

For professional clients only, not suitable for retail clients.



# Royal London Sustainable Growth Fund

Quarterly Investment Report

31 December 2024

# Quarterly Report

## The fund as at 31 December 2024

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the Royal London Sustainable Growth Fund. The report has been produced by Royal London Asset Management. The report starts with a summary dashboard showing key information about the fund. A glossary is located at the end of the report covering the description of some of the more technical terms used within the report. All data is as at the report date unless otherwise stated.

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# The fund

## Fund performance objective and benchmark

The Fund's investment objective is to achieve capital growth over the medium term, which should be considered as a period of 3-5 years, by investing in a diverse range of equity and fixed income assets. Investments in the Fund will adhere to the Investment Manager's ethical and sustainable investment policy.

The Fund is actively managed, meaning that the Investment Manager will use their expertise to select investments to meet the objective. The IA Mixed Investments 40-85% Shares sector is considered an appropriate benchmark for performance comparison.

## Fund value

|                  | Total £m |
|------------------|----------|
| 31 December 2024 | 149.78   |

## Asset Mix

|              | Holdings | Weight |
|--------------|----------|--------|
| Equity       | 47       | 74.06% |
| Fixed Income | 193      | 23.93% |
| Cash         | 31       | 2.01%  |

## Fund analytics

|                  | Fund        |
|------------------|-------------|
| Fund launch date | 24 May 2022 |
| Base currency    | GBP         |

# Performance and activity

## Performance

|                        | Fund (%) |
|------------------------|----------|
| Quarter                | 2.96     |
| 1 Year                 | 11.04    |
| Since inception (p.a.) | 10.28    |

Past performance is not a guide to future performance. Please refer to the Glossary for the basis of calculation and impact of fees. Performance and since inception date based on M Acc GBP. Source: Royal London Asset Management; Gross performance; Since inception date of the share class is 24 May 2022.

## Performance commentary

The fund produced a positive return over the quarter, with a positive return within our equity exposure and a flat return from the allocation to sterling corporate bonds.

We continue to apply our tried and tested investment process focusing on finding the most attractive companies from a sustainability and financial standpoint as we believe these companies can offer high and more durable long-term growth as well as being more resilient.

The fund's equity performance lagged broad global markets, with a negative impact from its underweight position in the US market, especially among the largest companies which were the main drivers of market in the fourth quarter. Japanese bike component manufacturer Shimano was a negative contributor to performance as it continues to be negatively impacted by destocking post a boom in bike sales during the pandemic. Precision dispensing system manufacturer Nordson also detracted from performance after reporting results below expectations due to cyclical weakness.

US distributor of water products Core & Main was a positive contributor. The company is well positioned to support investments into the ageing water infrastructure in the US. Another positive contributor included Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing – the leading foundry supporting the manufacturing of most advanced semiconductors.

We have a portfolio exposed to some exciting and powerful multi-year structural growth themes – the key ones being the ongoing digitalisation of society through things such as cloud computing and Artificial Intelligence (AI), which we think we're incredibly early in. We also have exposure to companies enabling the development of a more sustainable and resilient physical world. These include areas such as HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning), building electrification and more sustainable transport such as rail. We also continue to be excited by the opportunities in the healthcare sector where we observe advancements in computing are accelerating new drug discovery combined with large disease categories such as obesity emerging.

The final quarter of 2024 was turbulent for fixed income investors amid a series of headwinds coming from rising government bond yields, ongoing political volatility – domestic and abroad – and differences in central bank policies. Credit spreads are at all-time tight levels, across markets, and gilt yields are at multi-decade highs. But we still believe all-in yield from credit is attractive and that the risk of downgrade or default is still well compensated at current spread levels. Our credit exposure performed well in the quarter, driven by our overweight exposures to insurance and structured bonds, and underweight exposure to supranationals. Our exposure to subordinated bonds from Direct Line was also helpful, benefiting from a re-rating following the announcement of the takeover by Aviva.

