# **Stewart Investors Worldwide Leaders Sustainability Fund**

# Stewart Investors



# About Stewart Investors

We are an active, long-only equity investment business with stewardship and sustainability at the heart of our investment philosophy and culture since 1988. As a team, we have been managing explicit sustainability portfolios since 2005.

## Investment aim

To achieve long-term capital growth by investing directly or indirectly in a diversified portfolio of equity or equity-related securities of larger capitalisation companies which are listed, traded or dealt in on any of the regulated markets worldwide. The fund invests in companies that are particularly well positioned to contribute to, and benefit from, sustainable development.

# Key facts\*

Launch date	2 September 2022
Lead portfolio manager	Sashi Reddy
Investment team	13 analysts
Number of companies	30-60 (current 37)
Investment horizon	5-10+ years
Market capitalisation	Free float > USD 5 billion
Comparator benchmark	MSCI AC World Index
Total management costs**	0.62%



The Stewart Investors Worldwide Leaders Sustainability Fund (PCT) has been certified and classified by the Responsible Investment Association Australasia according to the operational and disclosure practices required under the Responsible Investment Certification Program. See www.responsiblereturns.com.au and RIAA's

#### CERTIFIED BY RIAA

Financial Services Guide for details.<sup>1</sup>

### Investment philosophy

- > We are stewards. Our role is to allocate society's capital to productive uses, in accordance with our Hippocratic Oath.
- > We are long term. Our time horizon is measured in years, not weeks, and we value companies accordingly.
- We invest only in companies contributing to a more sustainable future. We engage constructively as owners to help companies on their sustainability journeys.
- > We invest only in high-quality companies. We invest in companies with exceptional cultures, strong franchises and resilient financials.
- > We believe capital preservation is important for capital growth. We define risk as the possibility of the permanent loss of client capital.

This philosophy is proven across strategies and business cycles for nearly four decades.

\*Source: Stewart Investors as at 31 December 2024. Key facts parameters shown are guidelines only and not hard risk limits. \*\*Total management costs includes the investment management fee. It does not include transactional and operational costs. Further details on parameters and costs (including estimated indirect costs) is set out in the Fund's PDS.

# What we mean by sustainability

Our process is deeply qualitative, based on fundamental, bottom-up research and analysis of the <u>sustainability</u> positioning of companies. We meet regularly with management teams, conduct site visits, and commission third-party research. Our assessment of company sustainability focuses on:

1	Sustainability positioning of products and services
2	Quality of management and treatment of all stakeholders
3	Operational performance and environmental and social impacts

4 Ability to navigate sustainability headwinds and tailwinds, such as changing regulations and consumer trends

#### Exclusions

We have a detailed <u>exclusions policy</u> explaining the sectors and sorts of companies we will never invest in.

#### Engagement

We invest time and energy in <u>engaging</u> and encouraging companies to improve their sustainability practices and product offerings.

#### Voting

We do not outsource voting decisions or any part of the engagement process; this is a core part of our role.

Visit our <u>website</u> to view our position on harmful and controversial products and services, and our climate change statement.

## Top 10 holdings - high conviction

We have a bottom-up approach and aim to invest only in well-stewarded, high-quality companies with sustainability at the heart of all investment considerations. Our portfolios are high conviction (top 10 holdings typically 30%-50%) and are completely benchmark agnostic.

Company	Country	Sector	Portfolio (%)	Index (%)
Fortinet	USA	Information Technology	7.4	0.1
Mahindra & Mahindra	India	Consumer Discretionary	7.1	0.0
Watsco	USA	Industrials	6.1	0.0
bioMérieux	France	Health Care	5.5	0.0
Taiwan Semiconductor (TSMC)	Taiwan	Information Technology	4.8	1.0
HDFC Bank	India	Financials	4.5	0.2
Arista Networks	USA	Information Technology	4.3	0.2
Costco	USA	Consumer Staples	3.2	0.5
Copart, Inc.	USA	Industrials	3.1	0.1
Deutsche Post AG	Germany	Industrials	3.1	0.0
			48.9	2.1

Source: Stewart Investors as at 31 December 2024. Data shown is for the Stewart Investors Worldwide Leaders Sustainability Fund and the MSCI AC World Index. Numbers may not add to totals due to rounding. References to specific securities should not be construed as investment advice or a recommendation to buy or sell the same.

### Performance objective - capital protection and growth

Our investment philosophy focuses on delivering strong absolute returns over cycles. This focus means that we define risk as the loss of clients' capital rather than in terms of deviation from any benchmark index. As a result, our performance is likely to lag steeply rising markets, but deliver better results in falling markets. We believe this approach has served clients well over time and over cycles.

