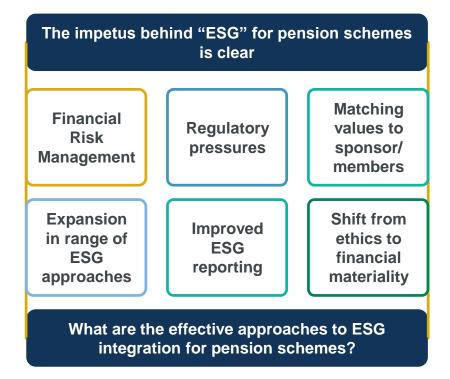


# **ESG – 7 Habits of Highly Effective Pension Scheme Integration**

Catherine Ogden, Manager - Sustainability & Responsible Investment, LGIM

Bruce White, Head of Dynamic Strategies, LGIM

### ESG Integration – why is clear, the question is how?





13 June 2019

### What are the regulations?

The DWP regulations aim to strengthen the policies and disclosures regarding:



"Financially material considerations over the appropriate time horizons, including how those considerations are taken into account in the selection, retention and realisation of investments"

**Stewardship** 

Stewardship obligations, such as voting and engaging with investee companies

### What's Changed?

- ESG issues are not "to do with personal ethics or optional extras" → role of default fund (DC)
- Look ahead 'appropriate time horizons'
- Report on implementation of SIP, not on breaches
- All schemes must have a stewardship policy

### Requirements

- All trustees of schemes over 100 members: update SIP by 1 October 2019
- Trustees of 'dual section' and DC pension schemes must also:
  - explain default investment strategy
  - produce implementation statement by 2020



### Our checklist for trustees

### Thought piece to help navigate the regulatory changes

#### 1. Build knowledge on the relevant ESG issues

- · "Financially material" considerations cover "environmental, social and governance considerations", including climate change
- ESG issues are not "to do with personal ethics, or optional extras" (as opposed to ethical investing, for example)



2. Define your investment beliefs and incorporate them into the Statement of Investment Principles (SIP)

- · What is the scheme's governance structure?
- Review ESG policies, risks and opportunities throughout the entire investment process



ESG Checklist



#### 3. Review strategy and asset allocation

- What is the impact on the scheme's assets and liabilities?
- What is the impact on the default and self-select investment strategies?



- Incorporate ESG issues into the selection and monitoring of asset managers
- How are asset managers assessed on their ESG activities, including stewardship?
- Do you know what your asset managers are investing in?

### 5. Report publicly

- · Check to see if you are reporting in line with the recommendations of the Taskforce on Climate-related Financial Disclosures
- Use this information to engage your members



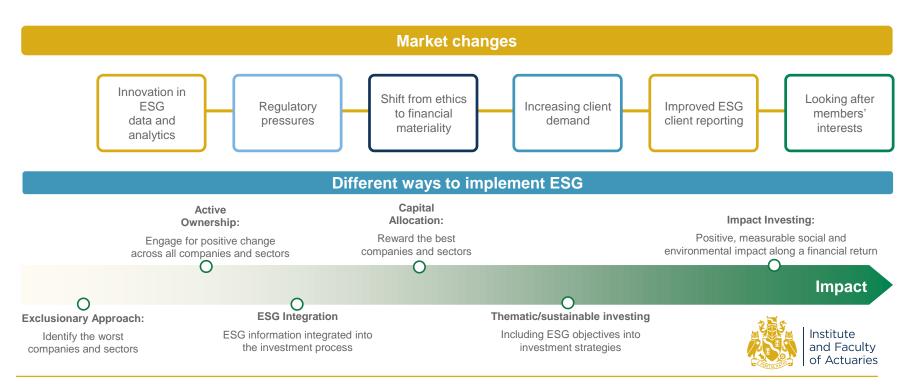
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### How to think about ESG

If this is something you want, how do you express it?



### **Questions for discussion**

	yes or no		yes or no
ESG is about delivering desired financial outcomes rather than moral or ethical considerations?		The long-term nature of the liabilities implies a long-term investment horizon?	
Are ESG risks present and can they be identified and managed?		ESG may help identify the winners of the future?	
ESG risks can also have a harmful impact on the environment and society?		Integrating ESG risks does not require a trade-off with performance?	
Engagement adds value?		Investors have a responsibility to the broader market?	



