

# AI Sustainable Stewardship UK Equity Income Fund



## LEI

213800E5NACRMG3X5283

## FUND SIZE

GBP 62m

## AS AT

31/12/2023

## TCFD Fund Disclosures

**This Climate-related Disclosure report outlines the potential climate impact of this investment fund based on the climate metrics recommended by the Taskforce on Climate-related Financial Disclosure (TCFD).**

## Fund Objectives & Policy

**Objective:** The Sub-Fund aims to: (i) deliver an income return in excess of the FTSE® All-Share Index, annualised over a rolling three year periods, whilst also aiming to grow your investment and provide an average annual return greater than the FTSE All Share Custom Index over rolling 5 year periods by investing in shares of UK companies; and (ii) make investments with an overall positive alignment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals ("**SDGs**") as defined by the Investment Manager's Sustainable Stewardship Investment Policy ("**SSIP**").

Both the income and return aims are measured before the deduction of Sub-Fund charges and tax.

**Core investment:** At least 85% of the Sub-Fund will be invested in shares of companies domiciled or incorporated in the UK.

**Other investments:** The Sub-Fund may also invest in other shares, investment grade bonds issued by companies or governments, other funds (including funds managed by Aviva Investors companies), derivatives, cash and deposits.

Derivatives may be used for investment purposes or to gain a particular market exposure which would otherwise be difficult or costly to achieve, or to manage the Sub-Fund's cash flows in a cost-effective manner. Derivatives may also be used to reduce risk, such as foreign currency risk within the Sub-Fund.

The benchmark provider does not endorse the product, nor confirm the accuracy of the information in this report.

## Climate Risk Strategy

Climate factors are integrated into the investment process and detailed company analysis incorporated into the investment selection methodology. The fund applies additional exclusions and climate considerations in addition to ESG integration of baseline exclusions for the investment selection process. Details of the additional exclusions and climate considerations applicable to this fund, can be found under "Environmental Exclusions" of the Stewardship Funds section in the Aviva Investors Responsible Investment Policy available here. [Responsible Investment Policy](#).

The additional layers of selection and governance processes aim to ensure that a company is sufficiently aligned to the sustainable goals and climate ambitions as set out by the Funds and the investment policy applied. For the investments selected within the portfolio, we proactively engage with these companies on an annual basis with the aim of positively influencing outlined as sustainability priorities and climate ambitions whilst helping to create competitive returns. We manage climate risk across our investments and seek to decarbonise our portfolios consistent with a Net Zero pathway where possible.

## Climate Risk Management

Aviva Investors Global Services Limited, the funds appointed Investment Manager, has ESG-specific controls to perform ongoing oversight and compliance, which contributes to, and supports, the investment functions in the delivery of strong first-line risk and controls management and governance.

Climate change activity for Aviva Investors is incorporated within key business operations such as, Investment and asset management, Engagement and voting, Product development, Client take-on and engagement and Supplier selection and oversight.

Climate factors have the potential to cause harm to our clients by reducing the value of their investments. Inefficient allocation of capital to companies with high external costs, such as those engaged in highly polluting or socially disruptive activities, can lower asset values over time, reducing returns to investors.

For further information on how these risks are mitigated please see page 90 of [Aviva's Climate-related Financial Disclosure](#).

## Climate Risk Governance

Aviva Investors has a strong system of governance, with effective and robust controls.

Aviva Investors UK Fund Service Limited, the funds Authorised Corporate Director, has an independent governance structure to Aviva Investors which allows the Board, management committee and senior management to integrate climate related risks and opportunities into its strategy, decision making and business processes.

When Aviva Investors UK Fund Service Limited appoints an investment manager to manage a product they are required to demonstrate that effective Climate, ESG and responsible investment policies are in place and climate risk management is embedded into the investment process.

For further information on how we integrate ESG please refer to the Aviva Investors UK Fund Service Limited's Responsible Investment policy which is available on our website and in the prospectus. Please see our Responsible Investment Policy available here. [Responsible Investment Policy](#).

Please see page 90 of [Aviva's Climate-related Financial Disclosure](#).

## Fund Greenhouse Gas Emissions

The table below show the key measures used to evaluate the Greenhouse Gas emissions impact of the fund.

Climate Metrics	Unit of measurement	31 Dec 2022		31 Dec 2023		Trend
		Data Coverage %	Amount	Data Coverage %	Amount	
Total scope 1 and 2 greenhouse gas emissions	tCO2e - shown in thousands	96%	1.74	98%	2.04	▲ +17.07%
Total carbon emissions	tCO2e - shown in thousands	96%	1.74	98%	2.04	▲ +17.07%
Total carbon footprint	tCO2e / £million invested	96%	31.89	98%	36.07	▲ +13.10%
Weighted average carbon intensity	tCO2e / \$million Revenue	98%	59.82	98%	54.25	▼ -9.31%

Trend analysis may not always be available, meaningful or relevant depending on the basis of the data and the comparison. There are various factors that could influence trends and direction including macro-economic factors.