Performance over periods NZD - Fund performance gross of fees - %	Since Iaunch	1 year	6 months	3 months
Stewart Investors Worldwide Leaders Sustainability (NZ PIE)	19.3	26.2	12.1	8.7
MSCI AC World Index (net)	21.5	32.8	14.8	12.4
Relative (arithmetic)	-2.2	-6.6	-2.7	-3.7

Given that the Worldwide Leaders Sustainability Fund (NZ PIE) is a new fund, we have included the performance of a representative Stewart Investors Worldwide Leaders Sustainability in Australia, to demonstrate Stewart Investors historic performance in the strategy.

Performance over periods AUD – Representative portfolio performance gross of fees - % p.a	Since launch	10 years	7 years	5 years	3 years	1 year	6 months	3 months
Stewart Investors Worldwide Leaders Sustainability (PCT)	12.7	12.7	12.7	13.3	8.2	21.0	11.0	7.1
MSCI AC World Index (net)	12.8	12.3	12.9	12.9	11.2	29.5	13.9	10.9
Relative (arithmetic)	-0.1	0.4	-0.2	0.4	-3.0	-8.5	-2.9	-3.8

Investment style - downside protection

Strategy outperformance since launch (AUD gross of fees)



Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future results.

Source: First Sentier Investors gross of fees as at 31 December 2024. The data and performance returns shown are not those of Stewart Investors Worldwide Leaders Sustainability Fund (NZ PIE) but for a representative Stewart Investors Worldwide Leaders Sustainability account that implements the same investment strategy as the Stewart Investors Worldwide Leaders Sustainability Fund (NZ PIE). Source for benchmark: FactSet. Outperformance shown versus the MSCI AC World Index. Index data is net of withholding tax. This Strategy launched in July 1997. Performance calculated from when Stewart Investors started running the investment strategy on 4 December 2013. This information is provided for illustrative purposes to demonstrate Stewart Investors' activity within the strategy for the period shown. It is not a recommendation or solicitation to purchase or invest in any fund. Differences between the representative account-specific constraints, currency or fees and those of a similarly managed fund or mandate would affect results.

Our <u>Portfolio Explorer</u> tool allows you to explore strategies, companies, countries and sustainability issues of interest in four views – map, Sustainable Development Goals, climate solutions and human development pillars.



# For more information

Head of Wholesale - ANZ Quin Smith +61 455 095 505

**Client Director - Institutional** Kate Machin +61 429 528 840 Visit our website at <u>stewartinvestors.com</u>

### Important information

<sup>1</sup>The Responsible Investment Certification Program provides general advice only and does not take into account any person's objectives, financial situation, or needs. Neither the Certification Symbol nor RIAA recommends to any person that any financial product is a suitable investment or that returns are guaranteed. Because of this, you should consider your own objectives, financial situation and needs and also consider the terms of any product disclosure document before making an investment decision. Certifications are current for 24 months and subject to change at any time.

The Responsible Investment Certification Program does not constitute financial product advice. Neither the Certification Symbol nor RIAA recommends to any person that any financial product is a suitable investment or that returns are guaranteed. Appropriate professional advice should be sought prior to making an investment decision. RIAA does not hold a Financial Advice Provider licence.

This publication is provided by First Sentier Investors (Australia) IM Ltd ('FSI') in good faith and is designed as a summary to accompany the Product Disclosure Statement for the Stewart Investors Worldwide Leaders Sustainability Fund ('the Fund(s)'). The Product Disclosure Statement for the Fund is available from FSI, or FundRock NZ Limited ('FundRock NZ' or 'the Issuer') and on https://disclose-register.companiesoffice.govt.nz or www.fundrock.com/fundrock-new-zealand/frnz-documents-and-reporting/.

This publication is intended for the exclusive use of NZ financial advisers. It is not to be used by retail investors and should not be distributed or published without the prior consent of FundRock NZ.

The information contained in this publication is not an offer of units in the Fund or a proposal or an invitation to make an offer to sell, or a recommendation to subscribe for or purchase any units in the Fund. If you are making an investment directly then you will be required to complete the application form, which can be obtained from FundRock NZ.

We have taken reasonable care to ensure that this material is accurate, current, and complete and fit for its intended purpose and audience as at the date of publication. No assurance is given or liability accepted regarding the accuracy, validity or completeness of this material and we do not undertake to update it in future if circumstances change. All opinions reflect FSI's judgment on the date of this publication and are subject to change without notice. This disclaimer extends to FundRock NZ, and any entity that may distribute this publication. The information in this publication is not intended to be financial advice for the purposes of the Financial Markets Conduct Act 2013 (FMC Act), as amended by the Financial Services Legislation Amendment Act 2019 (FSLAA).

In particular, in preparing this publication, FSI did not take into account the investment objectives, financial situation and particular needs of any particular person. Professional investment advice from an appropriately qualified adviser should be taken before making any investment.

Past performance is not necessarily indicative of future performance, unit prices may go down as well as up and an investor in the Fund may not recover the full amount the capital that they invest.

No part of this publication may be reproduced without the permission of FSI or FundRock NZ. FundRock NZ is the issuer and manager of the Fund. FSI is the investment manager of the Fund.

Copyright © First Sentier Investors, 2025

All rights reserved.