### Tailor to governance capabilities of the scheme

Increasing number of clients seeking to put in place RI policies



- Trustee training
- Beliefs sessions
- Investment solutions



	Pension scheme A	Pension scheme B	Pension scheme C	Pension scheme D	Pension scheme E
Responsible investment policy					
Differentiates between responsible investment (RI) and ethical investment	•	•	•	•	•
Includes policy statement on climatic change risk	•	•	•	•	•
Incorporates RI into asset allocation and manager selection decisions	•	•	•	•	•
Voting policy					
Delegates voting to investment managers	•	•	•	•	•
Sets additional bespoke voting guidelines on specific matters	•	•	•	•	•
Ask managers to report back on exceptions to policy	•	•	•	•	•
Ask managers to report back on voting activity	•	•	•	•	•
Corporate engagement policy					
Delegates engagement activity to investment managers	•	•	•	•	•
Employs additional third-party engagement overlay provider	•	•	•	•	•
Engages directly with businesses on specific matters	•	•	•	•	•
Measurement					
Aims to measure impact on RI policy	•	•	•	•	•
Sets specific goals around RI penetration, carbon emissions etc	•	•	•	•	•
Communication					
RI policy made available to members	•	•	•	•	•
RI policy publicly available	•	•	•	•	•
Resourcing					
Employs in-house staff dedication to RI	•	•	•	•	•
Collaboration: codes and initiatives					
Signatory to UN principles of responsible investment	•	•	•	•	•
Signatory to UK stewardship code on corporate governance	•	•	•	•	•
Member of institutional investors group on climate change	•	•	•	•	•
Support other organised collaborative groups	•	•	•	•	•



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### Effective stewardship is core to an effective ESG policy

### **Effective for pension schemes**

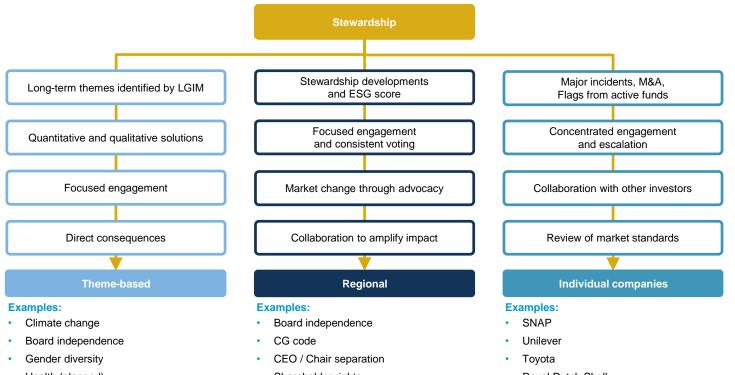
- Asset manager does not need explicit mandate to engage on material ESG issues
- 2. Small schemes can delegate to asset manager
- 3. Only option for traditional index funds investments
- 4. Proven way to improve company behaviour

### What to ask asset managers

- Scope of Voting limited to "G"?
- Consistency of voting & engagement aims (incl. ESG)
- Level of disclosure
- Extent of reliance on proxy advisers
- Willingness to collaborate with other investors
- Engagement with key actors (regulators, stock exchanges, index providers) to positively influence company behaviour



### Planned and proactive stewardship



Health (planned)

• Shareholder rights

• Royal Dutch Shell

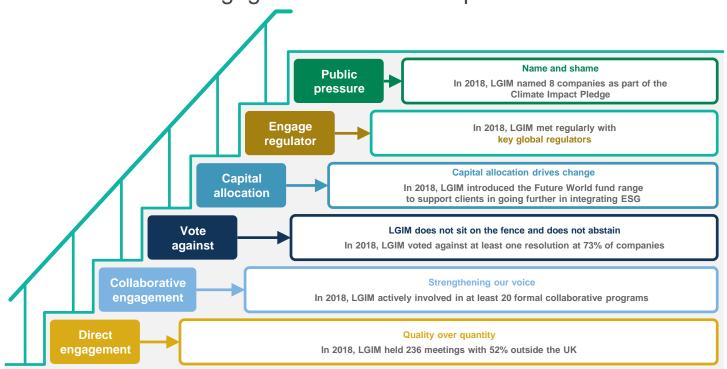
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# **Engaging with consequences**Tools for effective engagement - escalation procedure