# Performance and activity

## Top 10 holdings

|                                    | Weighting (%) |
|------------------------------------|---------------|
| BROADCOM INC                       | 2.94          |
| AMAZON COM INC                     | 2.93          |
| MICROSOFT CORP                     | 2.88          |
| ALPHABET INC CLASS A               | 2.79          |
| VISA INC CLASS A                   | 2.73          |
| STANDARD CHARTERED PLC             | 2.58          |
| ASML HOLDING NV                    | 2.53          |
| CORE & MAIN INC CLASS A            | 2.48          |
| LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE GROUP PLC    | 2.39          |
| TAIWAN SEMICONDUCTOR MANUFACTURING | 2.36          |
| <b>Total</b>                       | <b>26.60</b>  |

## Fund activity

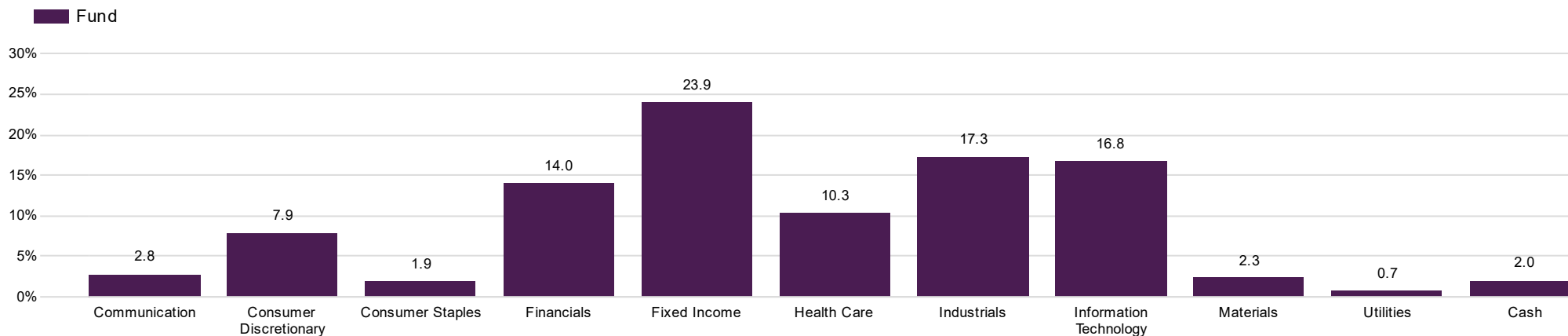
Our sustainable strategies are orientated to those companies that have a net benefit to society and create value for investors through their products and services and the way they manage environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues. Areas such as healthcare and technology remain at the core of the equity portfolios, complemented by engineering, utilities, selected financial services, and companies that lead their industries in ESG performance. This means that we do not invest in some sectors, such as oil & gas, extractive industries, or tobacco. We believe that the exposure to those sectors which offer a positive contribution to society is consistent with outperformance over the medium term.

In Q4, we started a new position in leading US hospital operator HCA, taking advantage of recent share price weakness. We also initiated a new position in British supermarket retailer Tesco, which demonstrated leading sustainability practices. These purchases were funded by exiting our positions in British consumer goods company Unilever, North American railroad operator Canadian National, and TE Connectivity, a provider of connectors to the automotive and industrial sectors.

Within our fixed income exposure, the new issue market was relatively subdued during the fourth quarter, and indeed for 2024 as a whole. However, we continued to find interesting opportunities in the secondary market, adding to preferred holdings such as Co-operative Bank and Danish renewable energy company Orsted.

# Fund breakdown

## Sector weights



# Characteristics and climate

## ESG characteristics rationale

The Fund focuses on the sustainability of the products and services of the companies it invests in, as well as their standards of environmental, social, governance ("ESG") management, alongside financial analysis. The investment approach is fundamentally based on positive screening; identifying companies that are making a positive contribution towards a cleaner, healthier, safer and more inclusive society, through assessing both what a company does and how it does it, and through active engagement to encourage continual improvement. The fund will not invest in companies that undertake business activities deemed to be detrimental to society and that breach our Do No Significant Harm principle. Further details of the Funds Sustainable Investment process can be found in the ethical and sustainable investment policy at [www.rlam.com/uk/individual-investors/policies-and-regulatory/](http://www.rlam.com/uk/individual-investors/policies-and-regulatory/)

