



Carbon Report

abrdn Sterling Corporate Bond Fund

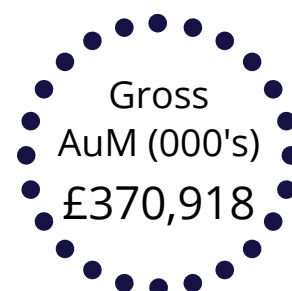
31 December 2024
Prepared by: abrdn

Contents

Portfolio Overview	1
Carbon Analysis	3
Climate Scenario Analysis	8
Appendix	15

Portfolio Overview

abrdn Sterling Corporate Bond Fund



Fund investment objective	To generate income and some growth over the long term (5 years or more) by investing in sterling-denominated investment grade corporate bonds. Performance Target: To exceed the Investment Association Sterling Corporate Bond Sector Average return (after charges) over 1 year and be top quartile over rolling three year periods. There is no certainty or promise that the Performance Target will be achieved. The Investment Association Sterling Corporate Bond Sector (the "Sector") is a representative group of investment funds with a focus on sterling denominated investment grade bonds issued by companies.
Purpose of the report	Please note amendments are being made to the investment objective, effective June 2025. Refer to the Prospectus and Key Investor Information Document for further information. Climate change poses financial and societal risks. At abrdn we aim focus on our fiduciary duty to our clients by better understanding the financial risks that climate change poses to our investments. As a business ourselves we also look to reduce our own carbon footprint and provide transparent reporting on this. abrdn recognises the growing demand from investors for more climate-related information about their investments as such, we have made disclosures we believe are consistent with the TCFD Recommended Disclosures within this report and we will continue to evolve and enhance our TCFD reporting, in line with data and industry developments. The Financial Stability Board (FSB) created the Taskforce on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) to develop recommendations on the types of information that companies should disclose to support investors in appropriately assessing and pricing a specific set of risks related to climate change. In Policy Statement 21/24 the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) have created a regulatory framework for asset managers, life insurers and FCA-regulated pension providers to make climate-related disclosures consistent with the recommendations of the TCFD. Due to the evolving nature of carbon metrics and methodologies and in some cases the nascent disclosure of carbon data in some asset classes and sectors there can be situations where we have low aggregated data coverage at a portfolio level. As a house we have adopted a principle of only reporting where we have greater than 50% data coverage - measured as the % of the portfolio's assets under management for which carbon data has been disclosed, partially disclosed or estimated by a third-party provider. We expect that the number of portfolio's where we have not reported due to low data coverage will decrease over time as methodologies and reporting disclosures improve. This includes fund-of-fund structures and assets which due to their location or structure have nascent corporate disclosures. In particular we will focus on working with third parties and data providers to improve coverage. However, at this stage we have adopted a conservative approach to ensure that reported data does not give a skewed perception of carbon impacts. For example, if carbon data is only available for low carbon sectors but this only relates to a small portion of the holdings, this could lead to the entire portfolio appearing to be low carbon. However, once more carbon intensive sectors are reported in time, this could significantly alter the overall position and as such, we have taken the decision to only report where we have the majority (>50%) of data available. There are some investment types that due to their nature are not possible to report or estimate carbon metrics. These are typically money market investments that do not have a carbon profile, or synthetic products where methodological constraints mean that they are considered out of scope of these reports. We are currently only reporting on corporate credit bonds, listed govt bonds and listed equities due to poor or inconsistent data coverage in other asset types. We will review this year on year, and seek to enhance coverage in future years through alternative data providers, direct engagement and supporting broader industry initiatives. Since the first year of reporting, we have taken steps to evolve our ESG data architecture, enhancing the consistency of calculation and aggregation across in-scope asset classes and evolved underlying security issuer mapping to underlying ESG data.

Portfolio Overview

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Benchmark	Markit iBoxx Sterling Collateralized & Corporates
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Carbon Analysis

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Carbon footprinting refers to the use of various carbon metrics that are a useful starting point for understanding exposure to carbon within a portfolio and can be informative in identifying potential climate transition risks. Carbon metrics are also one of the various metrics that can help investors better understand the impact of their investments on the climate.

We split carbon metrics out by Scope 1, 2 & 3 in line with the Greenhouse Gas Accounting Protocol Standards best practices.

It is important to consider that carbon footprinting has inherent limitations. Firstly, emissions data is backward-looking and should be complemented with forward-looking analysis of the entity's transition plans. Secondly, each carbon metric has its own idiosyncratic strengths and weaknesses, and each metric can be driven by short-term volatility unrelated to emissions. Lastly, emissions are not necessarily the most appropriate indicator of climate risk. For example, there are many climate solutions that operate within carbon intensive sectors, potentially falsely implying elevated climate risks when compared to other sectors or a broad market benchmark.

Carbon Data Disclosure

Data Disclosure	Portfolio	Benchmark
Number of Holdings with Data	182	649
Trucost Data Coverage (%)	69.7	69.8

Includes positions held indirectly through other abrdn funds, only where data is available

Carbon Analysis

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Portfolio Carbon Intensity

Weighted Average Carbon Intensity

Weighted average carbon intensity (WACI) is a measure of carbon emissions normalized by revenues. Since revenues are a relevant comparison point across all issuers, the metric can be used for portfolio decomposition and attribution analyses across sectors and asset classes. The WACI is calculated by summing the product of each company's weight in the portfolio or loan book with that company's carbon-to-revenue intensity. The avoidance of apportioning with the WACI approach means that there is no direct connection to real-world emissions.

How carbon intensive are the holdings in my portfolio?

Asset Class	Scope 1	Scope 2	Scope 3	Scope 1 and 2		Scope 1, 2 and 3		Data Coverage %		Weights at 31.12 %	
	Portfolio	Portfolio	Portfolio	Portfolio	Benchmark	Portfolio	Benchmark	Portfolio	Benchmark	Portfolio	Benchmark
Government bonds	-	-	-	201.14	-	201.14	-	100.00	-	7.22	-
Corporate bonds	33.51	15.88	720.97	49.39	64.28	770.35	938.39	72.39	76.80	89.55	100.00
Weighted average* (tCO2e/\$m sales)	33.51	15.88	720.97	49.39	64.28	770.35	938.39	74.45	76.80	96.77	100.00

Scope (1-3) emissions definitions - 1: Direct emissions 2: Indirect emissions 3: Upstream and Downstream Value Chain emissions
In the case of sovereign emissions the concept of 'scopes' are more nascent compared to their use in corporate emissions reporting. In this instance, the sovereign emissions reported above represent the country territorial emissions plus imported emissions.
Trucost data is partly based on estimated figures. Therefore, the reporting should be estimated based on the best available data and used for guidance.