12 13 June 2019

### **Case study: BP and Paris Agreement**

Focused engagement in collaboration with other major shareholders

#### LGIM's concerns



Climate change and the energy transition will disrupt the energy market

#### LGIM's actions



Co-filed shareholder proposal:

- Is each new material capex investment consistent with the Paris goals?
- What metrics and targets the company is BP adopting as a result?

#### **Outcome for all**



Board of BP support the resolution

LGIM attended the AGM in person with 99% of shareholders vote in support

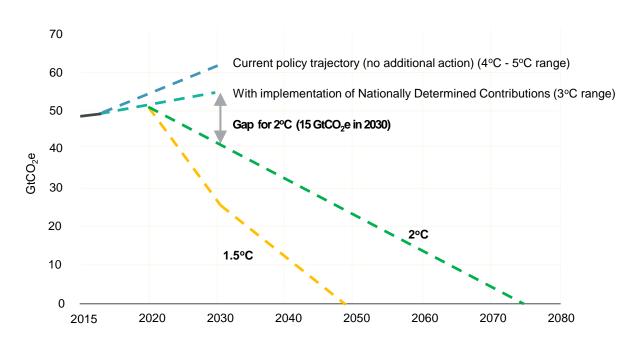








## Currently a large gap between current COP21 NDCs and what is required to reach the Paris temperature targets



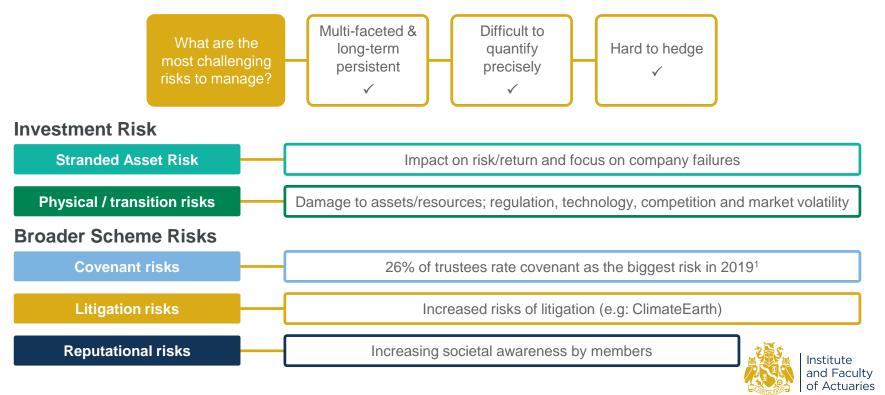
### The problem

1/3 of equities and bonds linked to high carbon sectors which may lose value during the low-carbon transition<sup>1</sup>

The challenge is now to accelerate action to 2030 to close the gap. Requires immediate action across whole economy. Must peak emissions in next few years and go to "net zero" in next 50-60 years