## ESG characteristics

Royal London Asset Management has a controversial weapons exclusion across all investments. Our full policy can be found on our website:

[www.rlam.com/globalassets/media/literature/policies/controversial-weapons-policy.pdf](http://www.rlam.com/globalassets/media/literature/policies/controversial-weapons-policy.pdf)

|  | Yes | No |
|--|-----|----|
| ESG integration                                  | ✓   |    |
| Promotes environmental or social characteristics | ✓   |    |
| Sustainable fund objective                       | ✓   |    |
| Additional exclusions                            | ✓   |    |

## Additional exclusions

Exclusion criteria that make sure a fund does not invest into a specific service or product. Royal London Asset Management has a controversial weapons exclusion across all investments.

|                     |   |                           |   |
|---------------------|---|---------------------------|---|
| Adult entertainment | ✓ | High environmental impact | ✓ |
| Alcohol             | ✓ | Human rights issues       | ✓ |
| Animal welfare      | ✓ | Nuclear power             | ✓ |
| Armaments           | ✓ | Nuclear weapons           | ✓ |
| Fossil fuels        | ✓ | Tobacco                   | ✓ |
| Gambling            | ✓ |                           |   |

## Climate metrics

|   | Fund   | Benchmark | Difference (%) |
|---|--------|-----------|----------------|
| Financed emissions (tCO2e)                          | 1,463  | n/a       | n/a            |
| Financed emissions coverage                         | 84.31% | n/a       | n/a            |
| Carbon footprint (tCO2e/\$M invested)               | 7.98   | n/a       | n/a            |
| Carbon footprint coverage                           | 84.31% | n/a       | n/a            |
| Weighted average carbon intensity (tCO2e/\$M sales) | 34.57  | n/a       | n/a            |
| Weighted average carbon intensity coverage          | 93.86% | n/a       | n/a            |

All climate metrics presented above are for Scope 1-2 emissions. Unless specified in the objective, the data is for information only and should not be taken to mean they are being managed to/controlled.

## Implied temperature rise

|   | Fund (%) | Benchmark (%) | Difference (%) |
|---|----------|---------------|----------------|
| Implied temperature rise (ITR) coverage | 83.24    | n/a           | n/a            |
| % of portfolio below 2°C ITR            | 49.32    | n/a           | n/a            |
| % of portfolio below 1.5°C ITR          | 31.78    | n/a           | n/a            |

## SBTi net - zero

|                            | Fund (%) | Benchmark (%) | Difference (%) |
|----------------------------|----------|---------------|----------------|
| SBTi Net-Zero committed    | 25.26    | n/a           | n/a            |
| SBTi Near-Term committed   | 10.07    | n/a           | n/a            |
| SBTi Near-Term targets set | 38.27    | n/a           | n/a            |

# Fund Engagement

## Engagement definition

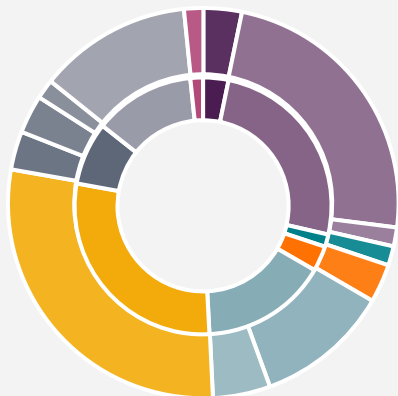
Engagement is active dialogue with investee companies (or other entities). There are two types: engagement for information, which is dialogue as part of investment research or ongoing monitoring, without specific objectives for change, and engagement for change, which is purposeful dialogue to influence positive change, with defined objectives and demonstrable outcomes.

## Engagements

| Engagement activity        | Fund 3 months | Fund 12 months |
|----------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Number of entities engaged | 40            | 65             |
| Number of engagements      | 55            | 148            |

This is an estimate. Some engagements at the issuer level may not have been attributed to the specific bond held in the fund, resulting in a lower number of engagement activities.

