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# Royal London Global Sustainable Credit Fund

## **Climate metrics**

Following TCFD recommendations\*

**Portfolio data as of 31 December 2021**

\* TCFD Recommendations 2017

# Royal London Global Sustainable Credit Fund

## Content and context

This document compares the performance of the Royal London Global Sustainable Credit Fund against its Index Benchmark, the Bloomberg Barclays Global Aggregate Corporate Index with portfolio data as of 31 December 2021 in three climate metrics. The climate data is the latest available at issuer-level sourced from both RLAM internal research and MSCI as of 1 March 2022. To allow for valuable comparison and appraisal alongside last year's figures, this report uses 2017 Taskforce for Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) recommendations and covers:

- Weighted Average Carbon Intensity (slides 2 and 3).
- Warming Potential (slides 4 and 5).
- Green and Brown revenues exposure (slide 6).
- Data coverage for metrics (slide 7).
- Definitions of terms (slide 8).
- Methodologies used (slide 9).
- Disclaimers (slide 10).

Our disclosed metrics are subject to potential limitations due to the emerging nature of climate data applications and methodologies in finance. We endeavour to improve climate data in finance through our engagement with companies and data providers. We believe that technology innovations will make data more easily accessible and auditable in the future. We are also working with regulators, for example, as members of the Climate Financial Risk Forum (CFRF), to support disclosure standardisation.

For more information on our Sustainable Fund range, including details of our Sustainable Fund themes, please see:

[An investor's guide to sustainable investing.](#)

**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.

**Responsible Investment style 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.

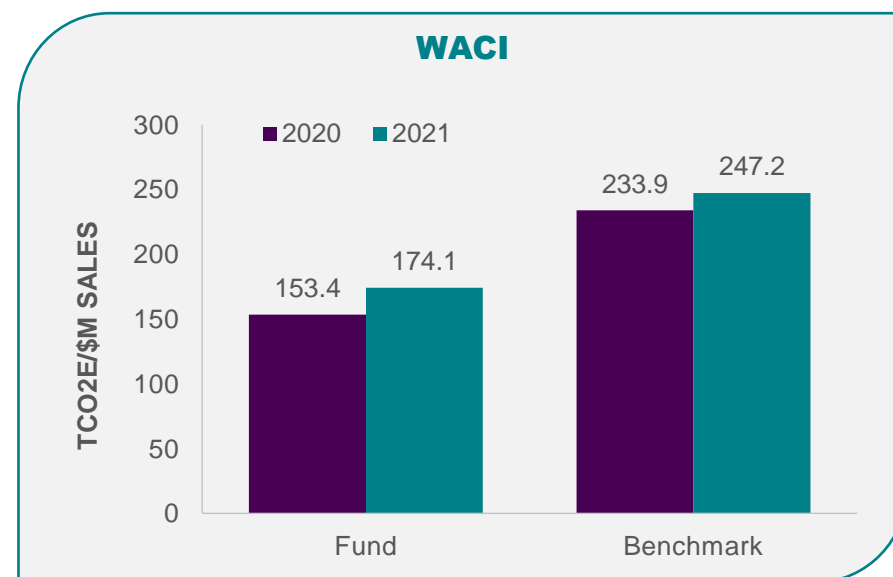
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## Weighted Average Carbon Intensity

Weighted Average Carbon Intensity (WACI) measures a portfolio's exposure to carbon-intensive companies. All direct company emissions (Scope 1 & 2) are divided by companies' revenues, then multiplied based on their weighting within the portfolio to create a tCO2e/\$m\* revenue figure. In-line with updated TCFD recommendations, future reports shall include financed emissions.

	WACI**		
	2021	2020	YoY Change
<b>Fund (tCO2e/\$m)</b>	174.1	153.4	↑ 14%
<b>Benchmark (tCO2e/\$m)</b>	247.2	233.9	↑ 6%
<b>Difference (%)</b>	-30%	-34%	

A 21% increase in exposure to the utility sector is the main driver in the 14% year-on-year increase of WACI, with these investments targeting companies at the forefront of the energy transition.



\* Metric tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions (as defined by the GHG Protocol). See slide 9 for further details.

\*\* See slide 8 for data coverage figures.

Benchmark: Bloomberg Barclays Global Aggregate Corporate Index.

