# **KBI Global Investors**



# KBIGI Global Sustainable Infrastructure Strategy

Summary Details			
Assets under Mgmt.	C\$2.4bn		
Inception Date	01 Oct 2017		
Benchmark	S&P Global Infrastructure Index		
Number of Stocks	50		
Revenue Alignment SDG Score	75.6%		
Risk Characteristics			
Beta (3 Yrs)	0.65		
Information Ratio (3 Yrs)	0.91		
Tracking Error (3 Yrs)	9.45		
Portfolio Statistics	Strategy	Index	
Current Dividend Yield	3.4%	3.4%	
Price to Earnings	16.4x	19.0x	
Price to Book	2.0x	2.0x	
Weighted Avg Market Cap.	\$30.9bn \$38.6bn		

Source: KBI Global Investors as of 06/30/22. The risk characteristics are calculated independently by KBI Global Investors using monthly gross returns of the composite over a 3 year period relative to the Index as at the 06/30/22. Portfolio and Benchmark Statistics are from a representative account managed to the same strategy and the benchmark respectively. KBI Global Investors independently estimate these statistics for both the portfolio and the benchmark. The AUM listed above is Global Sustainable Infrastructure Strategy AUM excluding AUA from Q1 2022. Weighted Avg. Mkt. Cap figures are in US Dollars. The Revenue Alignment SDG Score measures the portfolio contribution to the achievement of United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Calculations are based on KBIGI's own methodology and are not independently verified as at 12/31/2021 (annually).

### **Investment Thesis**

There are compelling investment opportunities in infrastructure companies providing solutions to resource scarcity across water, food and energy driven by five long term trends.

- Inadequate supply of water, cleaner energy and arable land for farming
- Increasing demand for resources, driven by population growth, industrialisation and urbanisation
- Increasing regulation and government support
- Increasing investment in infrastructure to address urgent global requirements
- Increasing investment in technology to create solutions and facilitate the more efficient use of resources

### **Annualised Performance (C\$)**

	3Mths	YTD	1Yr	2Yrs	3Yrs	Since Incep
Fund (Gross)	-9.0	-10.4	-0.4	12.9	11.0	10.1
Benchmark	-4.6	1.2	9.1	10.1	2.2	4.2

Source: KBI Global Investors, Datastream, MSCI as of 06/30/22. KBI calculate both composite returns and benchmark returns. Returns are gross of fees in CAD. Our firm claims GIPS compliance and is annually verified by an independent verification firm to be so. The verification report from our verifier and our GIPS composite presentation are available upon request. The performance record disclosed here is that of the firm's composite for this strategy. The Infrastructure strategy invests in sustainable publicly-traded infrastructure companies that deliver strong investment returns within a robust risk framework. The strategy delivers material and diverse exposure to water and clean energy infrastructure, food storage, transportation and farmland. Further, integrating ESG considerations is key to our investment process given our belief that companies with good governance and whose products and services enhance social or environmental goals are likely to have long, durable, sustainable business models. The material risks associated with the composite include market risk and stockspecific event risk. Share prices can decline and there is a risk that the composite may under-perform its benchmark. The benchmark is the S&P Global Infrastructure index, net of taxes on dividend income. The index is comprised of listed infrastructure securities from across the world. To create diversified exposure, the index provider includes three distinct infrastructure clusters within the index structure; energy, transportation and utilities. See disclaimers for further information

## Portfolio Positioning Sector Breakdown

Sector	%
Utilities	49.2
Asset Owners	32.8
Infrastructure Capex	18.0

### Geographical Breakdown

Region	%
North America	46.7
Europe	45.7
Emerging Markets	5.8
Japan	1.8

# **Top 10 Holdings**

Stock	Country	%
Nextera Energy Inc	US	6.1
Iberdrola Sa	Spain	5.7
Enel Spa	Italy	4.6
Veolia Environnement Sa	France	4.4
Essential Utilities Inc	US	3.8
Hydro One Ltd	Canada	3.7
Sba Communications Corp	US	3.7
Equinix Inc	US	3.5
Welltower Inc	US	3.4
Greencoat Renewables Plc	Ireland	3.4

