

**abrdn Evolve Asia Pacific ex-Japan Equity Index Fund**

**Benchmark Index and Sustainable Approach/ Metrics**

The Index aims to reflect the performance characteristics of a subset of equity securities within the Parent Index and is constructed using an optimisation process which seeks to increase exposure to positive ESG factors, including minimising carbon exposure and increasing exposure to revenues from Clean Technology Solutions.

The Index will exclude all securities currently included in the Parent Index which are involved in: (a) controversial weapons (companies with ties to controversial weapons including cluster munitions, landmines, depleted uranium weapons, biological/chemical weapons, blinding lasers, nondetectable fragments and incendiary weapons) and companies involved in manufacture of components exclusively designed for nuclear weapons (warheads, missiles, delivery platforms); (b) thermal coal (companies deriving 5% or more revenue from thermal coal mining or unconventional oil/gas including oil sands/shale and shale gas); (c) tobacco production & distribution (companies that derive 5% or more aggregate revenue from the manufacture, distribution, retailing, licensing, and supply of tobacco products); and (d) very severe controversies that have failed to uphold one or more principles of the UN Global Compact as measured by securities with a MSCI ESG Controversy score of zero\*.

In addition, the Index will tilt the Index weights to:

- (1) target an increase in the weighted average MSCI ESG score (0 (worst) to 10 (best)) of the Index by 20% relative to the Parent Index (as measured by MSCI). The MSCI ESG Score provides an opinion of companies' management of financially relevant ESG risks and opportunities. Each rating takes into consideration the company's exposure to potentially material ESG risks, the quality of management systems and governance structures to mitigate potential ESG risks, and where applicable, positioning to meet market demand for the provision of products and services that have a positive environmental or social contribution;
- (2) target a reduction in the carbon intensity of the Index by 50% relative to the Parent Index (as measured by MSCI). The carbon intensity is

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In addition, the Index will tilt the weightings of its constituents to:

- (1) target a weighted average MSCI ESG score (0 (worst) to 10 (best)) that is 10% higher than that of the Parent Index (as measured by MSCI). The MSCI ESG Score provides an opinion of companies' management of financially relevant ESG risks and opportunities. Each rating takes into consideration the company's exposure to potentially material ESG risks, the quality of management systems and governance structures to mitigate potential ESG risks, and where applicable, positioning to meet market demand for the provision of products and services that have a positive environmental or social contribution;