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## The Fund's WACI is 30% lower than that of its benchmark

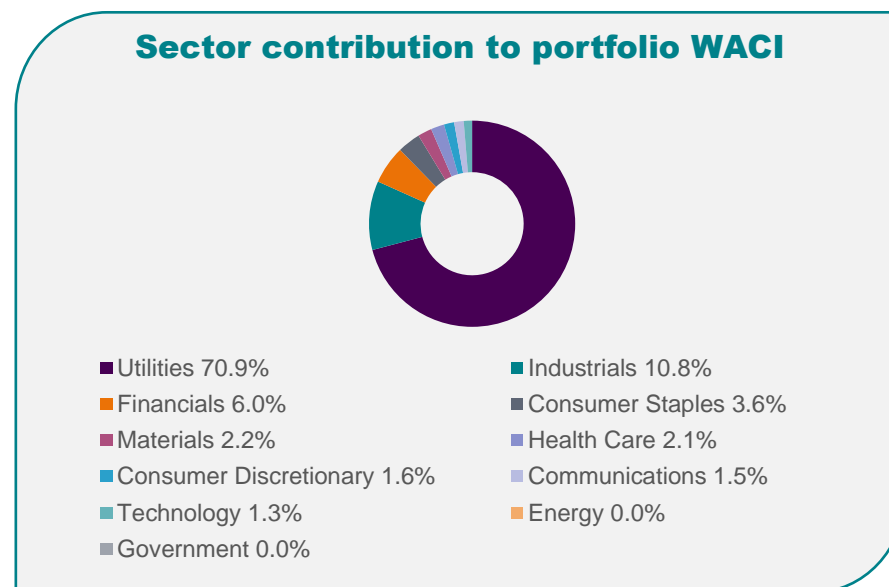
# Royal London Global Sustainable Credit Fund

## Weighted Average Carbon Intensity – sector & top contributors

The table below shows the top 5 contributors to the portfolio WACI, and the sustainable theme they are linked to.

Top contributors to portfolio WACI	Sector	% of WACI contribution	% change from 2020	Sustainable theme*
Avista	Utilities	13.3%	+46%	Net benefit: energy transition
Topaz Solar Farms**	Utilities	12.3%	+100%	Net benefit: energy transition
Ameren Illinois	Utilities	8.8%	+43%	Net benefit: energy transition
Consumers Energy	Utilities	7.4%	+8%	Net benefit: energy transition
Clearway Energy	Utilities	3.8%	+13%	Net benefit: energy transition

The graph below shows the sector contribution to portfolio WACI.



\*Please see [An investor's guide to sustainable investing](#) for more information on our Sustainable Fund themes.

In instances where the issuing credit entity does not disclose carbon emissions data, MSCI or RLAM may default to the emissions data of the corporate parent, where available - this is not always reflective of the emissions exposure of the invested security.

\*\*\* indicates where a featured issuer has been flagged due to potential use of unrepresentative emissions data.

**Portfolio characteristics and holdings are subject to change without notice. This does not constitute an investment recommendation.**

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## Utilities constitute over 70% of the Fund's total WACI