## Total engagements by theme and topic



|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| <b>Biodiversity</b>                         | <b>2</b>  |
| <b>Climate</b>                              | <b>16</b> |
| Climate - Transition Risk                   | 15        |
| Climate - Physical Risk                     | 1         |
| <b>Diversity</b>                            | <b>1</b>  |
| Gender Diversity                            | 1         |
| <b>Environment</b>                          | <b>2</b>  |
| <b>Governance</b>                           | <b>10</b> |
| Remuneration                                | 7         |
| Corporate Governance                        | 3         |
| <b>Health</b>                               | <b>18</b> |
| Mental Health                               | 18        |
| <b>Social &amp; Financial Inclusion</b>     | <b>5</b>  |
| Labour & Human Rights                       | 2         |
| Social & Financial inclusion                | 2         |
| Just transition                             | 1         |
| <b>Technology, Innovation &amp; Society</b> | <b>8</b>  |
| Technology & Society                        | 8         |
| <b>Other</b>                                | <b>1</b>  |

## Engagement focus

Firm-wide engagement activity is centred around six themes which we have identified in consultation with our clients. These are: climate change; nature and biodiversity; health; governance and corporate culture; social and financial inclusion; innovation, technology and society. Portfolio level engagements are not thematic and are focussed on issues specific to managing the portfolio and meeting the investment objective.

Engagement data represents all engagements undertaken at both firm and portfolio level across Royal London Asset Management, and may not be limited to those undertaken solely for the purpose of managing the fund.

The numbers of engagements and themes/topics discussed may differ where a single engagement covers multiple themes/topics.



# Fund Engagement

## Engagement outcomes

### Adobe Inc - Ethical AI

#### Purpose:

The meeting aimed to discuss ethical innovation at Adobe, a US computer software company, specifically focusing on governance and AI ethics as part of the World Benchmarking Alliance's (WBA) Ethical AI collaborative engagement programme.

#### Outcome:

The meeting highlighted Adobe's commitment to ethical AI practices, governance structures, and the importance of diverse perspectives and human rights in its AI initiatives. Adobe has established an AI Ethics Committee and Review Board and developed an AI ethics assessment tool to help teams evaluate ethical implications. In 2022, Adobe conducted a human rights impact assessment led by its ESG teams, considering harmful uses of AI. The company aligns its AI governance with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) AI Risk Management Framework and the AI US Safety Institute's standards. We will continue to engage with Adobe on AI model deployment and monitoring, and contribute to the WBA's collaborative engagement to establish best practices and provide feedback to Adobe on ethical AI.

### Lloyds Banking Group Plc - Just transition

#### Purpose:

We met with Lloyds Banking Group, UK-based financial services group, as part of our collaborative engagement with banks on just transition, aiming for the bank to integrate this issue throughout its climate transition plan and demonstrate implementation at product, sector, and regional levels.

#### Outcome:

Lloyds Banking Group continues to view just transition as integral to the company's purpose and growth strategy. The positive call highlighted several innovative projects, supporting its alignment with just transition principles. Lloyds found our investor expectations helpful but noted that a sector lens might miss interdependencies, advocating for a system-based approach instead. The company provided examples of just transition integration across various systems, such as sustainable farming, greening the built environment, low carbon transport, and energy transition.

Lloyds has launched several innovative products aligned with just transition, including a £500mn social housing retrofit product. Lloyds have developed a roadmap with the Green Finance Institute and NatWest for property-linked finance for retrofit projects. The bank's regional approach to lending addresses challenges in across the UK, with initiatives like working with local authorities to tackle local issues, expected to create jobs and reduce regional inequalities. Combined with balance sheet lending for regional projects, Lloyds' approach appears relatively advanced.

# Fund Engagement

## Engagement outcomes

### Rentokil Initial Plc - Mental health & climate

#### Purpose:

We met with Rentokil Initial, a UK business services group that provides pest control, hygiene, and facilities management services, to discuss its corporate mental health performance and various sustainability initiatives, aiming to understand its challenges and progress in these areas.

