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# **Royal London Global Sustainable Equity Fund (IRL)**

Quarterly Investment Report

**31 December 2025**



# Quarterly Report

## The fund as at 31 December 2025

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the Royal London Global Sustainable Equity Fund (IRL). 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 predominantly investing globally in the shares of companies listed on Recognised Markets that are deemed to make a positive contribution to society. The Fund's performance target is to outperform, after the deduction of charges, the MSCI All Countries World Net Total Return Index USD (the "Benchmark") by 2.5% per annum over rolling three year periods. Investments in the Fund will adhere to the Investment Manager's Ethical and Sustainable Investment Policy, as detailed further below and in the "RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT" section of the Prospectus.

## Fund value

	Total \$m
31 December 2025	191.13

## Fund analytics

	Fund
Fund launch date	13 July 2021
Fund base currency	USD
Benchmark	MSCI All Country World Index (MSCI ACWI) (Net Total Return, USD)
Number of holdings	40

# Performance and activity

## Performance

	Fund (%)	Benchmark (%)	Relative (%)
Quarter	4.63	3.29	1.34
1 Year	23.40	22.34	1.07
3 Years (p.a.)	21.48	20.63	0.85
Since inception (p.a.)	8.47	9.48	(1.01)

Past performance is not a guarantee or reliable indicator of future returns. The impact of fees or other charges, including tax, where applicable, can be material on the performance of your investment. The impact of fees reduces your investment. Please refer to the Glossary for the basis of calculation and impact of fees. Performance and since inception date based on M Acc USD. Source: Royal London Asset Management; Gross performance; Since inception date of the share class is 13 July 2021.

## Performance commentary

The fund outperformed the MSCI All-Countries World Index (ACWI) benchmark during the fourth quarter.

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 sector allocation was slightly positive for the quarter; positive contribution came from not owning real estate and being overweight financials. This was mostly offset by the lack of exposure to materials and the overweight to industrials.

Asian-focused lender Standard Chartered contributed to performance. The positive macroeconomic environment in Asia has been a boon, particularly the small improvements in the Chinese economy and the generally positive interest rate environment. Electrical installation company Comfort Systems contributed positively to performance as it continues to see strong demand for its services across the US, and in particular from data centre customers.

Latin American ecommerce and fintech provider MercadoLibre detracted from performance due to concerns about increasing competition in Brazil's ecommerce industry.

# Performance and activity

## Top 10 holdings

	Weighting (%)
TAIWAN SEMICONDUCTOR MANUFACTURING	4.77
COMFORT SYSTEMS USA INC	4.69
MICROSOFT CORP	4.45
STANDARD CHARTERED PLC	3.97
MERCADOLIBRE INC	3.95
AIA GROUP LTD	3.67
NVIDIA CORP	3.56
ALPHABET INC CLASS A	3.18
RENTOKIL INITIAL PLC	3.15
BANCO BILBAO VIZCAYA ARGENTARIA SA	3.10
<b>Total</b>	<b>38.49</b>

## Fund activity

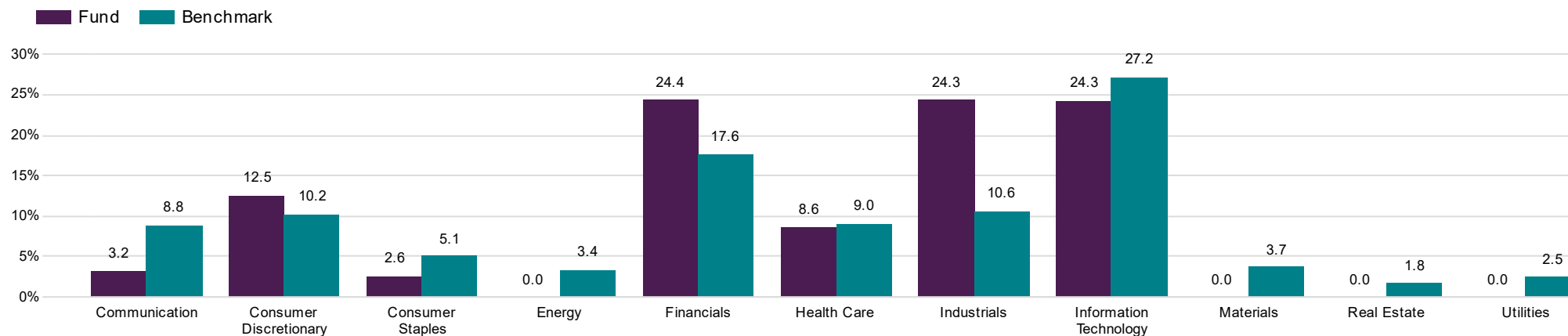
Given our expectations for ongoing market volatility, effective portfolio construction remains our focus, and we have made a number of changes to our fund to ensure it is appropriately diversified and resilient across a range of potential market outcomes.

