

# Impax Global Sustainable Infrastructure Fund

Quarterly Commentary

All data as of 12/31/2022

## Performance summary

- The Impax Global Sustainable Infrastructure Fund underperformed its primary benchmark, the FTSE Global Infrastructure Opportunities Index (FTSE IO), a measure of traditional infrastructure performance, and outperformed its secondary benchmark, the MSCI ACWI, a measure of the broad global equity market performance, in the fourth quarter.

## Investment strategy

- The Fund uses a systematic process to construct a portfolio of companies that Impax believes is providing the infrastructure driving the transition to a more sustainable economy. The portfolio has significant weight in companies providing vital resources in a sustainable fashion, including those we classify as New Energy (renewable energy generation, more

efficient energy use and distribution) as well as water infrastructure. The Fund also invests in Social and Economic Infrastructure that is essential to meeting basic needs (e.g., education, healthcare) and enhancing the collection, transmission and processing of information.

## Market overview

- Global equity markets were stronger over the quarter on expectations that the Federal Reserve (Fed) would reduce the pace and amount of monetary tightening after US inflation numbers were weaker than expected. The Fed raised interest rates in December by a smaller increment than the recent trend, however Fed Chair Powell also signaled that rates were likely to stay higher for longer as inflation levels remain

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## Performance

as of 12/31/2022

	1 month	Quarter	YTD	1 years	3 years	5 years	10 years	Since inception <sup>1</sup>
Investor Class	-3.45	10.68	-13.44	-13.44	4.04	6.30	—	8.14
Institutional Class	-3.52	10.77	-13.25	-13.25	4.29	6.59	—	8.41
FTSE Global Infrastructure Opportunities Index <sup>3</sup>	-1.90	11.51	-9.04	-9.04	2.59	3.65	—	—
S&P Global Infrastructure Index <sup>4</sup>	-2.28	10.83	-0.99	-0.99	0.93	2.99	—	5.54
MSCI ACWI (Net) Index <sup>5</sup>	-3.94	9.76	-18.36	-18.36	4.00	5.23	—	—

Performance data quoted represent past performance, which does not guarantee future results. Investment return and principal value of an investment will fluctuate so that an investor's shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. Current performance may be lower or higher than the performance data quoted. To obtain performance for the most recent month-end, call 800.767.1729 or visit [impaxam.com](http://impaxam.com).

Figures include reinvested dividends, capital gains distributions, and changes in principal value.

<sup>1</sup> The inception date for the Impax Global Sustainable Infrastructure Fund Institutional Class and the Investor Class is December 16, 2016.

Total annual Impax Global Sustainable Infrastructure Fund operating expenses, gross of any fee waivers or reimbursements, for Institutional Class and Investor Class shares are 0.65% and 0.90%, respectively, as of 5/1/2022 prospectus. Total annual Impax Global Sustainable Infrastructure Fund operating expenses, net of any fee waivers or reimbursements, for Institutional Class and Investor Class are 0.55% and 0.80%, respectively.

## Market overview, continued

elevated. Economic data has generally been weaker, with Purchasing Managers' Indices (PMIs) in the US signaling contraction, and European PMIs remaining in negative territory. The US dollar weakened against the backdrop of a softer economy and a less aggressive rate hike cycle. While US 10-year bond yields were little changed over the quarter, the yield curve inverted signaling the bond market anticipates a recession. In December, the inverted yield curve provided support for quality and defensive stocks after the more economically sensitive sectors outperformed earlier in the quarter. In China, investor sentiment towards the market has improved with the easing of Covid-related mobility restrictions and further domestic policy support for the property sector.

- The FTSE IO advanced higher over the quarter, as investor concerns regarding rising interest rates abated. This positively impacted infrastructure companies in sectors such as Industrials, Utilities, Materials and Communication Services.
- The MSCI ACWI posted strong returns as investors anticipated a slower pace of monetary tightening by the Fed. The Energy sector benefited from rising prices and led market returns, followed by Industrials and Materials. Consumer Discretionary was the weakest sector, led down by mega-cap companies such as Tesla and Amazon, followed by Communications and the relatively defensive Health Care sector.