#### Outcome:

The discussion with Rentokil Initial was positive. The company is open to increasing disclosure on its mental health initiatives, highlighting the success of its resilience training in the UK and the 'RUOK' programme outside in the Asia Pacific region. Rentokil Initial publishes 'Speak up' scores and tracks complaints, and may explore further disclosure to better understand its workforce. The company is focused on improving reporting under the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD), concentrating on impactful areas while running business programmes, and enhancing customer and employee retention.

The company faces challenges with including Scope 3 emissions in its net zero targets, particularly due to travel by its global workforce. However, environmental efforts, such as adopting low emission vehicles, have been well received and positively impacted company culture. We will continue to monitor the company's disclosures and engagement on these topics, providing feedback and support as needed.

### Severn Trent Plc - Biodiversity & community health

#### Purpose:

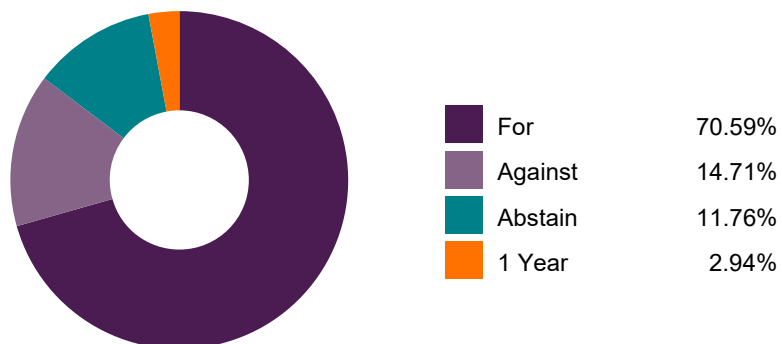
The meeting aimed to discuss Severn Trent's, a water company, performance based on its 2025-2030 business plans, focusing on areas needing improvement in its environmental and biodiversity strategy, including Sites of Scientific Interest (SSSIs), biodiversity management, and antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

#### Outcome:

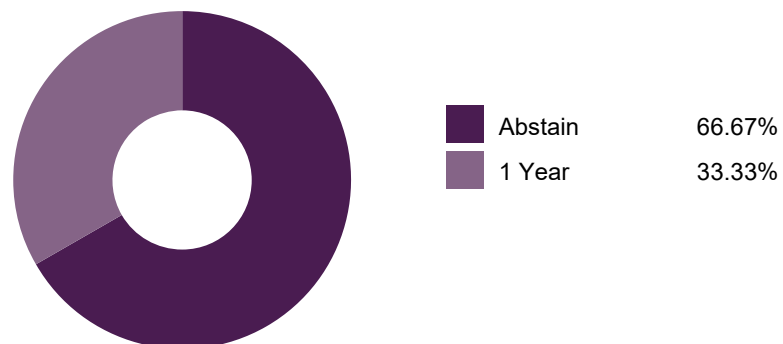
The meeting was productive, reassuring us about the company's management of SSSIs and biodiversity. Severn Trent launched its SSSI strategy in 2022, managing 500 hectares and overseeing 720 SSSIs, with a goal of 100% favourable condition by 2030. The company conducts annual assessments, reports to senior management, and has expanded its Biodiversity and Ecology team. The company has collaborated with over 60 organisations and is involved in AMR projects, exploring alternative treatments and working with academics.

# Fund Voting

## Total proxy voting activity



## Executive remuneration voting activity



## Notable votes

### Ferguson Enterprises Inc.

Advisory Vote on Executive Compensation - against: We have concerns with the material increase in long-term incentive opportunity for both the CEO and CFO, which takes the total variable incentive opportunity towards the top end of the immediate peer group, in conjunction with a reduction in the performance-based element, though we note in mitigation this remains higher than for most of those same peers. We would also prefer to see disclosure of LTIP targets and more quantitative disclosure for the ESG goals under the STIP.  
 Elect Alan J. Murray - abstain: The nominee is Chair of the Nomination Committee and we have concerns that a Senior Independent Director or equivalent has not been appointed.

