

BlackRock

**BlackRock International
Limited**

TCFD Entity Report

For the year ending 31 December 2023

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1. Introduction and context

1.1 Purpose

BlackRock International Limited ('BIL' or 'the firm') is a MiFID¹ Investment Firm, regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority ('FCA').

This document fulfils the regulatory requirement under the FCA's Environmental, Social and Governance ('ESG') sourcebook for firms to prepare and publish a 'TCFD entity report' containing climate-related disclosures consistent with the Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures ('TCFD') *Recommendations and Recommended Disclosures*.² This TCFD entity report sets out how the firm considers climate-related matters when managing assets on behalf of clients, encompassing disclosure of *Governance, Strategy and Risk Management* arrangements, as well as relevant climate-related *Metrics and Targets*.

This report contains entity-level disclosures; whilst some of the disclosures contained in this report may be relevant for product-level reporting, this should not be considered a product-level report.

1.2 BlackRock structure and business activities

BIL's principal activity is the provision of investment management and administrative services. The firm also provides transition management services in addition to providing investment support to other BlackRock Group companies.

BIL is a subsidiary of BlackRock Group Limited ('BGL'), a company domiciled in the UK and the holding company for BlackRock's regulated business in Europe, the Middle East and Africa ('EMEA') (the 'BGL Group'). The BGL Group's principal activity is the provision of investment management and advisory services through its regulated subsidiaries. BGL is ultimately owned by BlackRock, Inc. through multiple holding companies. In addition to BIL, BGL has two other subsidiaries in the United Kingdom that are regulated by the FCA as MiFID Investment Firms; BlackRock Investment Management (UK) Limited ('BIM (UK)') and BlackRock Advisors Limited ('BAL'). Figure 2.1 below illustrates the BGL Group's structure.

The activities of BGL and the three UK MiFID Investment Firms are managed jointly by a common Board of Directors ('Joint Board'). Permission has been obtained from the FCA for each of the MiFID Investment Firms to use committees established for the BGL Group (i.e., Group committees) rather than establish an individual committee for each firm.

1.3 Basis of preparation

This TCFD entity report has been prepared for BIL on a solo basis in accordance with the relevant provisions contained in the ESG sourcebook, the TCFD Recommendations and Recommended Disclosures, and the applicable sections of the 2021 TCFD Annex³ as required under ESG 2.1.6R. Where appropriate, this entity report cross-refers to the BlackRock, Inc. Group ('BlackRock') **2023 TCFD report**; cross-referral is made only in respect of matters disclosed in the BlackRock 2023 TCFD report that are directly relevant to BIL.

¹ UK Markets in Financial Instruments Directive.

² TCFD Recommendations and Recommended Disclosures is a reference to the TCFD report entitled 'Recommendations of the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures' (the 'TCFD Final Report'), and, specifically, the four pillars and the eleven recommended disclosures detailed in section C (Figure 4) of the report. This reference also encompasses the Annex to the TCFD report entitled 'Implementing the Recommendations of the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures' and, specifically, section C (Guidance for All Sectors) and part 4 section D (Supplemental Guidance for Asset Managers).

³ The 2021 TCFD Annex updates and supersedes the 2017 version of "Implementing the Recommendations of the TCFD". It provides both general and sector-specific guidance on implementing the Task-Force's recommendations. ESG 2.1.6R(1) and (3) require the firm to ensure its TCFD entity report reflects, to the extent it is relevant, the guidance in section C and part 4 section D of the TCFD Annex. [2021-TCFD-Implementing_Guidance.pdf \(bbhub.io\)](#)

Chapter 2.1 of the ESG sourcebook requires firms to prepare and publish a TCFD entity report no later than 30 June each calendar year. The BIL TCFD entity report adopts a 12-month reporting period that ends on 31 December of the year prior to the date of publication.

In line with the requirements outlined in the ESG sourcebook chapters 1.1 and 1.2, the disclosures contained in this report relate to assets managed in connection with the firm's TCFD in-scope business. For BIL, TCFD in-scope business is limited to the provision of portfolio management.⁴ The disclosures provided in this report relate only to BIL as an asset manager acting on behalf of clients and do not encompass BIL's corporate operations. The metrics presented in section 5 of this report relate to assets belonging to clients with whom BIL has a direct contractual relationship for the provision of portfolio management, including assets for which BIL has subsequently delegated portfolio management to another entity. The metrics presented in section 5 also include assets that BIL manages by way of delegation *from* another entity.⁵ This approach has been adopted irrespective of where the client, product or portfolio is domiciled.