### Climate change risk – relevant for pension schemes



### Climate change risk – responses for pension schemes

Multi-faceted & long-term persistent

Difficult to quantify precisely

Hard to hedge

### **Effective Responses**

Incorporate into
Strategic Decision Making
& Review

Ensure Asset Managers driving change

- TCFD?
- Policy support (e.g. G20/PM letter)
- Climate Action 100+

Build out reporting of exposure as data reliability improves

1. Carbon Footprint / ESG Scoring



xx% lower carbon reserves than the benchmark

Equivalent to xxx fewer barrels of oil consumed



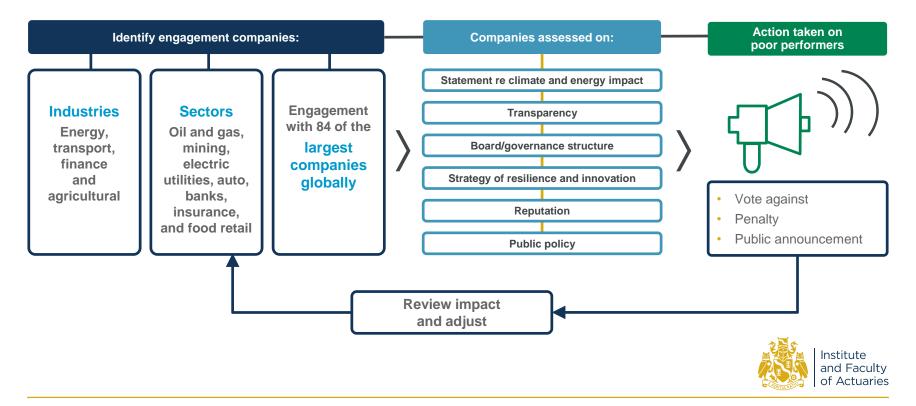
xx% CO2 emissions than the benchmark

2. Scenario Analysis / Stress tests

Consider de-risking portfolios by reducing exposure to exposed companies



### **Climate Impact Pledge**

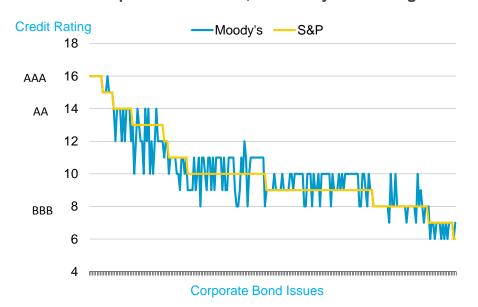




### 4. Measure what matters

### **Credit Ratings – a consistent metric**

Largest corporate bond issues in iBoxx \$ Investment Grade
Corporate Bond ETF, ranked by S&P ratings

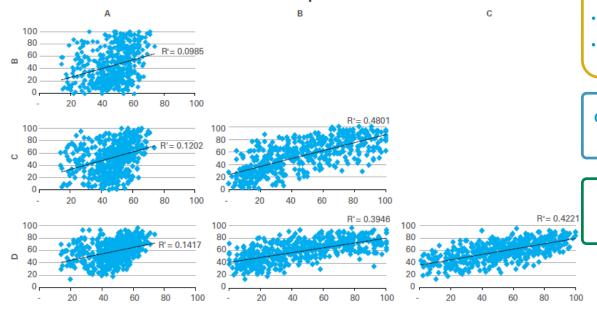


- Credit ratings broadly consistent across providers
- Consistent in purpose
- Established frameworks for interpretation and market pricing



### **ESG** Ratings – inconsistent metric

## Correlation of four ESG score providers on 500 of largest listed US companies



- Poor consistency in ESG ratings
- Choice of data points and weighting system
- Reflecting different purpose and beliefs of providers

Goodhart's Law: "when a measure becomes a target, it ceases to be a good measure"

"a good measure is the target"



13 June 2019 Source: LGIM data.

### Rationale for proprietary ESG scores

### Drives consistent message from investors

#### Wider market approach



ESG scores developed for active, repackaged for index



Lack of consideration to raise market standards overall



Hundreds of confusing indicators



Most companies'
disclosure patchy for a
wider universe



No direct incentive or disincentive



No dialogue with investors to improve



The purpose and impact is unclear



No feedback loop to improve process with the market

#### **LGIM** approach



Focus on market wide materiality



**Transparent** 



Simple and rules based



Promotes better disclosure



Direct link to capital allocation



Fully integrated with voting engagement



Improved reporting for end investors

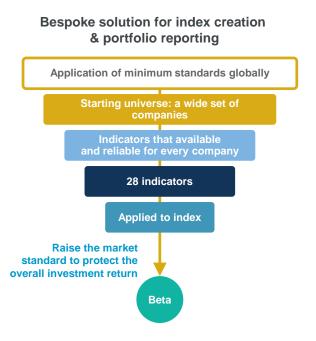


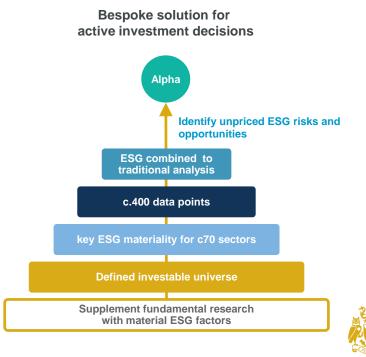
Continuous improvement in score development



