

# **Ecofin** Global Utilities and Infrastructure Trust plc (EGL)



As of 31/08/2024

#### Performance (to 31 August 2024)

(all total returns in £)	1 M %	3 M %	6 M %	1 Y %	3 Y %	5 Y %	Since Admission*
Net Asset Value	1.2	1.1	17.0	14.3	18.8	48.6	107.8
Share Price	1.4	1.9	24.6	12.9	10.3	50.9	131.3
S&P Global Infrastructure Index	2.2	2.5	12.3	14.8	27.5	21.9	54.6
MSCI World Utilities Index	2.4	3.0	17.1	17.4	20.8	25.7	70.6
MSCI World Index	0.5	3.5	6.7	20.6	29.9	75.8	149.2
FTSE All-Share Index	0.4	2.4	12.5	16.9	23.8	37.3	62.0
FTSE ASX Utilities	0.3	12.3	10.9	13.9	32.6	77.0	51.4

<sup>\*26</sup> September 2016.

Source: Bloomberg. Performance is shown on a total return basis, i.e., assuming reinvestment of dividends.

## Yield, diversification, low volatility

Ecofin Global Utilities and Infrastructure Trust plc (EGL) is a closed-end investment company domiciled in the UK whose shares are listed and traded on the London Stock Exchange. The Company carries on its business so that it qualifies as an authorised UK investment trust. EGL invests primarily in the equity and equity-related securities of utility and infrastructure companies which are listed on recognised stock exchanges in European countries, the United States and other developed, OECD countries although it may invest up to 10% of its assets in companies whose equity securities are listed on stock exchanges in non-OECD countries. It may also invest up to 10% of its assets in debt securities, which are typically traded on over-the-counter markets.

Investment objective: The Company's investment objectives are to achieve a high, secure dividend yield on its investment portfolio and to realise long-term growth in the value of the portfolio for the benefit of shareholders while taking care to preserve capital.

Yield: The Company targets a dividend yield of 4% on net assets using gearing and, if necessary, reserves to augment the portfolio yield.

Gearing: EGL may borrow up to 25% of its net assets to earn a higher level of dividend income and to offer shareholders a geared return on their investment. The Company pursues a flexible gearing policy, borrowing in major currencies at floating rates of interest under a facility which allows the Company to repay its borrowings at any time without penalty.

#### **Dividends**

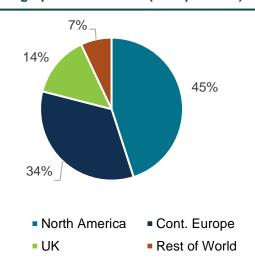
With effect from the interim dividend paid in February 2024, the quarterly dividend rate increased to 2.05p per share (8.20p per annum) from 1.95p per share. Quarterly payment dates fall on the last business day in February, May, August and November.

## As of 31 August 2024

Net assets	£232,443,467
NAV per share	211.55p
Share price	184.50p
Premium/(Discount)	(12.8)%
Gearing	12.9%
Yield*	4.4%

<sup>\*</sup>Yield is based on dividends paid (last 4 quarterly dividends) as a percent of the share price. Please also see 'Dividends' below.

#### Geographical allocation (% of portfolio)



© 2024 Ecofin www.ecofininvest.com



#### **Sector allocation**

# 10 Largest holdings

% of Portfolio
38
29
17
5
<u>11</u>
100

	% of Portfolio	Country
National Grid	6.8	UK
NextEra Energy	6.5	US
American Electric Power	4.4	US
SSE	4.1	UK
Edison Int'l	4.0	US
Enel	4.0	Italy
RWE	3.5	Germany
ENAV	3.4	Italy
E.ON	3.3	Germany
Constellation Energy	<u>3.1</u>	US
Total (38 holdings)	43.0	

## Manager's comments

- EGL's NAV increased by 1.2% over the month and is +12.6% calendar year-to-date (to 31 August). The S&P Global Infrastructure and MSCI World Utilities indices increased by 2.2% and 2.4%, respectively (all total returns) (+9.5% and +13.4%, respectively year-to-date). Global equities, as measured by the MSCI World Index, increased by 0.5% in sterling terms, a number which masks some extreme moves intra-month around US economic data points and an unexpected rate rise by the Bank of Japan which exposed how much leverage has driven markets, all exacerbated by light summer trading volumes. As August markets recovered from their early slump, there was notably better breadth with more sectors, including EGL's, participating in the upswing, helped by the clearest signals yet that the Federal Reserve is preparing to cut rates in September. The benchmark 10-year US Treasury yield, which had been trending lower since late May's 4.6% level, dipped to 3.8% early August and closed the month at 3.9%. With expectations mounting that US rate cuts may be delivered more quickly than growth or inflation would permit in the UK, sterling reached its highest level (1.33 on 27 August) against the USD since March 2022, pressuring the NAV by c. 1.0%.
- US (Edison International, NextEra Energy, Vistra) and European (Enel, Engie, Iberdrola, National Grid) utilities provided most of the portfolio gains as the earnings season concluded positively, peak power demand records were broken in Texas, and US and multi-national utilities drew relief from the declining likelihood of a 'red sweep' in November's US presidential election. Falling yields are a powerful force for these long duration businesses too. Iberdrola's acquisition of fully regulated Energy NorthWest (ENW) makes it the second largest electricity networks operator in the UK and the asset offers an attractive regulated asset base growth rate of 8-10% p.a. to 2030. The combination should be accretive from day 1 and allow for synergies given ENW networks are located beside Iberdrola's Scottish Power transmission & distribution networks.
- Chinese names, on the other hand, continued to languish and RWE's shares were weak on rumours it was considering buying a 49.9% stake in Calpine, owned by a private equity consortium and one of the largest US electricity generators with mostly thermal baseload capacity. The likely size of the deal and the deviation it would represent from RWE's stated strategic plans were cause for concern, and there was a knock-on impact on E.ON's shares given RWE holds a circa 15% stake which could be used for financing. RWE management has registered investors' distaste for such a transaction but the cloud over the shares is unlikely to be dispelled until the issue is solved (by another company buying the Calpine stake or by RWE purchasing a smaller portfolio of gas assets). In our view, macro conditions are more and more supportive for RWE earnings this year and we expect upgrades and /or beats.