During the quarter, we initiated a new position in Chinese e-commerce and cloud computing provider Alibaba; this provides a solid exposure to the recovery of the Chinese economy. We also started a new position in UK industrial distributor Diploma; the company has a great long-term track record, and we believe it will continue to perform very well.

To fund these new positions, we sold our position in Dutch-listed specialty chemical distributor IMCD – while the company's business model remains strong, demand for chemicals remains under pressure. We also exited Hologic as the company is being acquired by a private equity firm.

# Fund breakdown

## Sector weights















# Characteristics and climate

## Sustainable investment 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](http://www.rlam.com)

## Fund 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	✓		UNGC / OECD violators	✓

## Climate metrics

	Fund	Benchmark	Difference (%)
Financed emissions (tCO2e)	1,049	n/a	n/a
Financed emissions coverage	100.00%	n/a	n/a
Carbon footprint (tCO2e/\$M invested)	5.52	39.59	(86.07)
Carbon footprint coverage	100.00%	99.66%	0.35
Weighted average carbon intensity (tCO2e/\$M sales)	24.85	110.76	(77.57)
Weighted average carbon intensity coverage	100.00%	99.69%	0.31

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	100.00	99.55	0.45
% of portfolio below 2°C ITR	48.36	50.35	(3.95)
% of portfolio below 1.5°C ITR	25.36	25.05	1.22

## SBTi net - zero

	Fund (%)	Benchmark (%)	Difference (%)
SBTi Net-Zero committed	20.59	20.03	2.77
SBTi Near-Term committed	6.47	3.44	88.04
SBTi Near-Term targets set	38.43	52.61	(26.97)

# Fund Engagement

## Engagement definition

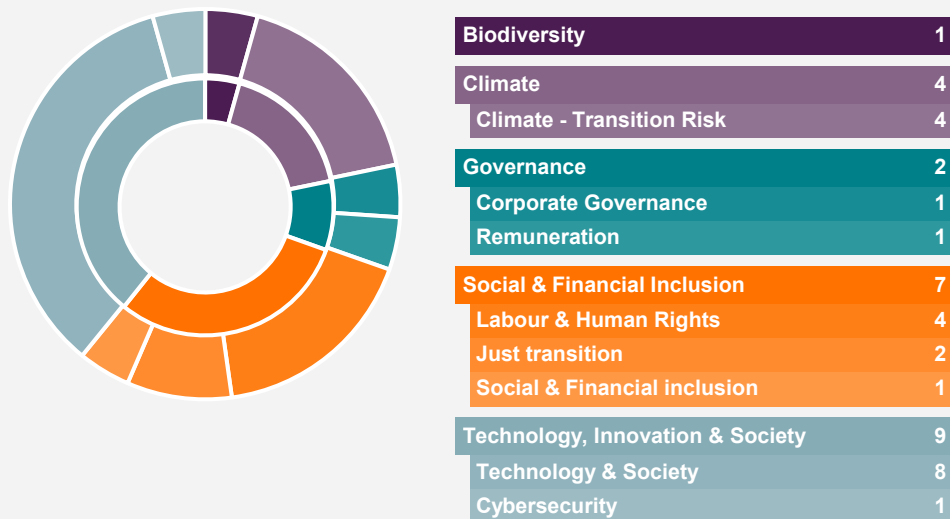
Engagement is active dialogue with investee companies (or other entities). There are two types: engagement for information, which is dialogue as part of investment research or ongoing monitoring, without specific objectives for change, and engagement for change, which is purposeful dialogue to influence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

