

# CLIMATE STEWARDSHIP FUND FOR CHARITIES

## INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE

The Climate Stewardship Fund seeks income and investment growth over a minimum period of 5 years by investing ethically using Christian principles in the shares of UK listed/quoted companies. The Fund aims to have a weighted average carbon intensity substantially lower (at least 15% lower, but better if possible) than that of the FTSE All Share Index.

## ETHICAL INVESTING

Christian ethics are a first principle matter for Epworth. We aim to ensure that our investment decisions are consistent with the Christian faith. As such, all investments chosen by the fund must adhere to Epworth's established ethical pillars. To qualify for inclusion, each asset undergoes a meticulous due diligence process conducted by Epworth's experienced investment team and subsequently presented to the Asset Allocation Committee for evaluation. Continuous, rigorous monitoring of investments is conducted by the Epworth team. This involves regular interactions with the management of respective companies and third-party funds. The Responsible Investment Committee at Epworth is actively consulted in instances where specific stewardship concerns arise. For illustrative instances of fund investments and their qualification criteria, please refer to the accompanying case study map.

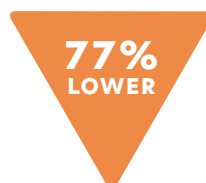
## FUND SUMMARY

Fund Type	Charity Authorised Investment Fund (CAIF)
Inception Date	28 May 2020
Fund Size (30 September 2024)	£56.3m
Valuation & Dealing Dates	Daily
Minimum Investment	£1,000
ISIN	GB00BMD3GL27 (Income) GB00BMD3GM34 (Accumulation)
Benchmark	FTSE All Share Index
Management Fee	0.65% p.a.
Ongoing Charges Figure	0.81% p.a.
Dilution Levy	0.20%
Report Frequency	Quarterly
Historic Yield per Annum (Estimated to 30 September 2024)	3.6%

## TOP 10 COMPANY HOLDINGS

AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2024		WEIGHTING (%)
1	HSBC Holdings	6.1
2	Unilever	5.8
3	AstraZeneca	5.3
4	Barclays	3.8
5	Relx PLC	3.0
6	GSK PLC	3.0
7	Segro REIT	2.9
8	Tesco	2.8
9	Natwest Group Plc	2.6
10	Keywords Studios Plc	2.2

## CARBON FOOTPRINT ANALYSIS



### FUND VS FTSE ALL-SHARE

At 30 September 2024

Source: Clarity AI

## COMMENTARY

The UK market was one of the better performers globally during the third quarter of 2024, supported by sterling strength and a rotation into UK markets as prospects for UK growth brightened and the general election result delivered political certainty after a volatile few years. The UK market has been largely out of favour with investors for several years through the turmoil of Brexit and economic weaknesses, but that has left the market looking cheap relative to global equities.

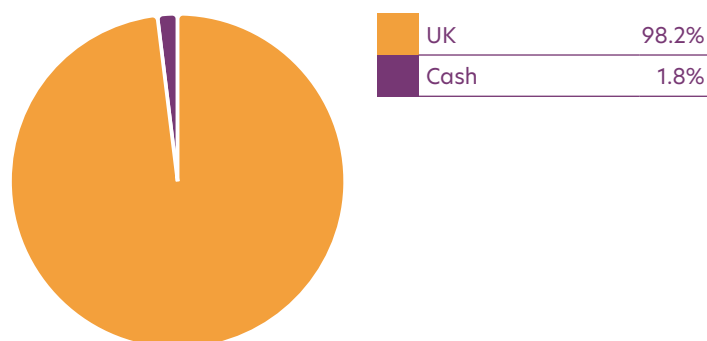
Epworth's UK funds outperformed their benchmark, the FTSE All-Share Index, over the quarter, meaning the fund has delivered a very strong year of returns. At a sector level, the greatest contributor to this relative performance in the quarter was the ethical exclusion of oil and gas stocks from the UK funds. This sector fell about 15% to drag down benchmark performance, as oil supply was strong with few conflict related interruptions whilst economic demand weakened.

On a stock-specific level, oil and gas exclusions were also the largest contributors to relative performance. Excluding Shell and BP alone contributed around 1.6% of outperformance compared to the benchmark. In addition, strength in conviction stock holdings also aided relative performance, with a strong earnings update from Volution and a takeover approach for Rightmove. There were no changes to the UK Conviction portfolio during the quarter, after extensive repositioning in the first half of the year.

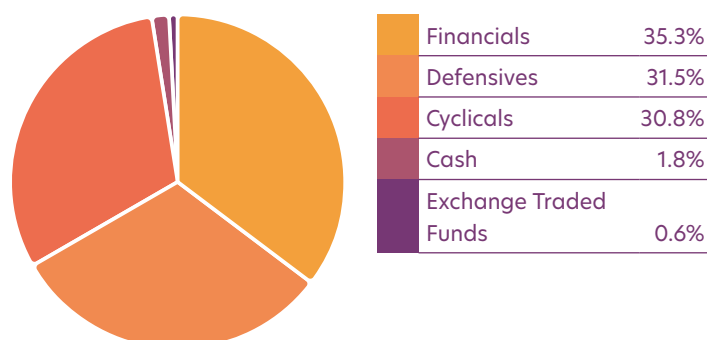
## PERFORMANCE

	1 year %	3 years % p.a.	Since 28.05.20 % p.a.
<b>To 30 September 2024</b>			
Fund	18.6	4.7	8.3
Benchmark	13.4	7.4	10.3
<b>12 Months to 31 March</b>			
	2024 %	2023 %	2022 %
Fund	18.6	11.6	-13.2
Benchmark	13.4	13.8	-4.0

## SPREAD OF INVESTMENT BY MARKET



## SPREAD OF INVESTMENTS BY SECTOR



## NEXT STEPS

Please visit our website  
[epworthim.com](https://www.epworthim.com)

Or contact  
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## RISK WARNING

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