

# **FUND OVERVIEW**



Fund Manager(s)	Sebastien Beguelin, George Crowdy, Mike Fox
Fund Size	£334.10m
Domicile	United Kingdom
ISA	Eligible
Benchmark Index	MSCI ACWI
Investment Association Sector	IA Global
Currency	GBP
Initial Charge	0.0%
Fund Management Fee (FMF):	M Acc: 0.72%

#### Share Class M (Accumulation)

Unit Launch Date	25.02.20
Minimum Investment	£100,000
SEDOL	BL6V058
Mid Price	174.20]
Historic Yield	0.47%

# ROYAL LONDON GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE EQUITY

31.03.24

# Overview

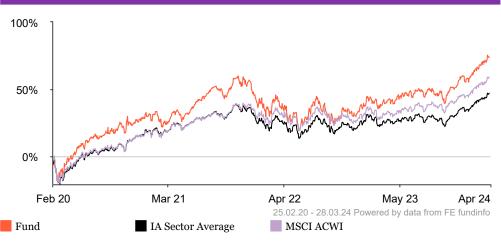
The Fund's investment objective is to achieve capital growth over the medium term, which should be considered as a period of 3-5 years, by predominantly investing globally in the shares of companies listed on stock exchanges that are deemed to make a positive contribution to society. Investments in the Fund will adhere to the Investment Manager's ethical and sustainable investment policy. The Fund's performance target is to outperform, after the deduction of charges, the MSCI All Countries World Net Total Return Index GBP (the "Index") by 2.5% p.a. over rolling 3-year periods.

## Year-on-year performance

	31.03.23 to 31.03.24	31.03.22 to 31.03.23	31.03.21 to 31.03.22	31.03.20 to 31.03.21	31.03.19 to 31.03.20	
Share Class M (Accumulation)	24.1%	-3.0%	15.0%	38.4%	-	
Cumulative Performance (as at 31.03.24)						
	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	
Share Class M (Accumulation)	8.8%	18.7%	24.1%	38.4%	-	

# IABC class M (Reculturation) 0.0% 10.7% 24.1% 50.4% IA Sector Average 7.8% 15.2% 16.7% 23.2% 62.7% MSCI ACWI 9.2% 16.1% 20.6% 33.6% 73.2% Quartile Ranking 2 1 1 1

# **Performance Chart**



# Past performance is not a guide to future performance. The value of investments and the income from them is not guaranteed and may go down as well as up and investors may not get back the amount originally invested.

Source: RLAM and FE fundinfo as at 31.03.24. Fund performance is shown on a mid to mid price basis, net of fees and gross of taxes, with gross income reinvested unless otherwise stated. Benchmark performance is shown gross of fees and taxes.

# George Crowdy

Co-manager Fund Manager tenure: 25.02.20



Mike Fox Co-manager Fund Manager tenure: 25.02.20

ALPHA MANAGER RATING A

Sebastien Beguelin

Fund Manager tenure:



The historic yield reflects distributions declared over the past twelve months as a percentage of the mid-market price, as at the date shown. It does not include any preliminary charge and investors may be subject to tax on their distributions. Reported yields reflect RLAM's current perception of market conventions around timing of bond cash flows.

Co-manager

01.04.21

### **Fund Commentary**

March saw positive performance from risk assets, with equity markets around the world rising, reflecting an anticipation that the US economy will continue to experience a soft landing coupled with hopes that interest rates will be able to decline later this year. Markets remain underpinned by the stimulus that is being provided to build out of US infrastructure and the hope AI will generate significant productivity improvements.

The MSCI ACWI Index rose by 3.3% in sterling terms during March, helped by an encouraging corporate reporting season. Overall, the best performing sectors globally in March included less sustainably focused sectors such as energy and materials, while consumer discretionary, consumer staples and information technology sectors underperformed although were still positive.

The fund outperformed its benchmark and was ranked in the second quartile vs its peer group. The top contributors to performance included US water infrastructure distributor Core & Main and European specialty chemical distributor IMCD which both rose following better than expected results. Key detractors included Asian Life Insurer AIA Group and creative software provider Adobe. Asian Life

Insurer AIA was weak as a result of ongoing investor concerns around the outlook for economic growth in China, which remains one of its key markets while investors took profits in Adobe following concerns of increasing competition in its creative cloud business.

Key trades included adding to our positions in Adobe and MercadoLibre where we felt recent share price weakness presented the opportunity to add to high quality business models at attractive valuations.

The views and opinions expressed herein are those of the manager at the time and are subject to change without notice.