### Microsoft Corporation

Advisory Vote on Executive Compensation - abstain: We retain some concerns with the short performance period of long-term incentive awards.  
 Shareholder Proposal Regarding Report on Siting in Countries of Significant Human Rights Concern - abstain: While we appreciate and back the aims of the proponent in this instance, we believe that the company already provides extensive disclosure and board level oversight of this issue, monitoring and engaging with the countries in which it operates and locates data centres.  
 Shareholder Proposal Regarding Report on Risks of AI Data Sourcing - for: Although we recognise the company's existing and planned disclosures, we believe that support for this proposal could be warranted as a means to encourage the company to ensure that its forthcoming disclosures are robust, and provide a solid context for shareholders to allow them to assess the potential risks to the company from its use of external data in the development of its AI technology.

# Market commentary

## Market overview

Markets were volatile during the fourth quarter (Q4) – with the US elections and the potential for central bank rate cuts the main causes of uncertainty. With the election of Donald Trump as US President, and the Republicans having a majority in both the Senate and House of Representatives, markets moved to price in potentially higher US deficits. Nevertheless, global equities posted gains in Q4, with the US region leading the gains.

Alongside political events, attention remained on the Federal Reserve, European Central Bank and Bank of England to see if expected rate cuts would materialise. However, with inflation remaining higher than central bankers would like, expectations for rate cuts in 2025 were revised down. This backdrop pushed government bond yields higher, leading to negative returns for most investment grade credit markets, while equities ended a strong 2024 with another positive quarter, with US stocks – notably the ‘magnificent seven’ – leading the way.

The fourth quarter was dominated by the outperformance of the US market following the election of Donald Trump on a platform of low taxes and de-regulation which are viewed as pro-business. In addition, Q3 corporate results highlighted weaknesses in manufacturing activities but continued strength in the technology and financial sector. Overall, the best performing sectors were consumer discretionary, technology and communication services all driven by the megacap stocks such as Tesla, Nvidia and Alphabet. On the opposite, healthcare and rate sensitive sectors such as utilities and real estate underperformed. Healthcare stocks underperformed due to concerns about political reforms under the new Trump administration.

Government bond yields rose over the quarter, as central banks continued to struggle to bring inflation back to target levels and amid ongoing political volatility with elections across Europe and the US. In the US, 10-year treasury yields rose to 4.57% from 3.78%, while German 10-year bunds similarly saw yields rise to 2.36% from 2.06%. Benchmark 10-year gilt yields increased to 4.57% from 4.01%.

The sterling investment grade credit market (iBoxx non-gilt index) returned -0.49% over the quarter, with the average sterling investment grade credit spread (the average extra yield available from non-gilt bonds compared with government debt of equal maturity) tightening over the period from 1.03% to 0.86% (iBoxx).

## Outlook

Markets have moved significantly over the last 12 months, pricing in peak interest rates, yet history has taught us the macroeconomic environment can change quickly. We are not macroeconomic forecasters and refrain from predicting the direction of interest rates or inflation, but evidence is accumulating that we might be at peak interest rates. However, the path to lower interest rates remains in flux.

Each year has its own story, and this one has been no different. 2021 was a year of ebullience; 2022 a year for surviving; 2023 a year of shaking off recession fears; and 2024 a year for AI. For investors each year is an opportunity to increase our skills through experience and knowledge building.

One reason for optimism in 2025 is the high level of innovation we are currently seeing in the global economy. This can be best summarised with the concept of atoms, bytes and genes. In theory everything in existence is one of these. Atoms represent the physical world, bytes the digital, and genes the natural world. In our opinion, if we can understand trends in these three areas, we should be able to understand everything.

The physical world is undergoing a once in a generation investment boom, led by reshoring (as overseas manufacturing is moved back home for geopolitical reasons), decarbonisation and the need to build out data centres to support the increased use of artificial intelligence. The digital world is also seeing an unusual level of growth as cloud computing combined with generative AI becomes more pervasive. Not to be left behind, in the natural world new treatments are being created for diseases such as Alzheimer’s and obesity. Any one of atoms, bytes and genes could be enough to drive economic growth but all three together are a powerful tailwind that could exist for many years to come. We think that sustainable investing is a great way to invest in all three of these areas. When we add base rate probabilities to a high level of innovation, we believe that the potential for 2025 to be another good year for equity investors is high.