## Sustainable Infrastructure sector attribution

- The portfolio is guided by the Impax Sustainable Infrastructure Taxonomy, which provides the foundation to construct diversified portfolios that are representative of infrastructure essential for the transition to a more sustainable economy, while retaining the broad characteristics that investors expect from an infrastructure portfolio, high yields and defensive characteristics.

Impax classifies sustainable infrastructure into two broad categories,

1. **Resource Infrastructure** includes New Energy, Water, Waste & Resource Efficiency, and Food and Agriculture sub sectors.

## Sustainable Infrastructure sector attribution, continued

2. **Social and Economic Infrastructure** which includes Communications & Data, Buildings & Facilities, Transportation, Healthcare, Education, and Finance sub sectors.

Companies must generate at least 20% of their revenues from infrastructure-related activities as defined by this taxonomy.

The Fund's underperformance to the FTSE IO was largely due to its avoidance of companies that fall outside of the sustainable infrastructure universe. Companies that fall outside of the Fund's investment universe are generally more resource and carbon intensive. The portfolio's lack of exposure to traditional material and industrial companies detracted from relative returns.

Resource Infrastructure companies modestly added to performance during the quarter. Security selection within Food & Agriculture, Resource Efficiency & Waste Management and New Energy hurt performance. This was partially offset by an allocation to Social and Economic Infrastructure companies, as securities within Transportation as well as Communications & Data outperformed the FTSE IO.

## GICS<sup>^</sup> sector attribution

- Sector positioning is an outcome of the portfolio construction process rather than a deliberate exposure. Underperformance from our more sustainable holdings within Industrials, Information Technology, and Communication Services detracted from performance during the quarter, however they were additive within Utilities and Real Estate. The portfolio also benefited from its diversifying exposure to Healthcare, as well as its underweight exposure to Energy.

<sup>^</sup> The Global Industry Classification Standard (GICS) is a widely recognized industry standard for assigning a public company to the economic sector and industry group that best defines its business. It was developed jointly by MSCI and Standard & Poor's and is used by the MSCI indexes.

## Fund overview

A systematic strategy providing exposure to infrastructure solutions that advance environmental and societal well-being.

### Portfolio management team

Scott LaBreche, Portfolio Manager  
Christine Cappabianca, Portfolio Manager

## Portfolio characteristics as of 12/31/2022

### Market cap (weighted avg.)<sup>f</sup>

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Benchmark</u>
\$43,350M	\$38,496M

### Forward price/earnings<sup>~</sup>

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Benchmark</u>
15.16	18.11

### Dividend yield<sup>†</sup>

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Benchmark</u>
3.55	3.48

### ROE<sup>°</sup>

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Benchmark</u>
16.34%	8.59%

### Beta<sup>°</sup>

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Benchmark</u>
0.79	1.00

### Number of securities

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Benchmark</u>
140	75

### 30-Day SEC yield<sup>\*</sup>

<u>Investor</u>	<u>Institutional</u>
2.98%	3.24%
<u>Unsubsidized</u>	<u>Unsubsidized</u>
2.86%	3.12%

## Definitions

- <sup>f</sup> Weighted Average is an average in which each quantity to be averaged is assigned a weight. These weightings determine the relative importance of each quantity on the average.
- <sup>~</sup> Forward Price-Earnings Ratio or P/E FY1 ratio is a ratio for valuing a company that measures its current share price relative to its per-share earnings over the next 12 months.
- <sup>†</sup> Dividend Yield, expressed as a percentage, is a financial ratio (dividend/price) that shows how much a company pays out in dividends each year relative to its stock price.
- <sup>°</sup> Return on Equity: The amount of net income returned as a percentage of shareholders' equity. Return on equity measures a corporation's profitability by revealing how much profit a company generates with the money shareholders have invested.
- <sup>∞</sup> A historical Beta is used for Funds with greater than 3 years of performance history under the same mandate. Beta reflects the sensitivity of a Fund's return to fluctuations in its benchmark; a beta for a benchmark is 1.00; a beta greater than 1.00 indicates above-average volatility and risk.
- <sup>\*</sup> The 30-Day Yield represents net investment income earned by the Fund over the 30-Day period ended 12/31/2022, expressed as an annual percentage rate based on the Fund's share price at the end of the 30-Day period. The 30-Day unsubsidized SEC Yield does not reflect any fee waivers/reimbursements/limits in effect.