# Sector Breakdown

	Fund
Industrials	24.4%
Information Technology	24.2%
Health Care	15.8%
Financials	13.8%
Consumer Discretionary	11.7%
Consumer Staples	3.4%
Utilities	2.3%
Communication Services	2.2%
Real Estate	1.5%
Materials	0.8%

# **Geographical Breakdown**



# Top 10 Holdings as at 31.03.24

	Fund
Microsoft Corporation	4.4%
Schneider Electric SE	3.4%
Westinghouse Air Brake Technologies Corporation	3.3%
Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc.	3.1%
Texas Instruments Incorporated	3.0%
Visa Inc. Class A	2.9%
Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co., Ltd. Sponsored ADR	2.9%
ASML Holding NV	2.8%
MercadoLibre, Inc.	2.8%
Hologic, Inc.	2.7%
Total	31.3%
No of Holdings	44

Every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of any information provided but no assurances or warranties are given. Nothing in this factsheet should be construed as advice and is therefore not a recommendation to buy or sell shares.

#### ESG Terms and Definitions

**ESG Integration:** The systematic and explicit inclusion of environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors into investment analysis and investment decisions.

**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.

**Sustainable Fund Objective:** A product that has sustainable investment or a reduction in carbon emissions as its objective.

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

#### ESG Metrics Explanation

**Carbon Footprint:** Exposure to high emitters in the portfolio, expressed in tCO2e/\$M invested. Financed emissions (explained above) are divided by the portfolio value, the same approach for listed companies and private issuers is applied in this metric.

**Financed Emissions:** The emissions from activities in the real economy that are financed through lending and investment portfolios, expressed in tCO2e. 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.

#### Weighted Average Carbon Intensity: Portfolio's exposure to carbon-intensive companies, expressed in tCO2e / \$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.

# **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. Further details of the Funds Sustainable Investment process can be found in the ethical and sustainable investment policy at www.rlam.com

# ESG Characteristics

	Yes	No
ESG Integration	~	
Promotes Environmental or Social Characteristics		~
Sustainable Fund Objective	~	
Additional Exclusions*	~	

# \*RLAM has a controversial weapons exclusion across all investments

# **Our Fund Restrictions**

<b>**</b>	Adult Entertainment	$\checkmark$
Y	Alcohol	~
*	Animal Welfare	~
۲	Armaments	~
Ø	Controversial Weapons	~
<u>_</u> )	Fossil Fuels	~
۰.	Gambling	~

•	High Environmental Impact	~
	Human Rights Issues	~
<b>Ø</b>	Nuclear Power	~
*	Nuclear Weapons	~
	Tobacco	~

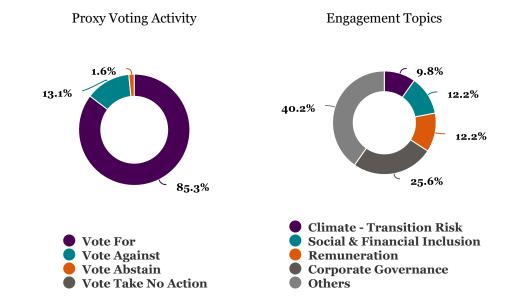
**Details of avoidance and/or exclusion criteria:** https://www.rlam.com/globalassets/media/literature/policies/rlam-ethical-and-sustainable-investment-policy.pdf

# ESG Metrics\*

	Portfolio	Benchmark	Difference
Carbon Footprint	12.2	52.3	-76.8%
Carbon Footprint Coverage	97.9%	99.0%	
Financed Emissions	5,051.89		
Financed Emissions Coverage	97.9%		
Weighted Average Carbon Intensity	42.3	114.4	-63.0%
Weighted Average Carbon Intensity Coverage	100.0%	99.2%	

#### \*data as at 31/03/2024

### Fund Stewardship Activity\*



\*Data as at 31st December 2023 for the calendar year 2023. Data includes activity led by the Investment Manager and Responsible Investment teams.

# **CONTACT DETAILS**

#### **Private Investors**

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#### Important Information

This is a financial promotion and is not investment advice.

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.

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Source: RLAM, FE fundinfo and HSBC as at 31.03.24, unless otherwise stated. Yield definitions are shown above.

#### Our ref: FS RLAM PD 0124

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# Key Concepts to Understand

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

**Efficient Portfolio Management:** A list of approved investment techniques, including the use of derivatives, used to protect against excessive risk, reduce cost or generate extra income or growth. **Equities Securities:** that represent an ownership interest in a company.

**Environmental, social and governance:** A list of predefined criteria that determines how a company operates in terms of sustainability and overall corporate governance.

# **Fund Risks**

**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.

**EPM Techniques:** 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:** 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.

# **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.