# Royal London Global Sustainable Credit Fund

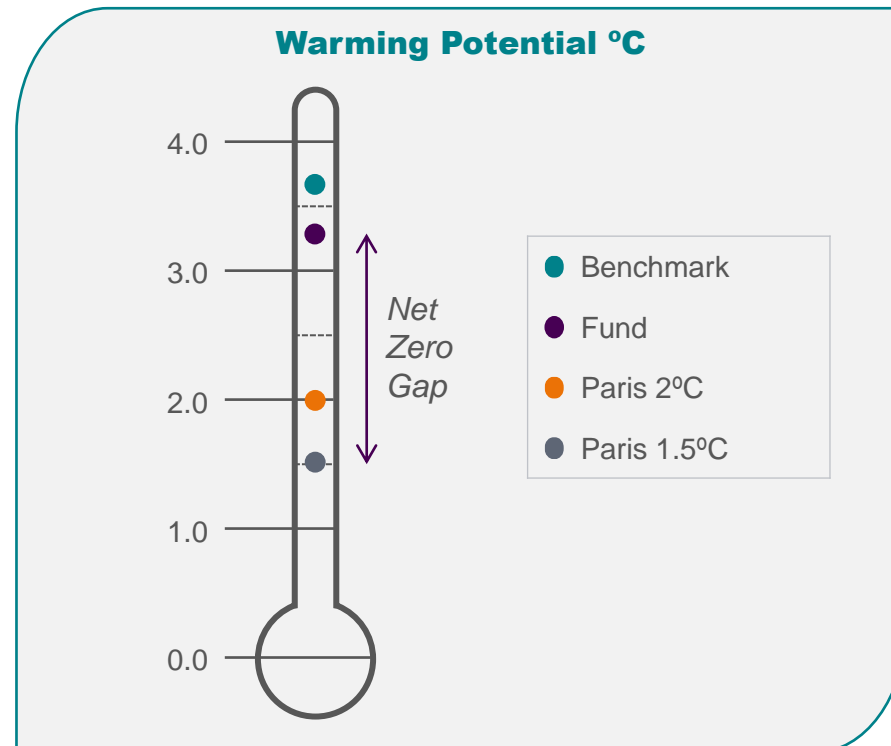
## Warming Potential

Warming Potential (WP) metrics aim to quantify the alignment of a company's activities against pathways commensurate with future temperature goals. WP incorporates a company's entire emissions (Scope 1, 2 & 3), as well as some of a company's reduction targets.

### Warming Potential

	2021	2020	YoY Change
<b>Fund (%)</b>	3.3	3.8	↓ 14%
<b>Benchmark (°C)</b>	3.7	3.9	↓ 5%
<b>Difference (%)</b>	-11%	-3%	

Banks are typically amongst the largest contributors to WP due to their lending practices, therefore the Fund's 8% reduction in exposure to the financials sector has contributed significantly to the year-on-year reduction of WP.



Benchmark: Bloomberg Barclays Global Aggregate Corporate Index.

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**The Fund's WP is 11% lower than its benchmark, and 14% lower than last year**

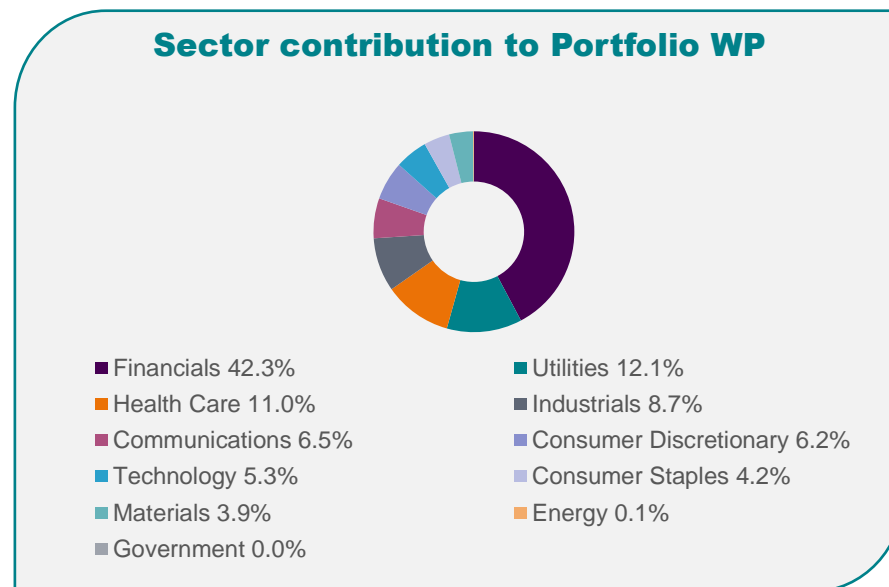
# Royal London Global Sustainable Credit Fund

## Warming Potential – sector & top contributors

The table below shows the top 5 contributors to the portfolio Warming Potential, and the sustainable theme they are linked to.

Top contributors to portfolio WP	Sector	% of WP contribution	% change from 2020	Sustainable theme*
<b>Aptiv</b>	Consumer Discretionary	2.9%	+100%	Net benefit: cleaner & safer transport
<b>AT&amp;T</b>	Communication	2.2%	+27%	Net benefit: digital world
<b>Nationwide Building Society</b>	Financials	2.1%	-57%	Net benefit: community funding
<b>Lloyds Banking Group</b>	Financials	2.1%	+19%	Net benefit: community funding
<b>Standard Chartered</b>	Financials	2.0%	+9%	ESG leader

The Graph below shows the sector contribution to portfolio Warming Potential.



As climate data matures, new metrics are being developed and used as a form of undertaking scenario analysis. Implied Temperature Rise (ITR) is one such metric which enables us to determine the % of issuers that are 1.5°C aligned. Looking ahead, we will aim to include this metric in our 2022 fund reporting.

\* Please see [An investor's guide to sustainable investing](#) for more information on our Sustainable Fund themes.