## Engagements

Engagement activity	Fund 3 months	Fund 12 months
Number of entities engaged	12	33
Number of engagements	18	87

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



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

## 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.



# Fund Engagement

## Engagement outcomes

### HDFC Bank Ltd – Just Transition

#### Purpose:

HDFC Bank Ltd, a leading private lender in India, was engaged to encourage the integration of social considerations into its decarbonisation strategy. The discussion focused on how the bank plans to align its transition efforts with the principles of a just transition, ensuring fairness and inclusivity for workers and communities affected by the shift to a low-carbon economy.

#### Outcome:

HDFC Bank shared updates on its evolving approach to just transition and highlighted its conversations with relevant parties regarding the Indian Climate Finance Taxonomy. The bank indicated that once timelines are confirmed, it will consider making public commitments on just transition. Current initiatives include compliance with India's mandated Corporate Social Responsibility law and programmes aimed at workforce skilling for future green jobs. However, the company did not yet demonstrate a clear understanding of investor expectations for action beyond regulatory requirements. We agreed to hold a follow-up call once the taxonomy is published to assess progress and encourage stronger integration of social considerations into the bank's climate strategy.

### Intuit Inc – Sustainable and Ethical AI

#### Purpose:

Intuit Inc, a global financial and business software company, was engaged to review its approach to ethical artificial intelligence (AI) and sustainability performance, focusing on governance practices, supplier engagement, and transparency in climate-related disclosures.

#### Outcome:

Intuit has embedded ethical AI governance across its operations, including formal risk assessments for high-risk use cases and stakeholder review processes to ensure responsible deployment of AI technologies. Intuit provides customers with clear information on the risks associated with its AI tools and monitors usage to prevent misuse. On climate performance, Intuit has set ambitious Scope 3 emissions targets and is actively engaging suppliers, including AI service providers, on sustainability requirements. While the company scored poorly on certain climate-related indicators due to limited disclosure on escalation policies and industry collaboration, it expressed openness to improving transparency and exploring environmental initiatives. We will follow up by email with examples of industry initiatives and will continue to support Intuit in strengthening its disclosures and governance framework.

# Fund Engagement

## Engagement outcomes

### Microsoft Corp – Sustainable and Ethical AI

#### Purpose:

Microsoft Corp was engaged to review its sustainability performance and address investor concerns related to human rights and ethical AI practices.

#### Outcome:

Microsoft reaffirmed its commitment to achieving hourly carbon-free energy matching, a leading-edge approach that ensures its data centres run on clean energy every hour of the day rather than relying on annual averages. This positions Microsoft ahead of many peers in decarbonisation efforts. However, the company acknowledged gaps in its human rights due diligence for commercial agreements, particularly following concerns about the use of its cloud and AI services in sensitive contexts. In response, Microsoft has launched a review of its ethical AI governance and oversight framework. The company is evaluating when additional safeguards should apply beyond standard protocols and plans to share its findings in a forthcoming report. We will continue to monitor progress and encourage Microsoft to strengthen its governance framework and provide clearer evidence of how these measures mitigate human rights risks.