Coverage % based on number of holdings

* Weighted average calculated for equity and credit assets only

Carbon Analysis

abrdn Sterling Corporate Bond Fund

Portfolio Carbon Footprint

Economic Emissions Intensity

Economic Emissions Intensity (EEI) is a normalised carbon intensity metric, expressed as tCO2e/million USD invested. The portfolio weighting of each holding is multiplied by the ratio of the investee company's emissions normalised by the investee company's enterprise value including cash (EVIC). This is equivalent as dividing the portfolio Financed Emissions by the portfolio's AUM.

In this instance EVIC represents the total value of a company's equity and debt, allowing investors to normalise emissions by company size, based on equity and debt valuations. (i.e. typically larger company's will have a greater total emissions footprint but may be more carbon efficient on an intensity basis). Normalising emissions allows for more accurate comparisons between companies of different sizes and between funds of different sizes. However, volatility in EVIC will impact EEI results and EVIC volatility is not always perfectly tied to actual economic activity or total emissions. Moreover, normalising emissions by EVIC means that EEI does not perfectly reflect the carbon impact of an investment on the real-world.

We currently only apply EEI to equity and corporate bond assets.

How carbon intensive are the holdings in my portfolio?

Asset Class	Scope 1	Scope 2	Scope 3	Scope 1 and 2		Scope 1, 2 and 3		Data Coverage %		Weights at 31.12 %	
	Portfolio	Portfolio	Portfolio	Portfolio	Benchmark	Portfolio	Benchmark	Portfolio	Benchmark	Portfolio	Benchmark
Government bonds	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7.22	-
Corporate bonds	59.20	17.89	499.24	77.09	54.70	576.33	458.25	64.11	70.64	89.55	100.00
Weighted average* (tCO2e/\$m invested)	59.20	17.89	499.24	77.09	54.70	576.33	458.25	59.33	70.64	96.77	100.00

Scope (1-3) emissions definitions - 1: Direct emissions 2: Indirect emissions 3: Upstream and Downstream Value Chain emissions
Trucost data is partly based on estimated figures. Therefore, the reporting should be estimated based on the best available data and used for guidance.
Coverage % based on number of holdings
* Weighted average calculated for equity and credit assets only

Carbon Analysis

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Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Total Financed Emissions

Total Financed Emissions calculate the absolute total emissions, expressed as tCO₂e, that are attributed to the investor. The methodology used follows the Partnership for Carbon Accounting Financials (PCAF) and is recommended by TCFD. The attribution factor is calculated by taking the monetary size of the investment and dividing it by the investee company's enterprise value including cash. This attribution factor is then multiplied by the company's total emissions to calculate the final Financed Emissions result.

It is important to consider that Financed Emissions will be principally driven by the size of the investment made in a company and therefore, larger funds will tend to have higher Financed Emissions. Moreover, volatility in a company's EVIC can lead to changes in Financed Emissions between equity and credit investors.

We currently only apply financed emissions to equity and corporate bond assets.

What emissions are "owned" by the portfolio based on company ownership?

Asset Class	Scope 1	Scope 2	Scope 3	Scope 1 and 2		Scope 1, 2 and 3		Data Coverage %		Weights at 31.12 %	
	Portfolio	Portfolio	Portfolio	Portfolio	Benchmark	Portfolio	Benchmark	Portfolio	Benchmark	Portfolio	Benchmark
Government bonds	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100.00	-	7.22	-
Corporate bonds	15,835.73	4,785.16	133,539.15	20,620.90	16,121.46	154,160.05	135,060.27	64.11	70.64	89.55	100.00
Total Financed Emissions (tCO₂e)*	15,835.73	4,785.16	133,539.15	20,620.90	16,121.46	154,160.05	135,060.27	59.33	70.64	96.77	100.00

Total emissions owned increase with the size of the portfolio and are therefore not comparable across funds. EEI is the normalised (scaled) version of Financed Emissions. The benchmark calculation of Financed Emissions is equivalent as it uses the same fund size to determine the owned emissions. Fund financed emissions can therefore be compared relative to the benchmark.
*Calculated for equity and credit assets only