UK investment grade markets mostly mitigated the negative impact of higher underlying yields with higher carry and tightening credit spreads. As this point, with these back towards pre-GFC levels, it is reasonable to ask whether spreads have moved too far. In our view, given current expectations for the global and UK economies, we continue to believe that current spread levels more than compensate investors for default risk as evidenced by historic default rates in investment grade markets. However, the compression seen in credit markets over the last two years has shifted the relative attraction of higher beta exposure compared to lower risk government related exposure. We are conscious of the significant nature of moves and continue to be mindful of this within our corporate bond selection.

## Further Information

Please click on the links below for further information:



### Find out more

In an uncertain geopolitical and economic environment, we recognise the importance of keeping our clients updated on our current investment thinking.

Articles, videos, podcasts and webinars giving the latest views of our investment experts can be found in the Our Views section of [www.rlam.com](http://www.rlam.com), including regular updates from our Fixed Income, Global Equity, Sustainable and Multi Asset teams.

# Disclaimers

## Important information

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Issued in January 2025 by Royal London Asset Management Limited, 80 Fenchurch Street, London EC3M 4BY. Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority, firm reference number 141665. A subsidiary of The Royal London Mutual Insurance Society Limited.

The Fund is a sub-fund of Royal London Equity Funds ICVC, an open-ended investment company with variable capital with segregated liability between sub-funds, incorporated in England and Wales under registered number IC000807.

The Authorised Corporate Director (ACD) is Royal London Unit Trust Managers Limited, authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority, with firm reference number 144037.

For more information on the fund or the risks of investing, please refer to the Prospectus or Key Investor Information Document (KIID), available via the relevant Fund Information page on [www.rlam.com](http://www.rlam.com).

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# Risks and Warnings

## Investment risk

The value of investments and any income from them may go down as well as up and is not guaranteed. Investors may not get back the amount invested.

## EPM techniques risk

The Fund may engage in EPM techniques including holdings of derivative instruments. Whilst intended to reduce risk, the use of these instruments may expose the Fund to increased price volatility.

## Exchange rate risk

Changes in currency exchange rates may affect the value of your investment.

## Liquidity risk

In difficult market conditions the value of certain fund investments may be difficult to value and harder to sell, or sell at a fair price, resulting in unpredictable falls in the value of your holding.

## Emerging markets risk

Investing in Emerging Markets may provide the potential for greater rewards but carries greater risk due to the possibility of high volatility, low liquidity, currency fluctuations, the adverse effect of social, political and economic instability, weak supervisory structures and accounting standards.

## Counterparty risk

The insolvency of any institutions providing services such as safekeeping of assets or acting as counterparty to derivatives or other instruments, may expose the Fund to financial loss.

## Responsible investment risk

The Fund can only invest in holdings that demonstrate compliance with certain sustainable indicators or ESG characteristics. This reduces the number securities in which the Fund can invest and there may as a result be occasions where it forgoes more strongly performing investment opportunities, potentially underperforming non-sustainable funds.

# Performance to 31 December 2024

## Cumulative (%)

## Annualised (%)

|                     | 3 Month | 6 Month | 1 Year | 3 Years | Since Inception | 3 Years (p.a.) | Since Inception (p.a.) |
|---------------------|---------|---------|--------|---------|-----------------|----------------|------------------------|
| <b>Fund (gross)</b> | 2.96    | 3.33    | 11.04  | -       | 29.06           | -              | 10.28                  |
| <b>Fund (net)</b>   | 2.76    | 2.93    | 10.19  | -       | 26.50           | -              | 9.43                   |

## Year on year performance (%)

|                     | 31/12/2023 - 31/12/2024 | 31/12/2022 - 31/12/2023 | 31/12/2021 - 31/12/2022 | 31/12/2020 - 31/12/2021 | 31/12/2019 - 31/12/2020 |
|---------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Fund (gross)</b> | 11.04                   | 15.00                   | -                       | -                       | -                       |
| <b>Fund (net)</b>   | 10.19                   | 14.12                   | -                       | -                       | -                       |

Past performance is not a guide to future performance. The impact of fees or other charges including tax, where applicable, can be material on the performance of your investment.