### Tesco plc – Workplace Culture

#### Purpose:

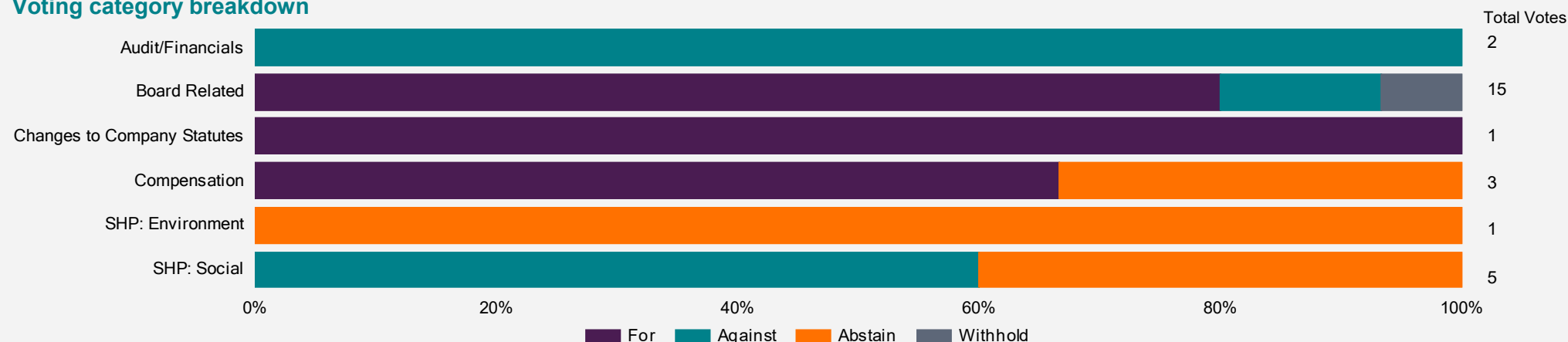
Tesco plc, a multinational retailer, was engaged to address concerns around misconduct reporting and workplace culture transparency.

#### Outcome:

Tesco confirmed that improving data collection systems is now a strategic priority. The company has introduced new policies covering bullying, harassment, and third-party conduct, including customers and contractors. Legal changes around employer responsibility to prevent sexual harassment have prompted Tesco to strengthen controls and training programmes. While timelines for improved disclosures remain unclear, Tesco is actively developing mechanisms to support effective reporting. We will maintain engagement to encourage Tesco to set clear timelines for improved disclosures and adopt best practice reporting standards, including publishing substantiated case data and progress metrics.

# Fund Voting

## Voting category breakdown



## Notable votes

### Astrazeneca plc

Adoption of New Articles - for: Supported adoption of new articles as technical changes enhance listing structure with no governance concerns.

### Microsoft Corporation

Elect Hugh F. Johnston - against: We are concerned that holding two external public board roles, in addition to an executive position, may limit the nominee's ability to devote sufficient time to their core responsibilities and shareholder obligations.

Elect Satya Nadella - against: The nominee serves as both Chairman and CEO. We would prefer to see these roles separated and an independent chair appointed.

Advisory Vote on Executive Compensation - abstain: While CEO pay is performance-based, with equity delivered exclusively through performance stock awards, we hold an ongoing concern over the relatively short LTIP performance period.

Ratification of Auditor - against: We have concerns with the independence of the Auditor, Deloitte & Touche, which has served for over 40 years.

# Market commentary

## Market review

Most major economies produced growth in the fourth quarter (Q4), continuing to show resilience in the face of this year's higher US tariff rates and global trade tensions. Despite mixed signals on inflation, there were further rate cuts, from the US Federal Reserve and the Bank of England. However, the US rate cut in December was accompanied by language suggesting a pause after three cuts in the final four months of 2025.

European equities during Q4 were the best performers in sterling terms on the back of positive momentum within the financials sector and attractive valuations. Emerging market equities also outperformed despite weaker Chinese equities, as investors continue to diversify away from US equities.

In terms of sectors, more defensive areas of the market, such as healthcare rebounded from previous weakness to produce a strong performance. Materials stocks also outperformed as metal prices have globally strengthened driven by concerns about the long-term inflation outlook and a positive demand outlook. Both gold and silver recorded their best year since 1979.

Meanwhile, real estate and consumer staples underperformed, due to a tough interest rate environment and weak consumer demand, respectively.

## Outlook

When we look at the many sustainable companies that we invest in, they have performed well last year. It is customary at the beginning of any year to give an outlook and make predictions about markets, but if investors look at the historical accuracies of these predictions, they will rightly question their merit. As such we will abstain from writing one. However, what we can say is that we will maintain our discipline and continue to diligently enact the same process we have applied for over 20 years. It has served us well. When we look at our portfolios today, they are full of exciting sustainable companies which we believe have the potential to reward investors over the long-term.

## 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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This is a financial promotion and is not investment advice.