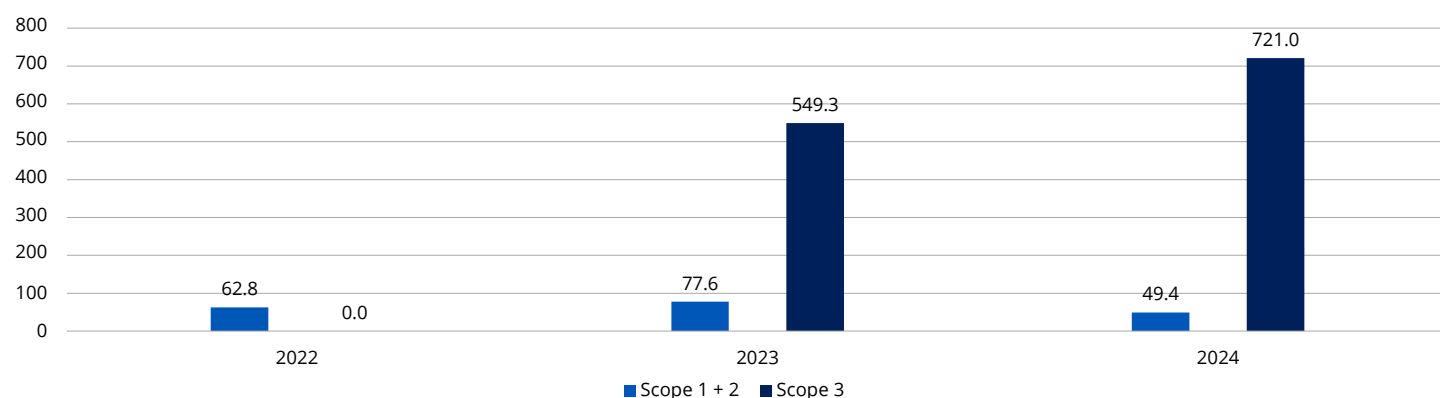
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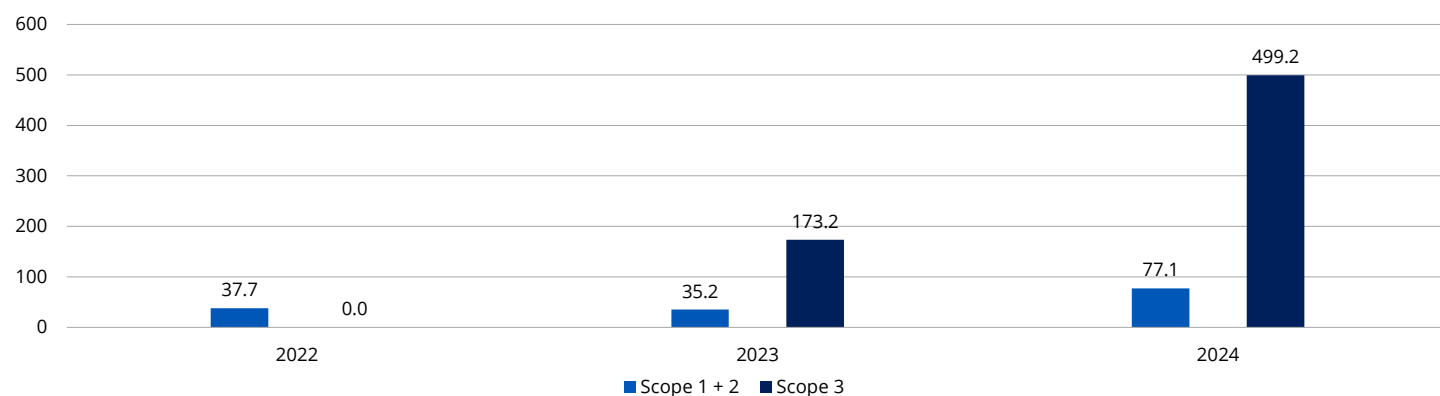
Historical Annual Comparison

Historical carbon footprint data is not recalculated, but rather reflects data available as of the date of historical reports. For 2022 year end, underlying Scope 3 emissions data was not available in full across all Scope 3 categories and was therefore excluded from our reporting. As the breadth of Scope 3 data coverage and provision has improved in subsequent years, the data has been included in our reporting. However, there continues to be considerable disclosure gaps across Scope 3 emissions categories at the corporate disclosure level, requiring data providers to rely on significant estimation.

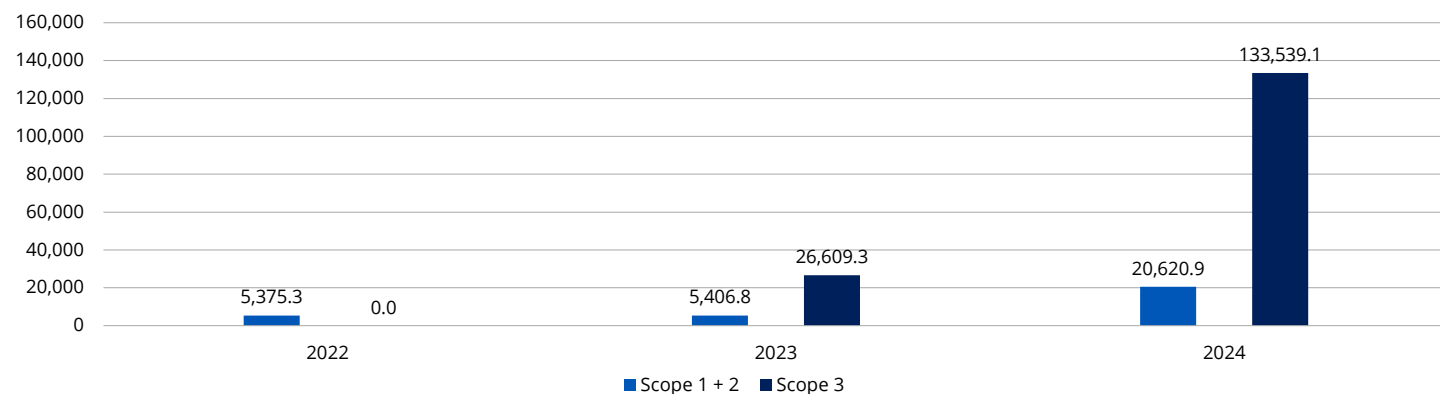
Portfolio Carbon Intensity (WACI)



Portfolio Carbon Footprint (EEI)



Greenhouse Gas Emissions (TFE)



Scope (1-3) emissions definitions - 1: Direct emissions 2: Indirect emissions 3: Upstream and Downstream Value Chain emissions
Trucost data is partly based on estimated figures. Therefore, the reporting should be estimated based on the best available data and used for guidance.

Climate Scenario Analysis

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Climate Value at Risk

Climate change scenario analysis provides a quantitative assessment of the financial impact of a range of potential future climate change pathways and related policy and technology scenarios on investments.

These impacts are driven by:

- Transition risks and opportunities: direct and indirect carbon costs, and abatement measures to counteract these costs; demand destruction for emissions-intensive goods, and demand creation for goods with abatement potential.
- Physical risks: impacts of chronic physical risks and increased physical damages to real assets caused by more extreme weather events; adaptation measures to help counteract these risks.
- Market dynamics: the ability to compete in the market and pass on climate-related costs.

Our analysis provides bottom-up quantification of the financial implications of these direct and indirect economic shocks. The analysis considers the specificities of each security and its sensitivity to those shocks, and thereby assesses the impact on annual value stream. These are consolidated into financial impacts at asset level and can then be aggregated to assess the impact at fund level.