Source of all data: KBI Global Investors. Data as of 06/30/22

### Strategy Overview

The KBI Global Sustainable Infrastructure Strategy is a global portfolio of 30-60 sustainable publicly traded infrastructure companies. The composition of our portfolio is demonstrative of where we believe we have a core competency, but more importantly where we believe a significant proportion of future infrastructure will occur, and where we believe investors lack exposure. Many commentators continue to highlight the vast amounts of money required to be spent on water infrastructure, clean energy infrastructure and the infrastructure necessary for the storage and transportation of food as a direct result of:

- Ageing and depleted assets in dire need of rehabilitation/replacement
- Population growth
- · Rapidly expanding cities
- · Societal and economic demand

The strategy provides exposure to companies that demonstrate strong infrastructure investment characteristics:

- · High regulatory support
- · Predictable and stable cash flow
- · Long-term contractual businesses
- · Low volatility of earnings
- · Quality of assets and management

The strategy offers new sources of alpha to investors in the infrastructure asset class, and seeks to provide protection from long-term inflation. It is demonstrative of future investment and displays strong ESG credentials as well as providing investors with differentiation and diversification in what is an efficient asset class.

#### **Investment Team**

Infrastructure Portfolio Management Team	Role	Investment Experience
Colm O'Connor	Lead Portfolio Manager	19yrs
Noel O'Halloran	Co Portfolio Manger	34yrs
Martin Conroy	Co Portfolio Manager	18yrs
Investment Team	Title	Investment Experience
Treasa Ni Chonghaile	Senior Portfolio Manager	23yrs
Catherine Cahill	Senior Portfolio Manager	22yrs
Matt Sheldon	Senior Portfolio Manager	20yrs
Andros Florides	Senior Portfolio Manager	27yrs
Eoin Fahy	Head of Responsible Investing	34yrs
Ben Cooke	Investment Analyst	6Yrs
Ultan O'Kane	Trader	16yrs

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#### **Investment Process**

Our investment process is designed to use our specialist skills to precisely define each theme, construct a proprietary investment universe and then build a concentrated, high conviction portfolio designed to outperform the benchmark.

### Identification of sustainable companies as either:

- Pure plays (>50% of sales from either Water, Agri or Clean Energy) or
- Market leaders (>10% sales and also be a global leader)

### Identification of infrastructure companies as either:

- Owners or operators of sustainable infrastructure assets or
- Beneficiaries of sustainable infrastructure investment

### **Weighting Sector**

 Focus on bottom up fundamentals and valuation with an overlay of top down influences

### **Stock Selection**

- Focus on asset-intensive (often monopolistic) businesses with longduration contracts (often with strong regulatory or government backing) producing stable cash flow generation with inflation protection.
- Emphasis on companies with predictive and stable dividend yields, strong fundamentals, stable management and attractive valuations.

### Overview

The strategy invests in companies which own and operate long duration assets within Water, Clean Energy and Agri business end markets. The strategy looks to invest in long term infrastructure assets which are producing predictable cash flows (often inflation linked). When building the portfolio, we aim to provide exposure to stable regulatory environments.

There is an urgent need to upgrade our ageing infrastructure in developed markets; much of the water supply and wastewater systems for instance was designed when cities were less congested and are now in major need of overhaul. Government pledges to achieve net zero emissions by 2050 will result in a transformation of our energy infrastructure assets. Decarbonisation and digitisation of the electric grid will drive huge investment spend in clean energy infrastructure over the coming years. Investment in agri infrastructure will be more focused on emerging markets where increased use of storage equipment and grain handling assets, will be needed to reduce the large wastage that occurs between production and consumption. Following several years of under investment, governments are increasingly recognising the need to invest in ageing infrastructure both as a way of stimulating the global economy and as a way of providing a social benefit to taxpayers.

We believe the strategy is well positioned for the second half of 2022, despite worries over rising inflation and higher bond yields. While a higher cost of debt will be headwind for the more leveraged stocks within the Utilities sector the majority of asset owners benefit from rising inflation due to their strong pricing power where inflation is typically passed through to end customers. Furthermore we anticipate investors will favour more defensive sectors such as listed infrastructure in a slowing market environment. We anticipate a slowdown in economic activity in H2 and investors in our view will favour more predictable business models with less short cycle exposure. The recent move in long term interest rates will not in our view lead to a deterioration in demand for infrastructure assets, investment is seen as a useful tool to stimulate economic activity as the "multiplier" for infrastructure investment is higher than other fiscal stimulus. We expect governments to remain committed to infrastructure programs and to CO2 reduction targets.

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