



Ecofin Global Utilities and Infrastructure Trust plc (EGL)

As of 30/09/2023

Performance (to 30 September 2023)

(all total returns in £)	1 M %	3 M %	6 M %	1 Y %	3 Y %	5 Y %	Since Admission* %
Net Asset Value	-5.4	-8.7	-9.2	-14.2	24.1	54.1	73.2
Share Price	-6.0	-13.0	-18.3	-23.0	13.4	60.2	95.9
S&P Global Infrastructure Index	-1.6	-3.6	-4.9	-9.5	27.1	24.9	33.2
MSCI World Utilities Index	-3.0	-5.1	-6.2	-14.1	10.1	30.9	42.4
MSCI World Index	0.5	1.6	8.0	6.4	35.0	55.5	105.1
FTSE All-Share Index	3.4	2.1	3.3	11.9	37.9	19.3	41.1
FTSE ASX Utilities	0.4	-5.1	-1.9	10.7	43.5	60.3	31.5

*26 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

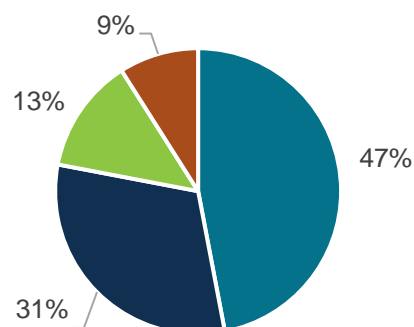
With effect from the interim dividend paid in February 2023, the quarterly dividend rate increased to 1.95p per share (7.80p per annum) (from 1.85p per share, or 7.40p per annum). Quarterly payment dates fall on the last business day in February, May, August and November.

As of 30 September 2023

Net assets	£212,275,630
NAV per share	183.80p
Share price	164.00p
Premium/(Discount)	(10.8)%
Gearing	9.7%
Yield*	4.7%

*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)



- North America
- Cont. Europe
- UK
- Rest of World

Sector allocation

	% of Portfolio
Regulated utilities	29
Integrated utilities	32
Renewables & nuclear	22
Environmental services	5
Transportation infrastructure	<u>12</u>
	100

10 Largest holdings

	% of Portfolio	Country
NextEra Energy	6.0	US
SSE	4.6	UK
Exelon	4.4	US
National Grid	4.3	UK
American Electric Power	4.3	US
Enel	3.9	Italy
Constellation Energy	3.8	US
DTE	3.2	US
Xcel Energy	3.0	US
RWE	<u>2.9</u>	Germany
Total (41 holdings)	40.4	

Manager's comments

- EGL's NAV, having stabilised with an improvement in the absolute and relative performance of US utilities for much of September, suffered from the sudden steepening in yield curves near month-end which prompted a very sharp fall in US renewables. Pure renewables names have been under a cloud all year, with share valuations reflecting the rising cost of capital to finance growth and, for some (generally outside of Europe), unfavourable contract prices struck when development costs were lower. This time, with the latest lurch higher in bond yields (+80bps in a matter of weeks), NextEra Energy Partners (NEP) shocked the market by significantly slowing its growth ambitions and halving its target dividend growth rate from 12-15% to 5-8% p.a. over the next few years to eliminate the need to raise equity and reduce the need for debt. This set off a very sharp slide in its own shares and those of its parent NextEra Energy (NextEra), well beyond the direct mechanical impact, and is still reverberating around the sector.
- NEP's target growth rate is now in line with its peers; it expects cash flows to continue to grow but some of that cash will be allocated to fund new projects rather than being paid out to investors. Its share price has continued to fall into early October, indicating investors expect the dividend is at risk (NEP shares now yield over 15%).
- The interest rate and inflation factors impacting NEP exist across the industry, hence the volatility and pressure in the utility space this year. Market expectations continue to be reset while interest rates continue to rise and yield curves steepen; higher and higher costs of capital reduce these companies' ability to grow while also lowering the present value of their long-term stable streams of cash flows from existing projects. We may have to see stabilising rates for a sign of relief. Meanwhile, we consider that the energy transition is intact and that renewables growth at a reasonable rate of return will be available. Company fundamentals at the EBIT level remain robust: Power purchase agreement prices have been increasing to reflect higher capex levels and financing costs, and electrification trends and their outlook remain strong with key drivers such as increasing renewables penetration, manufacturing re-shoring and energy efficiency driving investment.
- NextEra's share price drop over the last week was triggered by NEP's, its yieldco. NextEra, one of the world's largest and most successful renewables specialists, develops greenfield renewable energy projects and, once operating, these are 'dropped down' to NEP. With NEP's news, the market has lost a lot of confidence in this model – questioning whether NextEra will be able to finance its usual pace of development – and has quickly removed the premium share valuation which reflected its record, financial strength and operational expertise. It remains that over 50% of NextEra's earnings comes from its regulated utility, FP&L, and NextEra has reconfirmed guidance to 2026 for 6-8% p.a. earnings growth and dividend per share growth of 10% p.a., targets it has had a habit of meeting or beating. Nevertheless, NextEra has a job ahead to prove its financing and growth abilities in the current environment, which will be required to regain the market's confidence. European integrated utilities have been more resilient this year (EuroStoxx and FTSE All-Share utilities indices +2.0% and +2.2% respectively year-to-date versus -15.2% for the S&P500 Utilities) as they have more diversified business models and the interest rate cycle has not been as severe. Names like Enel also trade at a non-negligible discount to US peers.

(cont'd overleaf)

Manager's comments (cont'd)

- NextEra's and NEP's price action at the end of September tell most of the story of the month. Together, these two holdings removed about 2% from the NAV. AES, another fast-growing US renewables specialist was also weak, as were Drax, China Water Affairs and Enel. On the plus side, nuclear operator Constellation continued to perform and so did Xcel Energy and DTE Energy, the latter two both regulated US utility holdings beefed up over the summer.
- While interest rate turmoil persists, we are trying to take advantage of the diversity in EGL's investment universe. In September we added to the portfolio's transportation infrastructure exposure via Vinci, the giant concessions owner/operator. We also added further to Edison International, the Californian utility holding established over the summer.
- Since a month ago, the market seems less sure about a soft landing for economies and more sure about the 'higher for longer' narrative for rates. We do see buying opportunities, given the much lower share prices and valuations, but we are sticking to a selective approach and are eager to limit our dependence on external factors such as interest rates. We will continue to look to identify high quality companies with c. 10% p.a. growth prospects and keep a balance in the portfolio in terms of risk (beta) profiles. The portfolio currently yields 5.1% (5.6% including the leverage) and, encouragingly, the growth in income from investments for EGL's fiscal year just ended has again exceeded our long-term target rate of 5-7% per annum.

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

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Company details

Portfolio manager:	Jean-Hugues de Lamaze
Date of admission:	26 September 2016
Traded:	London Stock Exchange
Dealing currency:	Sterling
Issued share capital:	115,495,663 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: 9 October 2023