Asset Class	Orderly Transition		Disorderly Transition		Hothouse World		Probability Weighted Mean	
	Portfolio	Benchmark	Portfolio	Benchmark	Portfolio	Benchmark	Portfolio	Benchmark
Corporate bonds	-0.2	-0.3	-0.0	-0.2	-0.2	-0.3	-0.0	-0.1
Weighted average impairment	-0.2	-0.3	-0.0	-0.2	-0.2	-0.3	-0.0	-0.1

Climate Scenario Analysis, Impact Drivers

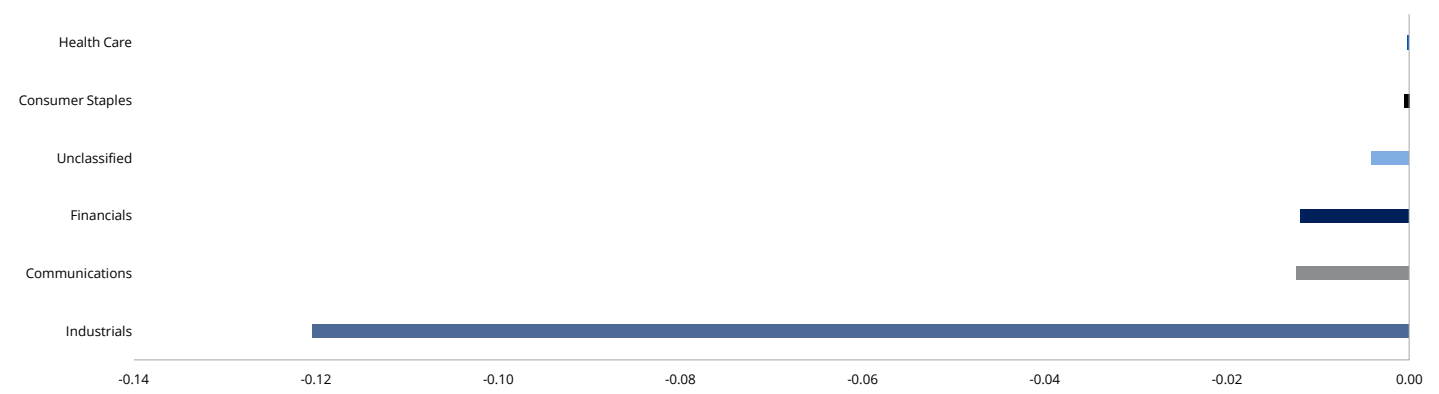
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Early Action ('orderly' transition)

Strict and immediate policy action is put in place and is steadily ramped up to achieve an orderly transition that results in a global temperature rise of 1.7°C by 2100.

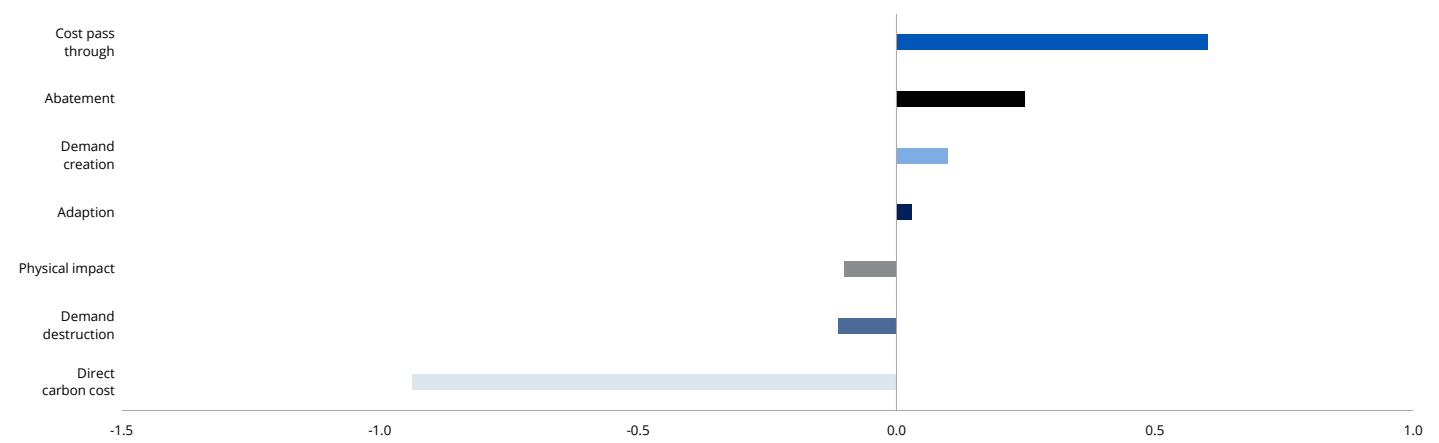
Strong, early policy will favour low-carbon companies in high-carbon sectors. Utility and Energy companies reliant on fossil-fuels will be negatively impacted. Electricity utilities will benefit from increased electrification, with renewable firms particularly benefitting. Industrials, Materials and Technology firms that produce raw materials or products required for the transition will see significant uplift in value. Auto firms (Consumer Cyclical) that have not moved to electric vehicle production will be heavily impacted.

Top / Bottom Performing Sectors



Portfolio Impact Drivers

Total value impact is derived from the sum of seven constituent impact drivers which can be disaggregated to show what is driving the uplift or impairment within a fund.