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## The financials and utilities sectors contribute to over half (54.4%) of the Fund's WP

# Royal London Global Sustainable Credit Fund

## Exposure to Green and Brown revenues

The exposure measures the percentage by value held in the portfolio with any revenue from an activity considered Green or Brown.

**Green activities:** renewable energy, energy efficiency, sustainable agriculture or water, green building and pollution prevention.

**Brown activities:** oil and gas (any part of the value-chain), coal mining and coal-based generation of electricity.

Increased investments in consumer discretionary and communication (e.g. Aptiv and AT&T) are responsible for over 10% of exposure to green revenues. Increased exposure in utilities (e.g. Avista) has largely driven the increase in green revenues. Simultaneously, this sector is also accountable for the increase in exposure to brown revenues in the fund.

	Exposure to Green			Exposure to Brown		
	2021	2020	YOY	2021	2020	YOY
<b>Fund (% value in portfolio)</b>	31.9%	25.1%	↑ 27%	8.2%	7.3%	↑ 12%
<b>Benchmark (% value in portfolio)</b>	29.0%	15.5%	↑ 87%	15.3%	30.1%	↓ 49%
<b>Difference (%)</b>	+10%	+62%		-46%	-76%	

Benchmark: Bloomberg Barclays Global Aggregate Corporate Index.

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**The Fund has 10% more value held in issuers with exposure to Green revenues than the benchmark and 46% less value exposed to brown revenues**

# Royal London Global Sustainable Credit Fund

## Data coverage for metrics

Our data coverage is comprised of third-party data and in-house propriety RLAM research, allowing us to gain a better understanding, and give a clearer picture of the climate impact of this Fund.

Metric	Fund (%)		Benchmark (%)	
	2021	2020	2021	2020
WACI	94%	93%	86%	96%
Warming Potential	86%	79%	94%	91%
Exposure to Green & Brown Revenues	N/A: See slide 9 for an explanation of metric methodology			

Benchmark: Bloomberg Barclays Global Aggregate Corporate Index.

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# Royal London Global Sustainable Credit Fund

## Definitions of terms

Term	Brief explanation of the term
<b>tCO<sub>2</sub> e Scope 1</b>	All direct company greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from owned or controlled sources. Other greenhouse gases, such as methane or nitrous oxide are converted to carbon dioxide hence reporting is under tCO <sub>2</sub> e, where the 'e' stands for equivalent and t for metric tonnes. This follows the Greenhouse gases protocol, the most widely used accounting standard for emissions. <a href="#">FAQ.pdf (ghgprotocol.org)</a>
<b>tCO<sub>2</sub> e Scope 2</b>	Indirect company emissions from the generation of purchased electricity, steam, heating and cooling consumed by the reporting company. Other greenhouse gases, such as methane or nitrous oxide are converted to carbon dioxide hence reporting is under tCO <sub>2</sub> e, where the 'e' stands for equivalent and t for metric tonnes. This follows the Greenhouse gases protocol, the most widely used accounting standard for emissions. <a href="#">FAQ.pdf (ghgprotocol.org)</a>
<b>tCO<sub>2</sub> e Scope 3</b>	Indirect company emissions that occur in a company's value chain both upstream (before their production) and downstream (after the sale of their products). Other greenhouse gases, such as methane or nitrous oxide are converted to carbon dioxide hence reporting is under tCO <sub>2</sub> e, where the 'e' stands for equivalent and t for metric tonnes. This follows the Greenhouse gases protocol, the most widely used accounting standard for emissions. <a href="#">FAQ.pdf (ghgprotocol.org)</a>
<b>The Paris Agreement</b>	The Paris Agreement is an international agreement that establishes a framework and commits all countries that ratify it to reduce their emissions so that that the global median warming remains well below 2 degrees Celsius. It also commits countries to work together to adapt to the impacts of climate change. The agreement was adopted in 2015 at the 21 <sup>st</sup> Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), 189 nations have now ratified the Paris Agreement. <a href="#">The Paris Agreement   United Nations</a>
<b>Task force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures</b>	The Task force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) consists of 31 members from various organisations including banks, insurance companies, asset managers, large-non financial companies. In 2015 the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors asked the Financial Stability Board to review climate risk. The FSB established the TCFD to develop recommendations for more effective climate-related disclosures that could promote more informed investment, credit, and insurance underwriting decisions, they published their recommendations in 2017. There are +2000 supporters of the TCFD across 78 geographies recommending disclosures on climate risk. <a href="#">Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures (fsb-tcfd.org)</a>
<b>Climate Financial Risk Forum</b>	The Climate Financial Risk Forum is (CFRF) is an industry forum jointly convened by the Prudential Regulation Authority and Financial Conduct Authority to build capacity and share best practice in the financial sector on climate risk. It brings together senior representatives from across the financial sector, including banks, insurers, and asset managers. <a href="#">Climate Financial Risk Forum   Bank of England</a>