In the event of divergence between the relevant entity-level governance, strategy or risk management arrangements disclosed in this report and the approach taken at a product level, an explanation of such divergence will be provided in the relevant on-demand TCFD product report. Clients should refer to their on-demand product reporting for further information.

BIL leverages relevant BlackRock policies, processes and methodologies, and draws upon the expertise of the wider BlackRock business, including business functions that are organised globally, where required and appropriate. As such, and unless otherwise stated, references throughout this report to BlackRock's policies, processes or methodologies encompass BIL and its activities.

It is anticipated that BIL's approach to TCFD entity reporting will continue to evolve, particularly as climate-related data and quantification methodologies develop further. The quantitative methodologies adopted for the current report, together with the known limitations of those methodologies, are referenced in section 5 of the report.

1.4 Compliance statement

ESG 2.2.7 requires a firm's TCFD entity report to include a statement confirming that the disclosures contained in the report comply with the requirements of the ESG sourcebook.

In respect of the BIL TCFD entity report, this compliance statement is underpinned by BlackRock's internal control and governance procedures. This provides assurance that the disclosures contained in this report, including any disclosures cross-referred to in the BlackRock 2023 TCFD report, comply with the ESG sourcebook TCFD entity reporting requirements. This compliance statement should be read in conjunction with section 1.3, which details the basis on which this report has been prepared and includes an expectation that the matters disclosed in this entity report will continue to evolve in line with market practice and the ongoing development of quantification methodologies.

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Colin McDonald
BlackRock International Limited Chief Financial Officer

⁴ Portfolio Management refers to the regulated activity of managing investments belonging to another person in circumstances which involve the exercise of discretion.

⁵ In addition to BIL, four further BGL Group subsidiaries are also required to publish TCFD entity reports for the reporting period ending 31 December 2023; BIM (UK), BAL, BlackRock Fund Managers Limited ('BFM') and BlackRock Life Limited ('BLL'). Where there are delegation arrangements between any of BAL, BIL, BIM (UK), BFM and BLL, the approach outlined here will result in emission metrics being reported in respect of the same assets in more than one TCFD entity report. It is therefore not appropriate to aggregate the metrics presented on a solo basis in the BAL, BIL, BIM (UK), BFM and BLL TCFD entity reports.

