guinness Investment Funds, an investment company with variable capital incorporated with limited liability and registered by the Financial Conduct Authority.