\* In 2023 we have updated our methodology for Total carbon footprint and Sovereign intensity to be reported in pounds sterling (£) rather than US dollars (\$). This reflects the functional and presentational currency of our Product reporting. The comparatives have been re-presented on a consistent basis.

PCAF score for scope 1 and 2 greenhouse gas emissions is 2 for Equities and Bonds.

**Data sources** – please see information on data sources shown later in this document. **Note** – Zero balances may be a result of rounding.

**Carbon Emissions Metrics Explained:** We use the following metrics to measure the collective carbon impact of the fund’s holdings, calculated according to TCFD standards, which in turn are based on the internationally accepted [GHG Protocol](#):

Metric	TCFD Definition, based on GHG Protocol
Scope 1 Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Metric Tonnes)	Direct GHG emissions that occur from sources that are owned or controlled by the company.
Scope 2 Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Metric Tonnes)	GHG emissions from the generation of purchased electricity consumed by the company.
Scope 3 Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Metric Tonnes)	GHG emissions that are a consequence of the activities of the company, but occur from sources not owned or controlled by the company. For Scope 3 see below.
Total Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Metric Tonnes)	Total of Scopes 1 and 2. For Scope 3 see below.
Total Carbon Footprint (Metric Tonnes per £1M AUM Contribution)	Total carbon emissions for a fund, expressed in tCO2e / £million invested.
Weighted Average Carbon Intensity (Metric Tonnes per \$1M Revenue)	Volume of carbon emissions per million dollars of revenue (carbon efficiency of a portfolio), expressed in tonnes CO2e/\$M revenue.

## Top 3 Carbon Emitting GICS sectors

**For Equities and Corporate Bonds, we can break emissions down by sector. We use the Global Industry Classification Standard (GICS) system, and measure all greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, not just carbon.**

Metrics have been prepared for £58m of the Equity and Corporate Bonds.

The 3 largest (scope 1 & 2) carbon emitting Global Industry Sectors of the fund in Equities and Corporate Bonds are:

GICS Sector	WACI tCO2e / \$m Revenue*	Contribution to Portfolio WACI%	Assets holding £m	Assets exposure %**
Utilities	364	55	5	8
Materials	239	27	3	6
Health Care	24	7	9	15

**Data sources** – please see information on data sources shown later in this document. **Note** – Zero balances may be a result of rounding.

\*Carbon Intensity data is available for scope 1 & 2 emissions only.

\*\*Sector information is unavailable for 3% of the fund’s Equity & Corporate Bonds Assets.