### Designing data driven approaches

ESG data derived for two different purposes



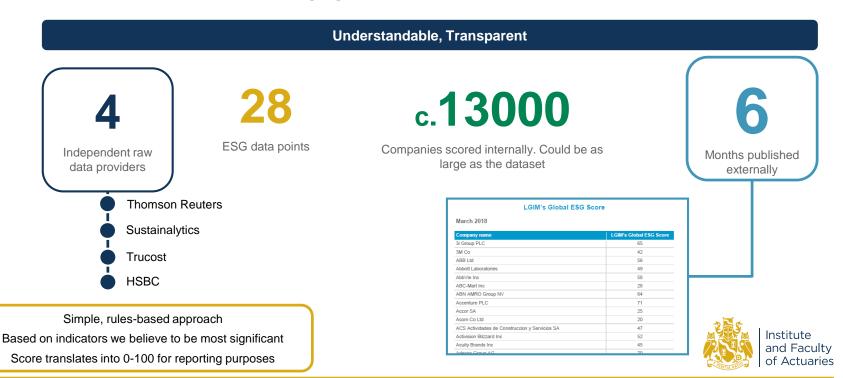


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### **LGIM ESG Score**

Data driven approach drives engagement and index construction







### **Negative screens & divestment**

What should drive pension negative screens?

Minimum Standards of Globally Agreed Business Practices

Present potentially severe risk

Member expectations

**Ethics & Politics** 

Why are you doing ESG?





#### **Coal Mining**

Coal use and extraction is responsible for significant levels of planet-warming greenhouse gas emissions. The inability of 'pure' coal companies to diversify puts this business model at risk



#### **Controversial Weapons**

Controversial weapons are those that have an indiscriminate and disproportional humanitarian impact, in many jurisdictions their use is illegal



#### **United Nations Global Compact**

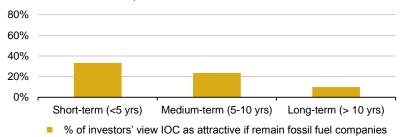
The UNGC's principles set globally accepted standards on human rights, labour, environment and corruption. Companies who have violated these principles consistently for three years or longer will not be held within the Future World funds

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### Divestment of fossil fuels – a role in the future?

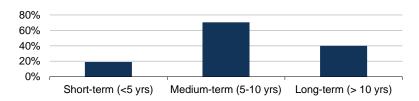
#### Integrated Oil Companies – investors view

#### Remain fossil fuel companies



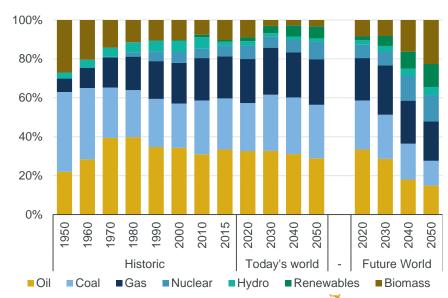
#### Transition to business model aligned with Paris Agreement

#### Transition to business model aligned with Paris Agreement



% of investors' view IOC as attractive if transition to business model aligned with Paris Agreement

LGIM – projected evolution of primary energy consumption by type





# The alternative to blanket negative screens and divestment

- What does 'tilting' achieve?
- Using a Power Tilt (e.g. 2)
- And an ESG Score at -1 to +1 scale

Formula: (1+ESG Score)<sup>2</sup> × Market Cap Weight

- Apply stock and sector constraints
- Reweight

Company ESG Score (0-100)	Company ESG Score (-1 to +1)	Tilted Weight (Initial 1%)
90	0.8	3.2%
75	0.5	2.3%
50	0	1%
25	-0.5	0.3%
10	-0.8	0.0%