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| <p>measured using scope 1 &amp; 2 carbon emission divided by total sales. Scope 1 carbon emissions are greenhouse gas emissions generated from sources which are owned or controlled by the company. Scope 2 carbon emission are greenhouse gas emissions generated from the consumption of purchased electricity, heat or steam by the company. Further, this reduction is also targeted on potential carbon emissions which specifically monitors energy related fossil fuel reserves data. For the avoidance of doubt, no target is set on Scope 3 carbon emissions which relates to indirect emissions, such as from a company's supply chain or from the use of a company's end products. This is due to challenges around relatively low levels of corporate disclosures in these areas and inconsistent estimation methods; and</p> <p>(3) target an increase in weighted averaged percent of revenue from Clean Technology Solutions by 50% relative to the Parent Index (as measured by MSCI). Clean Technology Solutions are considered a core part of the long-term solution for the global ambitions to transition to a lower carbon environment and as such revenues generated will evolve with the growth in this area of the market.</p> <p>All the above Index criteria are subject to risk diversification constraints, for example, minimum and maximum constituent, sector and country weights relative to the Parent Index and aim to minimise the tracking error relative to the Parent Index.</p> <p>* For further information in relation to the methodology, MSCI ESG scores and ESG Controversy scores used by MSCI, please refer to: <a href="https://www.msci.com/esg-investing">https://www.msci.com/esg-investing</a>. Details regarding the Index constituents are available on the index provider's website at <a href="https://www.msci.com/constituents">https://www.msci.com/constituents</a>. The methodology used by MSCI Climate Solutions Target Select Indices can be found on <a href="https://www.msci.com/index-methodology">https://www.msci.com/index-methodology</a> by using Index Code 735586.</p> <p><b>Divestment Approach</b></p> <p>The index alignment to the stated outcomes and the negative screening criteria is completed on a quarterly basis. As a result, disinvestment from the non-compliant securities will also happen at this point and generally never longer than 3 months, allowing for market conditions.</p> <p><b>Engagement</b></p> | <p>(2) target a carbon intensity that is 50% lower than that of the Parent Index based on scope 1 &amp; 2 carbon emission (as measured by MSCI). Scope 1 carbon emissions are greenhouse gas emissions generated from sources which are owned or controlled by the company. Scope 2 carbon emission are greenhouse gas emissions generated from the consumption of purchased electricity, heat or steam by the company. The target is to be 50% lower than the parent index based on each of the following metrics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Weighed Average Carbon Intensity (WACI) - this is measured using the weighted average of scope 1 &amp; 2 carbon emissions divided by revenues.</li> <li>The Economic Emissions Intensity (EEI) – this is measured using the weighted average of scope 1 &amp; 2 carbon emissions divided by a company's total value (market capitalisation + debt + cash).</li> </ol> <p>In respect of scope 3 carbon emissions, which relates to indirect emissions, such as from a company's supply chain or from the use of a company's end products, a WACI and EEI that is equal to or lower than the Parent Index is targeted. The difference in the target level compared to scope 1 &amp; 2 carbon emissions is due to challenges around relatively low levels of corporate disclosures in these areas and inconsistent estimation methods; and</p> <p>(3) target a weighted averaged percent of revenue from Clean Technology Solutions that is 50% higher than that of the Parent Index (as measured by MSCI). Clean Technology Solutions are considered a core part of the long-term solution for the global ambitions to transition to a lower carbon environment and as such revenues generated will evolve with the growth in this area of the market.</p> <p>The Index also includes other targets and/ or constraints, such as in relation to potential carbon emissions (which specifically monitors energy related fossil fuel reserves data), details of which can be found in the MSCI methodology*.</p> <p>All the above Index criteria are subject to risk diversification constraints, for example, minimum and maximum constituent, sector and country weights relative to the Parent Index and aim to minimise the tracking error relative to the Parent Index.</p> |
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| <p>All Aberdeen Investments passive portfolios benefit from Aberdeen Investments' stewardship activities covering both engagement and voting. Aberdeen Investments' engagement with company management teams provides us with a more holistic view of a company including current and future ESG risks that a firm needs to manage and opportunities from which it may benefit. It also provides the opportunity for us to discuss any areas of concern, share best practice and drive positive change within the business.</p> <p>The stewardship activity also incorporates voting and all Aberdeen Investments passive portfolios benefit from Aberdeen Investments' voting policy. In addition, Aberdeen Investments has adopted a bespoke template for proxy voting which is designed to ensure a consistent application of Aberdeen Investments' views and concerns.</p> <p><b>Stock Lending</b><br/>Aberdeen Investments ESG funds may take part in our stock lending programme, details of which can be found in this prospectus. Collateral held on behalf of ESG funds is currently restricted to government bonds and securities issued by constituents of the MSCI ESG Screened indices; further detail on these indices can be found at <a href="https://www.msci.com/esg-screened-indices">https://www.msci.com/esg-screened-indices</a>.</p> | <p>* For further information in relation to the methodology, MSCI ESG scores and ESG Controversy scores used by MSCI, please refer to: <a href="https://www.msci.com/esg-investing">https://www.msci.com/esg-investing</a>. Details regarding the Index constituents are available on the index provider's website at <a href="https://www.msci.com/constituents">https://www.msci.com/constituents</a>. The methodology used by MSCI Climate Solutions Target Select Indices can be found on <a href="https://www.msci.com/index-methodology">https://www.msci.com/index-methodology</a> by using Index Code 735586.</p> <p><b>Divestment Approach</b><br/>The index alignment to the stated outcomes and the negative screening criteria is completed on a quarterly basis. As a result, disinvestment from the non-compliant securities will also happen at this point and generally never longer than 3 months, allowing for market conditions.</p> <p><b>Engagement</b><br/>All Aberdeen Investments passive portfolios benefit from Aberdeen Investments' stewardship activities covering both engagement and voting. Aberdeen Investments' engagement with company management teams provides us with a more holistic view of a company including current and future ESG risks that a firm needs to manage and opportunities from which it may benefit. It also provides the opportunity for us to discuss any areas of concern, share best practice and drive positive change within the business.</p> <p>The stewardship activity also incorporates voting and all Aberdeen Investments passive portfolios benefit from Aberdeen Investments' voting policy. In addition, Aberdeen Investments has adopted a bespoke template for proxy voting which is designed to ensure a consistent application of Aberdeen Investments' views and concerns.</p> <p><b>Stock Lending</b><br/>Aberdeen Investments ESG funds may take part in our stock lending programme, details of which can be found in this prospectus. Collateral held on behalf of ESG funds is currently restricted to government bonds and securities issued by constituents of the MSCI ESG Screened indices; further detail on these indices can be found at <a href="https://www.msci.com/esg-screened-indices">https://www.msci.com/esg-screened-indices</a>.</p> |
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(3) target an increase in weighted averaged percent of revenue from Clean Technology Solutions by 50% relative to the Parent Index (as measured by MSCI). Clean Technology Solutions are considered a core part of the long-term solution for the global ambitions to transition to a lower carbon environment and as such revenues generated will evolve with the growth in this area of the market.

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\* For further information in relation to the methodology, MSCI ESG scores and ESG Controversy scores used by MSCI, please refer to: <https://www.msci.com/esg-investing>. Details regarding the Index constituents are available on the index provider's website at <https://www.msci.com/constituents>. The methodology used by MSCI Climate Solutions Target Select Indices can be found on <https://www.msci.com/index-methodology> by using Index Code 735586.

#### **Divestment Approach**

The index alignment to the stated outcomes and the negative screening criteria is completed on a quarterly basis. As a result, disinvestment from the non-compliant securities will also happen at this point and generally no longer than 3 months, allowing for market conditions.

#### **Engagement**

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