Climate Scenario Analysis, Impact Drivers

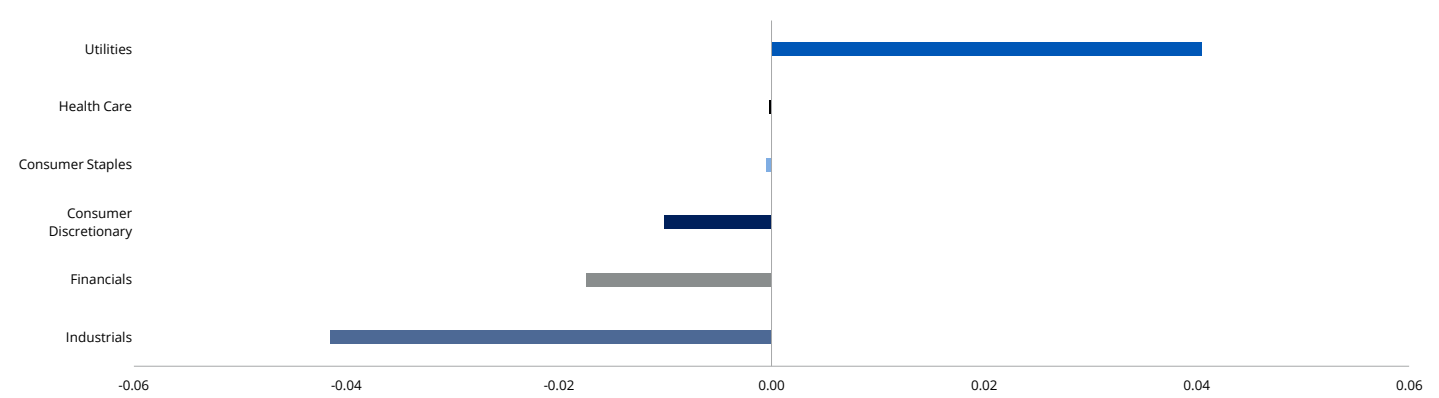
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Stricter Action ('disorderly' transition)

The implementation of strict policy action is delayed until 2030, resulting in a disorderly transition and a global temperature rise of 1.9°C by 2100.

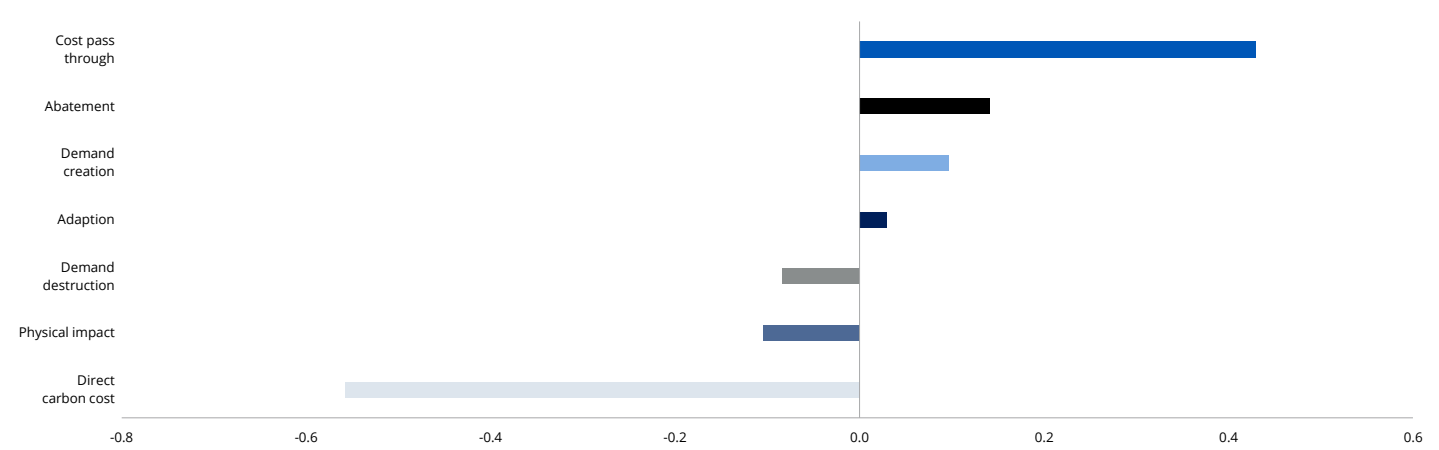
Delayed implementation of policy will initially favour high-emitting companies. But this is reversed in 2030 as they begin to be much more strongly taxed. Utility and Energy companies reliant on fossil-fuels will be negatively impacted. Electricity utilities will benefit from increased electrification, with renewable firms particularly benefiting. Industrials, Materials and Technology firms that produce raw materials or products required for the transition will see significant uplift in value. Auto firms (Consumer Discretionary) that have not moved to electric vehicle production will be heavily impacted.

Top / Bottom Performing Sectors



Portfolio Impact Drivers

Total value impact is derived from the sum of seven constituent impact drivers which can be disaggregated to show what is driving the uplift or impairment within a fund.



Source: abrdn
Aggregate value impact results are weighted by the weights in the fund or benchmark

Climate Scenario Analysis, Impact Drivers

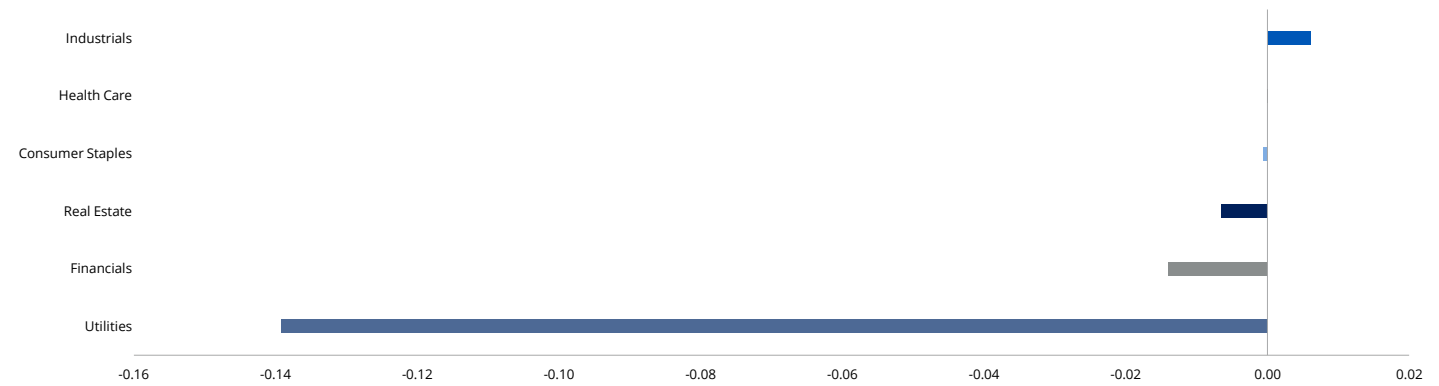
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Current Policy ('hot house world')

No new policy action is implemented beyond what is already in place, resulting in a global temperature rise of 3.2°C by 2100.