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### Notice for UK Investors

The Fund is recognised in the UK under the Overseas Fund Regime (OFR) but is not a UK authorised fund and is not authorised by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA). It is therefore not subject to the same regulatory oversight as UK authorised Funds and is not required to adhere to the UK sustainable investment labelling disclosure requirements. Most of the protections provided by the UK regulatory system, and the compensation under the Financial Services Compensation Scheme, will not be available. Investors are strongly encouraged to seek independent financial advice before making any investment decisions.

The Fund is a sub-fund of Royal London Asset Management Funds plc, an open-ended investment company with variable capital (ICVC), with segregated liability between sub-funds.

Incorporated with limited liability under the laws of Ireland and authorised by the Central Bank of Ireland as a UCITS Fund. It is a recognised scheme under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000.

The Management Company is FundRock Management Company SA, Registered office: Airport Center Building, 5 Heienhaff, L-1736 Senningerberg, Luxembourg and is authorised and regulated by the Commission de Surveillance du Secteur Financier (CSSF).

The Investment Manager is Royal London Asset Management Limited.

The Prospectus and Key Investor Information Document (KIID) are available in English via the relevant Fund Information page on [www.rlam.com](http://www.rlam.com). A summary of investor rights is also available in English, and can be accessed at [www.rlam.com/uk/policies-and-regulatory](http://www.rlam.com/uk/policies-and-regulatory)

RLAM may terminate the arrangements made for marketing of the fund pursuant to Article 93a of Directive 2009/65/EC.

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.

## Concentration risk

The price of Funds that invest in a reduced number of holdings, sectors, or geographical areas may be more heavily affected by events that influence the stockmarket and therefore more volatile.

## Exchange rate risk

Investing in assets denominated in a currency other than the base currency of the Fund means the value of the investment can be affected by changes in exchange rates.

## 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.

## Derivative risk

Derivatives are highly sensitive to changes in the value of the underlying asset which can increase both Fund losses and gains. The impact to the Fund can be greater where they are used in an extensive or complex manner, where the Fund could lose significantly more than the amount invested in derivatives.

# Performance to 31 December 2025

## Cumulative (%)

	3 Month	6 Month	1 Year	3 Years	Since Inception		
<b>Fund (gross)</b>	4.63	9.52	23.40	79.29	43.84	21.48	8.47
<b>Fund (net)</b>	4.41	9.07	22.40	74.95	38.63	20.48	7.58

## Annualised (%)

## Year on year performance (%)

	31/12/2024 - 31/12/2025	31/12/2023 - 31/12/2024	31/12/2022 - 31/12/2023	31/12/2021 - 31/12/2022	31/12/2020 - 31/12/2021
<b>Fund (gross)</b>	23.40	11.78	29.98	(24.73)	-
<b>Fund (net)</b>	22.40	10.87	28.92	(25.36)	-

Past performance is not a guarantee or reliable indicator of future returns. The impact of fees or other charges, including tax, where applicable, can be material on the performance of your investment. The impact of fees reduces your investment.

Source: RLAM as at 31 December 2025. All figures are mid-price to mid-price for the Royal London Global Sustainable Equity Fund (IRL) M Acc USD share class. Since inception date 13 July 2021.



# 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.

## Derivatives

A financial instrument whose price is dependent upon or derived from one or more underlying asset.

## 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.

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## Efficient Portfolio Management (EPM) techniques

The Fund may engage in EPM techniques including holdings of derivative instruments. The use of these instruments may expose the Fund to volatile investment returns and increase the volatility of the net asset value of the Fund. EPM techniques may involve the Fund entering into transactions with counterparties where there may be a risk of counterparty default. The Fund's ability to use EPM strategies may be limited by market conditions, regulatory limits and tax considerations.

## Environmental, social and governance

A list of predefined criteria that determines how a company operates in terms of sustainability and overall corporate governance.

## 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

**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.

## Fund restrictions definitions

**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.

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

## 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

Both the Fund and Index performance are based on close of business prices.

# Glossary

## Pricing

The Fund's price may swing to bid or offer to protect existing investors from the costs associated with buying or selling the fund's underlying assets when other investors are entering or leaving the fund. Performance is based on this pricing.

## 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.

## SBTi

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

## Sector weights

Breakdown of holdings by GICS (Global Industry Classification Standard) 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.