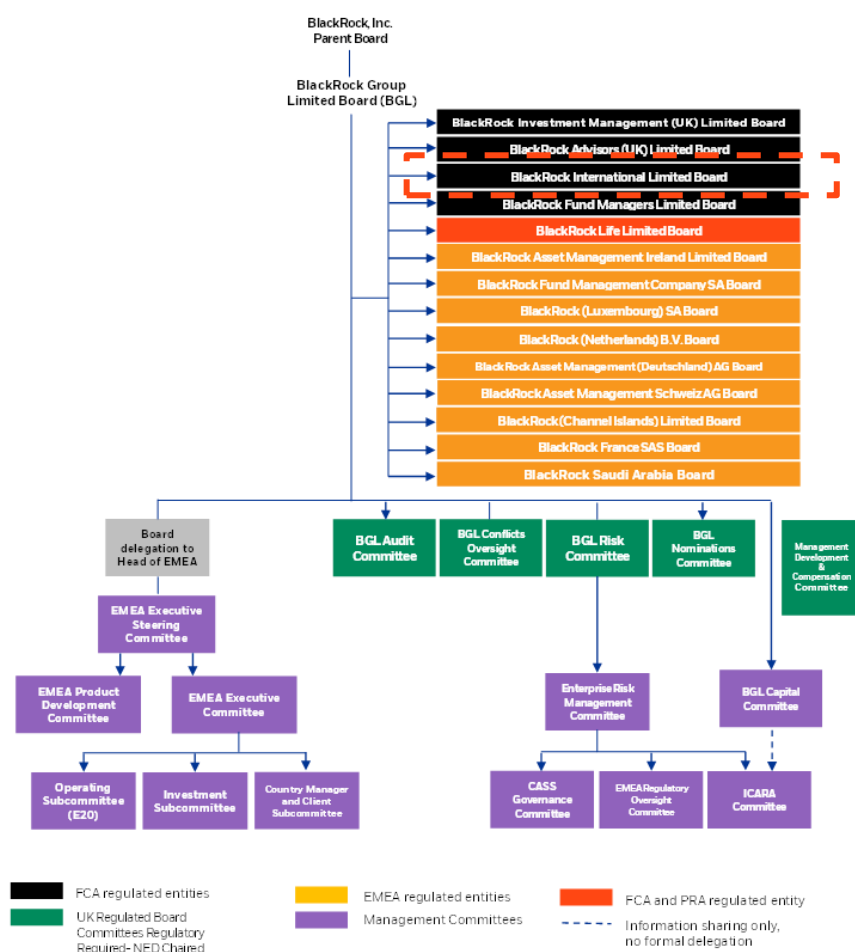
2. Governance

Effective corporate governance is critical to executing on BlackRock’s strategy and fulfilling its responsibilities to clients. BlackRock’s governance with respect to sustainability-related⁶ matters reflects its commitment to strong leadership and oversight of such matters at the senior management and board levels. At BlackRock, sustainability issues are regularly part of board-level discussions of firmwide and business line strategy, and responsibility for sustainability oversight is shared across the full board and its committees.

Although BlackRock’s strategy, including as it relates to sustainability, is developed and reviewed at a global level, it is designed to meet requirements applicable to all of BlackRock’s locations. The Joint Board has visibility of and can input into this strategy by having the ability to make recommendations to ensure it complies with applicable local regulations. The Joint Board implements BlackRock’s sustainability strategy via its oversight and scrutiny of investment services offered across the BGL Group and ensures that it meets local regulatory requirements.

The Joint Board has adopted a governance structure comprising Board and management committees to provide review, challenge, and oversight of the BGL Group’s activities. The link between the Joint Board and its committees as at 31 December 2023 is shown in Figure 2.1.

Figure 2.1 Governance structure of BGL and regulated subsidiaries



⁶ References throughout this document to ‘sustainability’ encompass climate-related matters, unless otherwise stated.

2.1 Joint Board oversight

The Joint Board has responsibility for the approval of the BGL Group's overall long-term strategic objectives and risk appetite. In addition, the Joint Board has oversight of the overall leadership of the BGL Group and responsibility for reviewing the group's performance relative to its strategy, objectives, and business plan.

The Joint Board reviewed and discussed aspects of the BGL Group's sustainability-related strategy throughout the year. Illustratively, the matters considered by the Joint Board included sustainability-related regulatory developments, climate-related regulatory disclosures, and sustainable investing strategy / product development updates. The Joint Board also received a recurring sustainable / transition investing business update throughout 2023. In addition, the BGL Group Non-Executive Directors ('NED's) received a further sustainability-related business update.

In addition to oversight by the Joint Board, the BGL Group Risk Committee also considered sustainability-related matters during 2023, including an overview of sustainability-related metrics in the investment process. The BGL Group Audit Committee also received an update during 2023 in relation to emerging sustainability-related disclosure requirements.

Joint Board and committee performance evaluation

The BGL Group Nominations Committee (comprised of four BGL Group NEDs, including the Chair of the Joint Board) conducts an annual assessment of the skills, experience, independence, knowledge, and diversity of the Joint Board members (both individually and collectively) as required to competently discharge their duties. The Nominations Committee also conducts an annual performance evaluation of the effectiveness of the Joint Board and its committees. This evaluation exercise considers sustainability-related knowledge and experience.

The Nominations Committee is responsible for reporting conclusions and recommendations arising out of the evaluation exercise to the Joint Board, and for agreeing an action plan, if required, to address the results of the evaluation exercise. The Nominations Committee is also responsible for periodically reviewing progress against this plan. The results of the most recent evaluation exercise were presented in September 2023. As part of this evaluation exercise, the members of the Joint Board recognised an ongoing need for sustainability-related training / business updates.

2.2 BGL Group management oversight

The Joint Board has delegated management of the day-to-day affairs and activities of the BGL Group to the Head of EMEA⁷, who is also the Chief Executive Officer of the BGL Group, in conjunction with EMEA functional leadership. The responsibilities of the Head of EMEA includes:

- The formulation and implementation of the BGL Group strategic objectives.
- The development of business plans and operating strategies for the BGL Group.
- The oversight of BGL Group operations and business performance, including the review of regional business performance; the review and approval of new business initiatives; oversight of the product development governance process; and oversight of investment performance.
- Risk Management, including the implementation of approved BlackRock policies.