• Gearing was 12.9% at the month's end.

© 2024 Ecofin www.ecofininvest.com



TICKER: EGL SEDOL: BD3V464 ISIN: GB00BD3V4641

#### **Key risk factors**

All financial investments involve an element of risk. The value of your investment and the income derived from it will vary and there can be no assurance that the investment manager will be able to invest the Company's assets on attractive terms, generate investment returns for investors or avoid investment losses.

The Company focusses on investments in two sectors, the utilities and infrastructure sectors, and accordingly an investment in the Company's shares may be regarded as representing a more concentrated risk than the investment in the shares of a broadly diversified, generalist investment trust or fund.

The Company may employ gearing. Whilst the use of gearing should enhance the NAV per share when the value of the Company's underlying assets is rising, it will have the opposite effect when the underlying asset values are falling.

The Company invests to a considerable extent in securities which are not denominated or quoted in Sterling, the Company's base currency. Movements in exchange rates will, therefore, have an effect, favourable or unfavourable, on the return on an investment in the Company's shares.

## Gearing

The Company may make use of gearing to enable the Company to earn a high level of dividend income and to offer Shareholders a geared return on their investment. The Directors believe that the use of gearing is justified given the nature of most of the companies in which the Company invests; that is, companies which provide essential services, operate in regulated markets and within stable regulatory frameworks, and pay dividends. Whilst the use of gearing should enhance the net asset value (NAV) per share when the value of EGL's underlying assets is rising, it will have the opposite effect when the value of its assets is falling. As a result, the volatility of the Company's NAV will increase when gearing is being used which may also increase the volatility of the Company's share price. The nature and term of any borrowings are the responsibility of the Directors, while the amount of any borrowings is at the discretion of the Investment Manager.

EGL may borrow amounts equal to 25% of its net assets. Any borrowings will be flexible, short-term borrowings in major currencies at floating rates of interest under a Prime Brokerage facility with Citigroup which allows the Company to repay its borrowings at any time without penalty.

For more information, please see www.ecofininvest.com

# **Company details**

Portfolio manager: Jean-Hugues de Lamaze
Date of admission: 26 September 2016
Traded: London Stock Exchange

Dealing currency: Sterling

Issued share capital: 109,875,598 shares
Investment management fee: 1% p.a. of NAV on first

£200mn; 0.75% of NAV

thereafter

#### Financial calendar

Year-end: 30 September
Results announced: May (half-year);
December (final)

. . .

AGM: March

Dividends paid: Last day of February, May, August & November

#### **NMPI** status

The Company conducts its affairs so that its securities can be recommended by IFAs to ordinary retail investors in accordance with the FCA's rules in relation to non-mainstream pooled investment products and intends to continue to do so. The Company's securities are excluded from the FCA's restrictions which apply to non-mainstream pooled investment products because they are shares in an investment trust.

#### Individual Savings Account ("ISA")

The Company's shares are eligible to be held in an ISA account subject to HM Revenue & Customs limits.

Released: 6 September 2024

This document is issued in relation to Ecofin Global Utilities and Infrastructure Trust plc ("EGL") by Ecofin Advisors Limited (the "Investment Manager") which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. EGL is an investment trust incorporated in the United Kingdom and whose shares are listed on the premium segment of the Official List and trade on the main market for listed securities of the London Stock Exchange. The promotion of EGL and the distribution of this document inside and outside the United Kingdom is also restricted by law.

This document does not constitute or form part of any offer to issue or sell, or any solicitation of any offer to subscribe or purchase, any shares in EGL. The information contained in this document is for background purposes only and does not purport to be full or complete. The Investment Manager believes that the source of the information disclosed in this document is reliable. However, no representation, warranty or undertaking, express or implied, is given as to the completeness of the information contained in this document by the Investment Manager, and no liability is accepted by the Investment Manager for the completeness of any such information.

© 2024 Ecofin www.ecofininvest.com