Source: RLAM as at 31 December 2024. All figures are mid-price to mid-price for the Royal London Sustainable Growth Fund M Acc GBP share class. Since inception date 24 May 2022.



# Glossary

## Carbon footprint

Exposure to high emitters in the portfolio, expressed in tCO<sub>2</sub>e/\$M invested. Financed emissions are divided by the portfolio value, the same approach for listed companies and private issuers is applied in this metric.

## ESG Integration

The consideration of environmental, social and governance (ESG) risk as part of the investment process. ESG integration does not mean the fund is trying to achieve a particular positive ESG outcome. Please check prospectus documentation for details on specific fund-level objectives.

## Exclusions

Explicitly prohibits investing in a particular company, sector, business activity, country or region.

## Financed emissions

The emissions from activities in the real economy that are financed through lending and investment portfolios, expressed in tCO<sub>2</sub>e. Emissions are attributed to a portfolio based on the portion of the company's value the portfolio holds, and using different accounting values for public and private corporates. We provide financed emissions for scope 1 and 2 emissions.

## Fund restrictions definitions

**Adult Entertainment:** Companies which own or produce adult entertainment services, or engage in the distribution or sale of adult entertainment services.

**Alcohol:** Companies which have involvement in brewing, distillation or sale of alcoholic drinks.

**Animal Welfare:** Companies that conduct animal testing (other than for purposes of human or animal health and/or where it is required by law or regulation).

**Armaments:** Companies who manufacture armaments or nuclear weapons or associated products.

**Controversial Weapons:** Weapons which have an indiscriminate and disproportional impact on civilians or weapons that are illegal and prohibited by international conventions and treaties.

**Fossil Fuels:** Companies involved in the exploration, extraction or refining of oil, or gas, or coal, plus any activity relating to thermal coal.

**Gambling:** Companies who promote irresponsible gambling which includes betting shops, casinos or amusement arcades.

**High Environmental Impact:** Companies which have a high environmental impact, and which have 'no evidence' of appropriate environmental management systems.

**Human Rights Risks:** Companies with a strategic presence operating in countries of concern and which have 'no evidence' of policies or systems to manage human rights risks.

**Nuclear Power:** Companies who generate energy from Nuclear Power.

**Nuclear Weapons:** Companies that manufacture, nuclear; or are involved in the production of intended-use parts, whole weapons systems, or exclusive delivery platforms.

**Tobacco:** Companies which are growing, processing or selling tobacco products.

## Fund value

Total value of the fund as of the last business day of the calendar month. The fund value is as at close of business and on a mid-price basis.

## Implied temperature rise (ITR)

ITR aims to measure the global warming outcome from the emissions trajectory of a company, if the whole economy followed the same trajectory.

## Number of holdings

Total number of unique holdings of the Fund excluding cash, currency and derivatives.

## Performance

Performance is calculated using the daily end of day NAV per share produced by HSBC based on the mid price.

## Promotes environmental or social factors

An ESG Fund promotes, among other characteristics, environmental or social characteristics, or a combination of those characteristics, provided that the companies in which the investments are made follow good governance practices.

## Regional weights

Breakdown of holdings by country of risk relative to the benchmark index and grouped using RLAM's proprietary regional classification scheme.

## SBTi

The Science-Based Targets initiative is a consortium of organisations that set up the definition and promotion of science-based target setting.

# Glossary

## Sector weights

Breakdown of holdings by FTSE ICB (Industry Classification Benchmark) sector relative to the benchmark index.

## Sustainable fund objective

A product that has sustainable investment or a reduction in carbon emissions as its objective.

## Top 10 holdings

Top 10 assets held by market value, excluding derivatives and cash.

## Weighted Average Carbon Intensity (WACI)

Portfolio's exposure to carbon-intensive companies, expressed in tCO<sub>2</sub>e / \$M revenue. Scope 1 and scope 2 GHG emissions are divided by companies revenues, then multiplied based on portfolio weights (the current value of the investment relative to the current portfolio value). The WACI is calculated as a weighted average sum of the holdings with carbon intensity coverage.