<sup>x</sup> Other: ETFs (for short-term cash mgmt. purposes) and Cash & Equivalents.

Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

## Top 10 holdings as of 12/31/2022

Schneider Electric SE 2.5%, Iberdrola SA 2.3%, Waste Management, Inc. 2.1%, Enel SpA 1.8%, Canadian Pacific Railway Limited 1.7%, American Water Works Co., Inc. 1.5%, Edison International 1.4%, SSE PLC 1.4%, Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co., Ltd. 1.4% and AT&T, Inc. 1.4%. Holdings are subject to change.

## Disclosures

- 3 The FTSE Global Infrastructure Opportunities Index is designed to reflect the performance of infrastructure and infrastructure-related listed securities worldwide. Companies must derive a minimum of 20% of their revenue from either the core infrastructure activities or the infrastructure-related activities to be considered for index inclusion. The Index weights its constituents according to their investable market capitalization (after the application of free float and foreign ownership restrictions) in the index calculation. The FTSE Global Infrastructure Opportunities Index does not take account of ESG factors in its index construction. Base currency is in US Dollars (USD). For further information, please visit <https://www.ftserussell.com/products/indices/infra>
- 4 The S&P Global Infrastructure Index is designed to track 75 companies from around the world chosen to represent the listed infrastructure industry while maintaining liquidity and tradability. To create diversified exposure, the index includes three distinct infrastructure clusters: energy, transportation, and utilities.
- 5 The MSCI ACWI (Net) Index is a free float-adjusted market capitalization weighted index that is designed to measure the equity market performance of developed and emerging markets. The MSCI ACWI consists of 50 country indexes comprising 23 developed and 27 emerging market country indexes. The developed market country indexes included are: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and United States. The emerging market country indexes included are: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, Czech Republic, Egypt, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Korea, Kuwait, Malaysia, Mexico, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey and United Arab Emirates. Performance for the MSCI ACWI Index is shown "net," which includes dividend reinvestments after deduction of foreign withholding tax.

One cannot invest directly in an index.

**RISK:** Equity investments are subject to market fluctuations, the fund's share price can fall because of weakness in the broad market, a particular industry, or specific holdings. Emerging market and international investments involve risk of capital loss from unfavorable fluctuations in currency values, differences in generally accepted accounting principles, economic or political instability in other nations or increased volatility and lower trading volume. The Fund is actively managed. The investment techniques and decisions of the investment adviser and the Fund's portfolio manager(s), including the investment adviser's assessment of a company's ESG profile when selecting investments for the Fund, may not produce the desired results and may adversely impact the Fund's performance, including relative to other Funds that do not consider ESG factors or come to different conclusions regarding such factors.

Environmental, social, and governance (ESG) criteria are a set of standards for a company's operations that socially conscious investors use to screen potential investments. Environmental criteria consider how a company performs as a steward of nature. Social criteria examine how it manages relationships with employees, suppliers, customers, and the communities where it operates. Governance deals with a company's leadership, executive pay, audits, internal controls, and shareholder rights.

The statements and opinions expressed are those of the author as of the date of this report. All information is historical and not indicative of future results and subject to change. This information is not a recommendation to buy or sell any security. Past performance does not guarantee future results.

**You should consider a fund's investment objectives, risks, and charges and expenses carefully before investing. For this and other important information, please obtain a fund prospectus by calling 800.767.1729 or visiting [www.impaxam.com](http://www.impaxam.com). Please read it carefully before investing.**

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