## Total Carbon Emissions: Scope 3

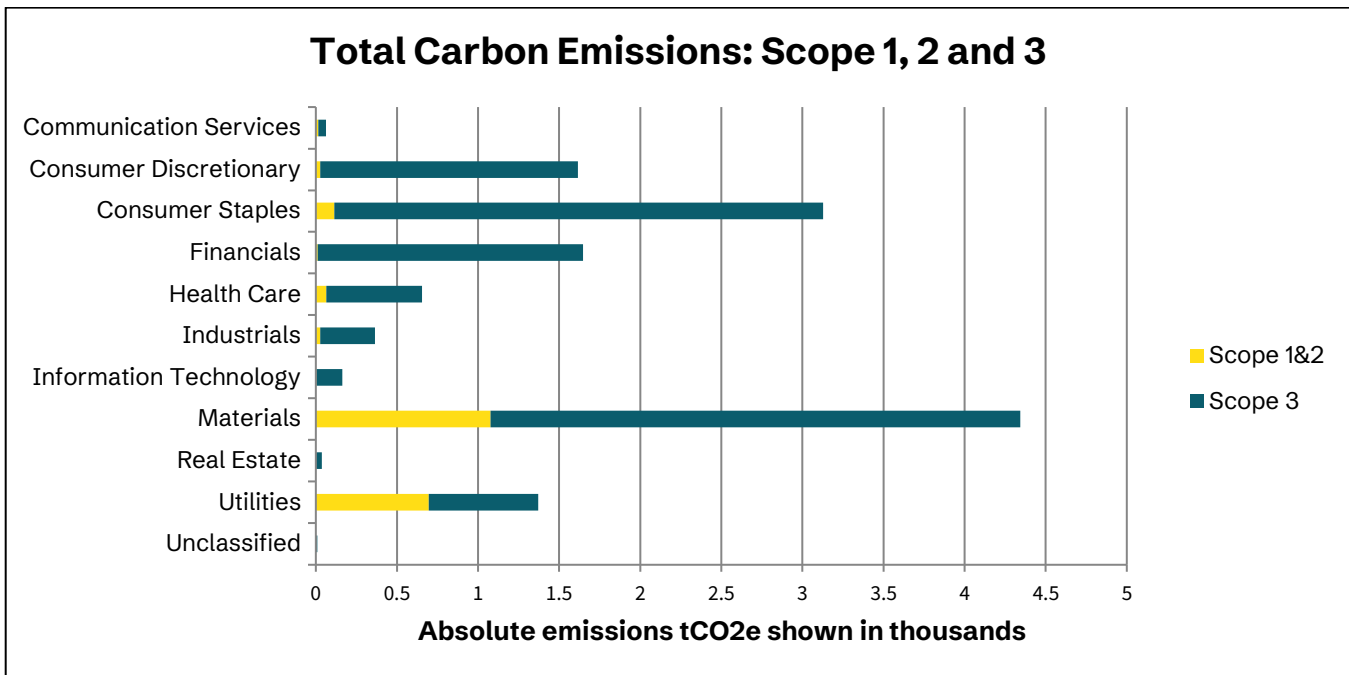
### Scope 3 Disclaimer

Estimating Scope 3 emissions of an investment fund is subject to a significant degree of measurement uncertainty. Scope 1 & 2, and Scope 3 metrics are calculated within the limits of available data. All the Scope 3 emissions data is estimated by MSCI, our market data provider. The majority of Scope 1 & 2 data is gathered from reported company data. The two metrics

are reported separately to minimise the effects of double counting associated with Scope 3 emissions. Double counting occurs due to underlying investments being held in companies who may share value chains.

## Total Carbon Emissions: Scope 1, 2 and 3

This sector analysis of the Scope 1 & 2, and Scope 3 emissions data illustrates that the largest proportion of carbon emissions are Scope 3 emissions. Scope 3 emissions are outside of a single company’s direct control. Addressing Scope 3 emissions will need collective action from industry, governments and global organisation, as well as individual company action.



If all Scope 3 emissions associated with the Equities and Corporate Bonds held in this investment fund are added, they would amount to 11.36 tCO2e (shown in thousands), including double counting emissions across company value chains. The data coverage is 98%. The data quality score is 4, as all Scope 3 emissions are estimated.

## Product Scenario Alignment

Indicating the likely implied temperature rise associated with a fund’s investments is inherently complex, it is a rapidly evolving metric which has to include a host of assumptions by its very nature, guidance on how best to calculate this forward looking indicator is improving all the time, but currently we do not feel it appropriate to publish this data as it risks being potentially misleading and in any event would be heavily caveated and only indicative of a range of potential temperature rises and subsequent associated scenario’s given the uncertainty of forecasts for the global economy to decarbonise. We intend to publish the implied temperature rise (ITR) of our investment products in subsequent years once we have designed a suitably robust methodology to represent the most likely possible future decarbonisation pathway of a representative basket of assets for a fund based on its sector, asset class and/or investee company specific projected decarbonisation pathways and other relevant carbon intensity data such as the likes of progress against the Science Based Target Initiative.

In the meantime the most decision useful information to enable comparison between funds based on their implied temperature rise is to use independent research that compares funds using the same methodology, this is freely available from climate data providers such as MSCI as per their ESG fund ratings and climate search tool <https://www.msci.com/our-solutions/esg-investing/esg-fund-ratings-climate-search-tool>. Comparing funds ITR scores from different firms which may be using proprietary models and differing assumptions could produce misleading results in that near identical funds could show very different numbers based on the method and bullishness of the model used and assumptive inputs.

## Climate Value-at-Risk

Climate Value at Risk (Climate VaR) has emerged as a measure to estimate the potential financial losses that a company or portfolio of assets could incur as a result of climate change, we are currently evaluating the robustness of this measure and intend to publish it for future iterations of our fund level TCFD reports once we are comfortable the data has sufficient coverage and quality and once we have fully understood the potential limitations and weaknesses of the metric so we can present it in a suitable way. This includes ensuring the appropriate time horizon of the indicator and the appropriate scenarios are reflected in the output in a way that ensures it is not potentially misleading.

## Other Metrics

There are countless options rapidly developing that are designed to convey climate risks and opportunities, we will keep this metrics under review and where they are deemed to be decision useful we will endeavour to incorporate them into our future reporting suite in conjunction with formal adoption of additional data by TCFD and other disclosure standards boards and regulations.

## Climate Metrics

Our key climate figures show the carbon emissions for each investment fund. Metrics are disclosed for Equities and Corporate Bonds and Sovereigns. There are three types of emissions we consider: Scope 1 (direct), Scope 2 (indirect) and Scope 3 (from a company's value chain).

Climate metrics include estimates of emissions and climate change, for more details, our reporting approach and cautionary statements are provided in the Aviva plc Climate-related Financial Disclosure 2023 report available at <https://www.aviva.com/sustainability/reporting/>.

## Useful Link

[Aviva's Climate-related Financial Disclosure](https://www.aviva.com/sustainability/reporting/)

## Data sources

### Use of MSCI Data

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Refer to Aviva's reporting policies and criteria in note 14 of the Aviva plc Climate-related Financial Disclosure 2023 report, available at <https://www.aviva.com/sustainability/reporting/>, for further details on the use of MSCI data, we have used climate and other data from MSCI ESG Research LLC or its affiliates or information providers.

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