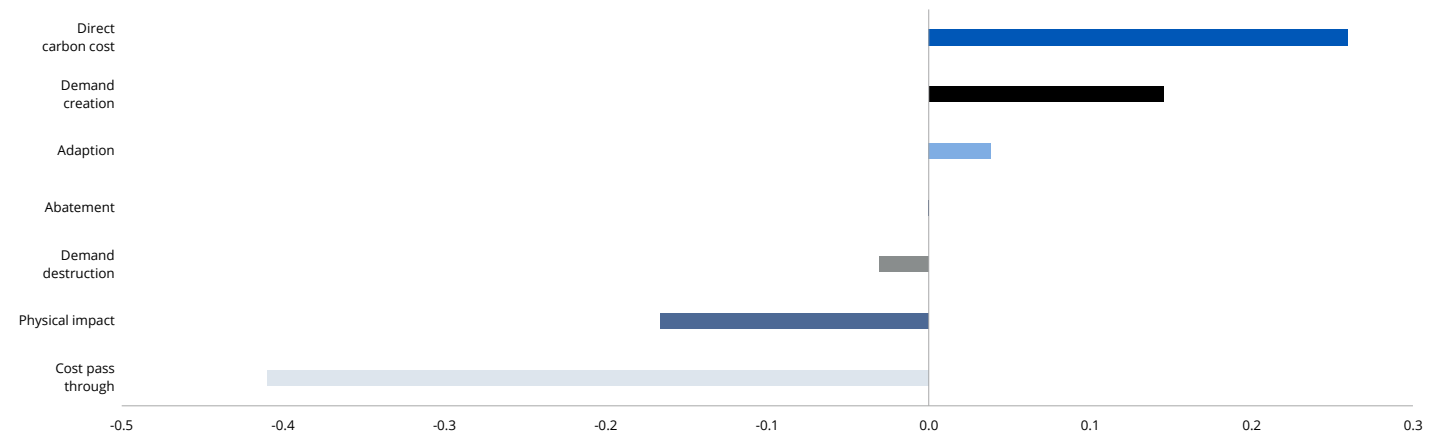
No new policy will favour high-emitting companies particularly in developing markets. Whilst electricity utilities will still benefit from increased electrification, renewable firms in many regions will not be able to compete. The demand for raw materials or products required for the transition will not increase, and the industry and building sectors will remain very carbon intensive.

Top / Bottom Performing Sectors



Portfolio Impact Drivers

Total value impact is derived from the sum of seven constituent impact drivers which can be disaggregated to show what is driving the uplift or impairment within a fund.



Source: abrdn
Aggregate value impact results are weighted by the weights in the fund or benchmark

Climate Scenario Analysis, Impact Drivers

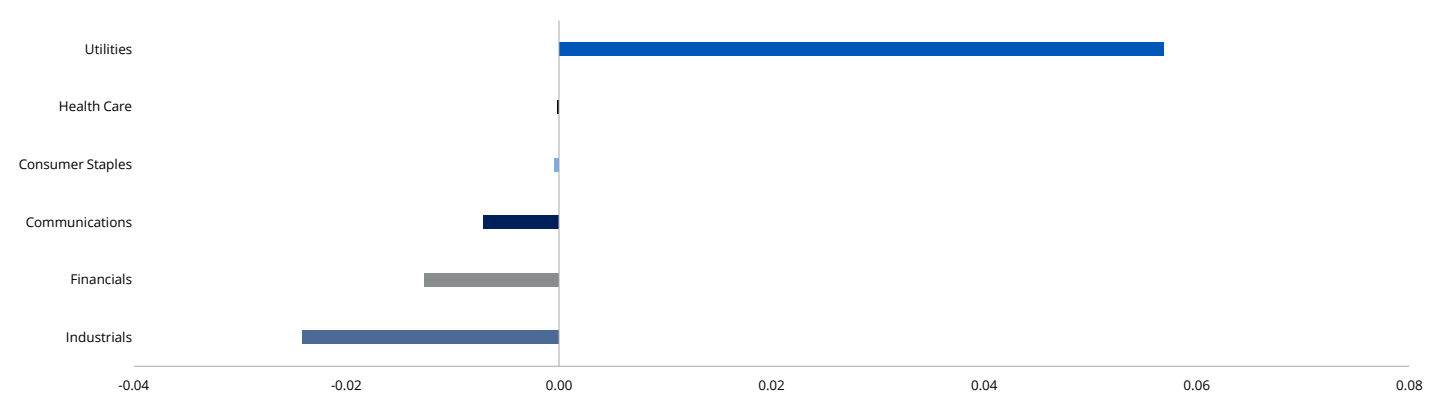
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Probability-Weighted Mean (house view)

Weighted average based on our latest assessment of probability across our full suite of 16 scenarios, resulting in a global temperature rise of 2.3°C by 2100.