# Royal London Global Sustainable Credit Fund

## Methodology notes

Metric	Brief explanation of the metric
<b>Weighted Average Carbon Intensity (WACI)</b>	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). This follows the recommended methodology by the Taskforce for climate-related Financial Disclosures. <a href="#">E09 - Carbon footprinting - metrics.pdf (tcfdhub.org)</a> . The WACI is calculated as a weighted average sum of the holdings with carbon intensity coverage. For the portion of the fund where carbon data is not available, the holdings are removed and the remainder of the fund is re-weighted to 100%. The portion not covered by carbon intensity values are assumed to behave as the holdings with data available. The % of coverage by market value of the portfolio is based on all of the portfolio holdings including cash. Our equity data comes wholly from MSCI. For fixed income securities, RLAM has developed its own carbon intensity tool. The report uses RLAM data for the fixed income securities as a first port of call, supplementing with MSCI estimates where no reported or better estimate exists. RLAM's data for the emissions includes a combination of company disclosures through annual reporting, sustainability supplements and filings to the carbon disclosure project and primary research by our RI team. Where we lend to ring-fenced subsidiaries we have tried to source carbon data and revenues specific to those subsidiaries.
<b>Warming Potential (WP)</b>	Warming Potential metrics aim to quantify the alignment of a company's activities against pathways commensurate with future temperature goals. This metric incorporates current scope 1, 2 and 3 emission intensity and assumptions to estimate expected future emissions intensity for an entity. It also incorporates some of the companies' reduction targets and emissions it will contribute to avoid. The estimate is then translated into a projected increase in global average temperature above preindustrial levels. It is expressed in °C. The portfolio level warming potential is calculated as a weighted average sum of the holdings with warming potential coverage. For the portion of the fund where warming potential data is not available, the holdings are removed and the remainder of the fund is re-weighted to 100%. The % of coverage by market value of the portfolio is based on all of the portfolio holdings including cash. <a href="#">73ccf115-0ed2-434b-553f-f10d0a1dfa1b (msci.com)</a>
<b>Climate Value at Risk (C-VAR)</b>	Climate Value-at-Risk (Climate VaR) model aims to provide an assessment on how climate change may affect the investment return in portfolios based on conditions associated with global temperature trajectories (e.g. 1.5, 2, 3C). By evaluating policy impact, technology opportunities and climate physical risk, under different scenarios associated with those temperature trajectories, the metric provides insights into the potential stress on market valuation, translating climate-related costs into possible valuation impacts. We selected two scenarios from the Asia-Pacific Integrated Assessment Computable General Equilibrium (AIM-CGE) model. This model is comprised by four integrated models: an economic model, a spatial model, an emissions constraints model and a climate model. The model is peer reviewed and its building blocks and key outputs are accessible through the International Panel of Climate Change database of climate models. This metric is only relevant for equities or the equity portion of a portfolio. At portfolio level it is calculated as a weighted average sum of the holdings with C-VaR coverage. For the portion of the fund where C-VaR data is not available, the holdings are removed and the remainder of the fund is re-weighted to 100%. The % of coverage by market value of the portfolio is based on all of the portfolio holdings including cash. <a href="#">IAMC 1.5°C Scenario Explorer hosted by IIASA</a>
<b>Exposure to Brown revenues</b>	The percentage of instruments (by value) held in the portfolio through equity stake or bonds that have any exposure to revenues from oil and gas activity, coal mining and/or coal-based generation of electricity. This does not measure the total brown revenue derived from the portfolio just the count of issuers with any exposure to the activities defined above. As our trust on the revenue calculations increase we will re-evaluate this metric.
<b>Exposure to Green revenues</b>	The percentage of instruments (by value) held in the portfolio through equity stake or bonds that have any exposure to revenues from renewable energy, energy efficiency, green building, sustainable water and agriculture, and pollution prevention. This does not measure the total green revenue derived from the portfolio just the count of issuers with any exposure to green activities. As our trust on the revenue calculations increase we will re-evaluate this metric.

For further analysis on assumptions and limitations of the metrics we disclose please refer to Appendix III of our [2020 TCFD report](#).

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