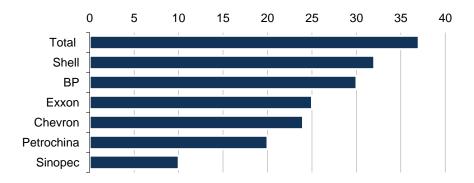


### **Effectiveness of ESG Tilting versus Divestment**

#### Effective in reducing carbon footprint

	Carbon emissions intensity vs. benchmark	Fossil Fuel reserves vs. benchmark
MSCI World ex-Fossil Fuel	-14%	-100%
FTSE All World Climate Factor	-48%	-73%
L&G Solactive ESG Developed	-49%	-70%

#### **LGIM ESG Scores**



### Effective in changing company behaviour

- Retain 'seat at the table' for engagement
- Retain voting rights
- Retains threat of divestment





### 6. Performance

# Have ESG strategies been effective in increasing returns?

### Historical and academic evidence



#### **Academic Studies**

The overwhelming share of 2,250 peer-reviewed studies found: a positive relationship between ESG and corporate financial performance<sup>1</sup>

The largest meta-study on sustainability showed that 90% of studies indicate sound sustainability standards lower the cost of capital of companies<sup>2</sup>

versus Market Cap				
	Excess Returns (p.a.)	Start date		
L&G Solactive ESG	0.48%	2012		
MSCI ESG Universal	-0.24%	2009		

0.14%

'Core' ESG Indices in Developed Equities - Performance of ESG



2009

FTSF FSG

### Will ESG strategies be effective in increasing returns?

#### **Weight of Money**

As asset owners explicitly move to ESG strategies

#### **Market Focus**

ESG focus shifting from ethics to financial materiality

As active managers focus on ESG factors more

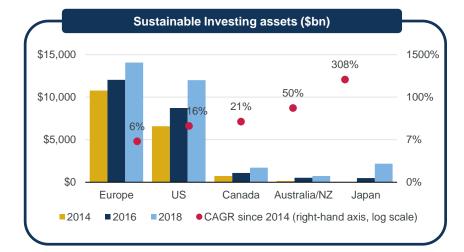
#### **Climate Transition**

Under most transitional scenarios, changes to policy and technology, will see negative impacts on high carbon risk investments

#### Who cares wins

Consumer demand shifting to sustainable products

Regulators reflecting this societal change



8 1 % of global consumers feel strongly that companies should help improve the environment









### Effective portfolio perspectives for ESG

#### Focus on materiality

- Credit risk greater risk driver for DB (allocation & duration)
- In particular, persistent downgrade and default cycle



Moody's - 11 sectors with \$2.2 trillion debt have elevated environmental risk exposure

S&P - environmental and climate concerns were materially relevant in 717 (10%) cases from July 2015 to August 2017

Fitch - 22% of current ratings influenced by ESG factors

#### Incorporate into proven, mainstream strategies LGIM Future World Multi-Asset Fund – Asset Allocation Global Private Equity \* Developed Small Cap UK Equity All Cap Global Real Estate \* Global Infrastructure \* North America Equity Euro Inflation-Protected **Bonds** US Inflation-Protected Alternatives Bonds 13.8% Europe ex UK Equity Index-Linked Gilts **Equities** Overseas Sov. Debt 38.0% Japan Equity Gilts Alternative Credit 14.5% Asia Pacific ex Investment Japan Equity High Yield Bonds **Grade Credit** 19.2% **Emerging Market Equity Emerging Sovereign** Debt (Local) **Emerging Sovereign GBP** Corporate Bonds Debt (USD) **EUR Corporate Bonds** USD Corporate Bonds LGIM Future World Index Funds Institute Traditional Index Funds and Faculty

Under development

ESG reflected through active strategy

of Actuaries

### **Effective "ESG" Integration for Pension Schemes**

- 1. Build Knowledge & Establish Beliefs
- 2. Effective Engagement
- 3. Climate Risk Management
- 4. Measure what matters
- 5. Use Negative Screens and Divestment Selectively
- 6. "Past performance is not a guide to future returns"
- 7. Portfolio perspectives materiality and mainstream solutions



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