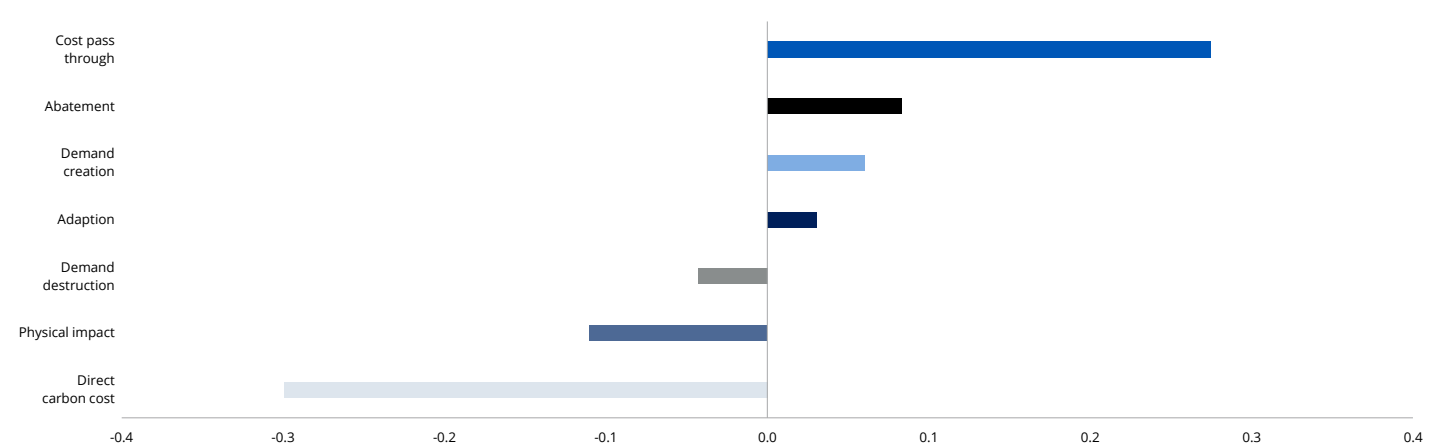
A slow start to the implementation of policy will initially favour high-emitting companies. But as taxation increase from 2030, this will be reversed. Utility and Energy companies reliant on fossil-fuels will be negatively impacted. Electricity utilities will benefit from increased electrification, with renewable firms particularly benefitting. Firms that produce raw materials or products required for the transition will see significant uplift in value. Low-carbon companies in high-carbon sectors will be favoured, but the uplift will be reduced compared to stronger policy scenarios.

Top / Bottom Performing Sectors



Portfolio Impact Drivers

Total value impact is derived from the sum of seven constituent impact drivers which can be disaggregated to show what is driving the uplift or impairment within a fund.



Source: abrdn
Aggregate value impact results are weighted by the weights in the fund or benchmark

Climate Scenario Analysis, Portfolio Alignment

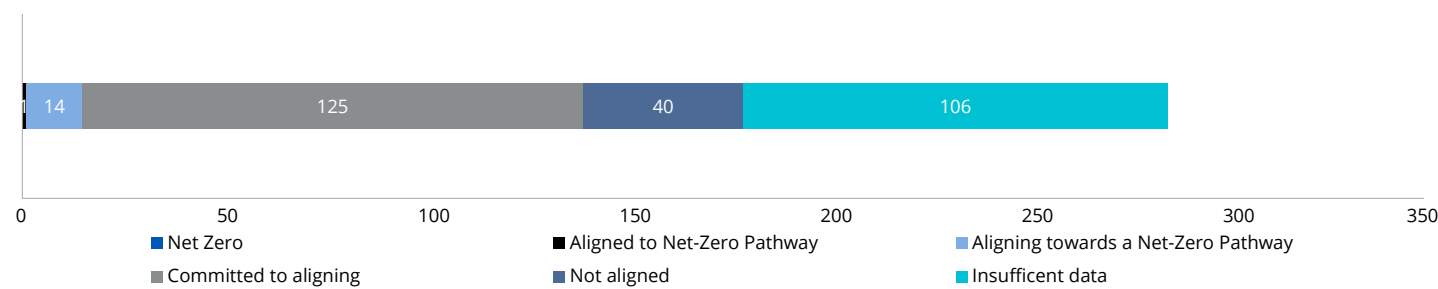
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NZIF Classification (positions)

Portfolio alignment intends to measure the level to which a portfolio aligns itself to the climate transition and achieving net-zero by 2050. The Net-Zero Investment Framework has proposed a method which categorises assets into various levels of alignment, recognising that companies transitioning may not be aligned to a net-zero pathway today but are transitioning their business towards a net-zero pathway. The Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net-Zero (GFANZ) has referred to this method as the 'maturity scale approach'. This method is also closely related to the 'binary target' method since a categorisation of "committed to aligning" or higher requires a company to have set a climate target.

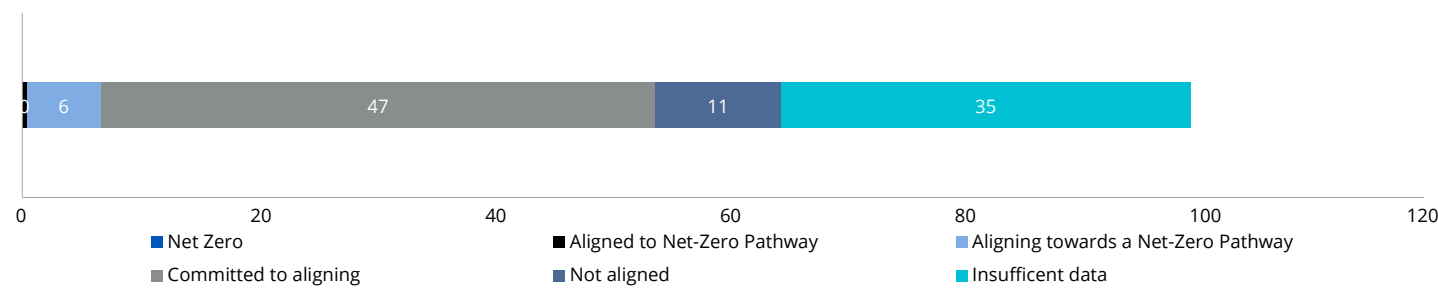
abrdn reports the maturity scale alignment method in three ways: (1) by positions, (2) on a weighted holdings basis, (3) on a Financed Emissions weighted basis. This provides a greater level of transparency.

NZIF maturity scale by positions simply categorises each individual position within a portfolio into a level of alignment.



NZIF Classification (weighted %)

NZIF maturity scale by weighted holdings reports the level of portfolio alignment across the categories on a weighted holdings basis.

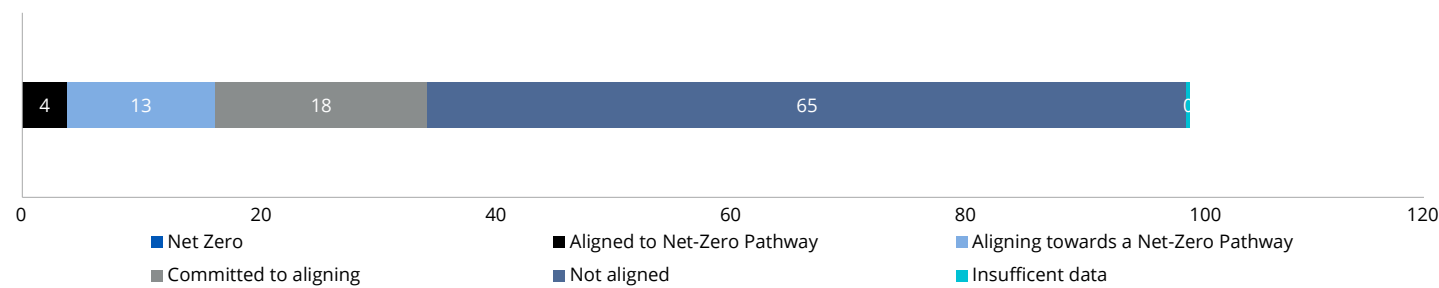


Climate Scenario Analysis, Portfolio Alignment

abrdn Sterling Corporate Bond Fund

NZIF Classification (Financed Emissions weighted %)

NZIF maturity scale by Financed Emissions weighting reports the level of portfolio alignment across the categories on a Financed Emissions weighted holdings basis.



Appendix

Glossary	16
Disclosure	17

Glossary

Data Point	Definition
Abatement	Abatement refers to the act of reducing the emissions of an activity (synonymous with decarbonisation).
Carbon dioxide equivalent (CO ₂ e)	This metric utilises global warming potentials of all the greenhouse gases as defined by the International Panel of Climate Change to calculate a single consistent metric for GHG impact in carbon dioxide equivalent terms.
Carbon emissions / Greenhouse Gas	Carbon emissions is used as a generic term for the main greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, F-gases) in our reporting. This is synonymous to the term carbon dioxide equivalent (CO ₂ e).
Carbon Emissions - Scope 1	Greenhouse gas emissions generated from sources which are owned or controlled by the company.
Carbon Emissions - Scope 2	Greenhouse gas emissions generated from the consumption of purchased electricity, heat or steam by the company.
Carbon Emissions - Scope 3	Greenhouse gas emissions that are a consequence of the activities of the company, but occur from sources not owned or controlled by the company, upstream and downstream of a company supply-chain, such as, the extraction and production of purchased materials and fuels, transport-related activities in vehicles not owned or controlled by the reporting entity, electricity related activities (e.g.T&D losses) not covered in Scope 2.
Carbon Intensive Sectors	We have determined the GICS Industry Groups: Utilities, Energy, Materials and Transportation as representing 'Carbon Intensive Sectors'.
Climate Change Scenario analysis	Climate change scenario analysis provides a quantitative assessment of the financial impact of a range of potential future climate change scenario pathways and related policy and technology scenarios on investments.
Climate Value at Risk	The associated financial risk measured based on a selected climate scenario.
Current Policy Scenario ('hot house world')	No new policy action is implemented beyond what is already in place, resulting in a global temperature rise of 3.2C by 2100.
Early Action Scenario ('orderly' transition)	Strict and immediate policy action is put in place and is steadily ramped up to achieve an orderly transition that results in a global temperature rise of 1.7 oC by 2100.
Economic Emissions Intensity (Carbon Footprint)	Economic Emissions Intensity (EEI) is the terminology used by PCAF - who introduced the use of EVIC. This metric is synonymous with 'carbon footprint'. EEI is a normalised carbon intensity metric, expressed as tCO ₂ e/million USD invested. The portfolio weighting of each holding is multiplied by the ratio of the investee company's emissions normalised by the investee company's enterprise value including cash (EVIC). This is equivalent to dividing the portfolio Financed Emissions by the portfolio's AUM.
Enterprise value including Cash (EVIC)	Is a denominator used in both the Financed Emissions and Economic Emissions Intensity, EVIC is equivalent to traditional financial measure of EV, however, with cash included. This concept was developed by PCAF to produce a consistent Financed Emissions metric that can be used equivalently across equity and debt investors.
Financed Emissions	This is the absolute tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO ₂ e) that is attributed or 'owned' by an investors, based on the value of the investment in an investee company. This metric is consistent to the PCAF Financed Emissions methodology, which is integrated into TCFD recommendations.
GICS / BICS	GICS: Global Industry Classification Standard is an industry taxonomy developed by MSCI and Standard & Poor's. BICS: Bloomberg Industry Classification System is an industry classification system developed by Bloomberg.
Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero	The Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero (GFANZ) is a global coalition of leading financial institutions committed to accelerating the decarbonization of the economy.
Net Zero Investment Framework	The Net-Zero Investment Framework was developed by the Institutional Investors Group on Climate Change (IIGCC), it produced an alignment metric that is now being referred to as the maturity scale approach (as defined by GFANZ).
NZIF Maturity Scale Alignment	This alignment metric enables investors to cover the Binary Target Approach in more detail, categorising companies into levels of alignment as defined by the IIGCC NZIF recommendations.
PCAF	Partnership for Carbon Accounting Financials.
Physical Risk	Climate risks associated to the physical impacts of climate change, these can be broadly categorised into acute risk (short-term impacts) and chronic risk (long-term impacts).
Probability Weighted Scenario	Weighted average scenario based on our latest assessment of probability across our full suite of 16 scenarios, resulting in a global temperature rise of 2.3C by 2100.
Stricter Action Scenario ('disorderly' transition)	The implementation of strict policy action is delayed until 2030, resulting in a disorderly transition and a global temperature rise of 1.9C by 2100.
Transition Risk	Climate risks associated with the transition to a low-carbon economy, these include, demand creation, demand destruction, technology risk, carbon price risk, market risks etc...
Weighted Average Carbon Intensity (WACI)	Weighted average carbon intensity (WACI), is a normalised carbon intensity figure, expressed as tCO ₂ e/million USD revenue. The portfolio weighting of each holding is multiplied by the ratio of the investee company's emissions normalised by the investee company's revenue.

Past performance is not a guide to future results. The value of investments, and the income from them, can go down as well as up and clients may get back less than the amount invested.

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