As illustrated in Figure 2.1, the Head of EMEA was assisted in the discharge of his responsibilities by the EMEA Executive Steering Committee, which acts in an advisory and information sharing capacity, and which has been delegated certain approval and decision-making powers by the Head of EMEA. The Head of EMEA was also assisted by the EMEA Executive Committee (which operates as a sub-committee of the EMEA Executive Steering Committee) with managing the day-to-day affairs of the

⁷ This reflects the organisational structure in place as at 31 December 2023.

BGL Group. Membership of the EMEA Executive Steering Committee and the EMEA Executive Committee included the EMEA Head of BlackRock's Sustainable and Transition Solutions ('STS') function (an overview of which is provided in Figure 2.2), who is a certified employee under the Senior Managers and Certification Regime.⁸

The EMEA Executive Committee considered sustainability-related matters relevant to the BGL Group throughout the year. Illustratively, the topics considered included market trends in relation to sustainable and transition investing, sustainability-related regulatory / policy developments, and a BlackRock Investment Stewardship update, which included consideration of sustainability-related matters. The EMEA Executive Committee also received an update on BlackRock's global sustainability framework.

In addition, the EMEA Executive Steering Committee also considered sustainability-related matters. Illustratively, this included consideration of market trends in relation to sustainable investing, an update from BlackRock's STS function, and a discussion of key matters arising from COP 28.⁹

2.3 Functional groups

In practice, sustainability, including climate, is integrated into different functions across BlackRock. Several teams focus on sustainability, while others integrate sustainability into their broader functional responsibilities, as appropriate. Figure 2.2 contains further information on the climate and sustainability-related responsibilities of the relevant teams. While many of these functions are organised globally, including either a direct or indirect reporting line into BlackRock's Global Executive Committee ('GEC'), each function works with the local BGL Group / EMEA teams to deliver on client requirements.

Figure 2.2 Functional groups involved in climate & sustainability-related matters¹⁰

Team	Sustainability-Related Responsibilities	Management Reporting Line
Aladdin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrates third-party environmental, social and / or governance metrics on the Aladdin platform to support sustainability-related risk management, regulatory disclosures and reporting requirements. Develops proprietary climate risk analytics (Aladdin Climate) to support climate risk management and portfolio decarbonisation analysis. 	Global Head of Aladdin is a member of GEC
BlackRock Investment Institute ('BII')	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produces macro and portfolio research, including BlackRock's Capital Market Assumptions. The Sustainable Investment Research and Analytics team produces sustainable investment insights, including thought leadership and research on investment implications of the low-carbon transition. 	Head of BII reports to a Vice Chairman (GEC member)
BlackRock Investment Stewardship ('BIS')	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Serves as a link between clients and the companies they invest in, engaging with investee corporate leadership and proxy voting at shareholder meetings when authorised by clients to do so. Where appropriate, BIS engages with companies on material climate-related issues. 	Global Head of BIS is a GEC member
Corporate Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leads efforts to drive operational sustainability, establish sustainable business programs and policies, and engage key stakeholders on BlackRock's contribution towards the low-carbon transition and establishing BlackRock's operational sustainability goals. 	Reporting line into Global Head of Corporate Affairs (GEC member)

⁸ This reflects the organisational structure in place as at 31 December 2023.

⁹ COP 28 is a reference to the 28th United Nations Climate Change conference, held from 30 November to 13 December 2023.

¹⁰ As of 31 December 2023.

Enterprise Services ('ES')	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Corporate Real Estate, Space Planning, Critical Infrastructure and Workplace Experience teams manage BlackRock's owned and leased corporate footprint, including the management of energy efficiency and carbon reduction initiatives where BlackRock has operational control. Work alongside key stakeholders such as office leadership, property managers (leased premises) and the employee-run Green Team Network to plan and implement sustainability efforts in offices. Business Continuity Management manages disaster recovery planning, strategy, and crisis management activities. Health & Safety team monitors adherence to local environmental regulations and manages BlackRock's Environmental Management System. 	Global Head of ES reporting line to Global Head of Technology & Operations (GEC member)
Global Corporate Sustainability Controllers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develops corporate climate- and sustainability-related disclosures globally, for both voluntary and mandatory reporting obligations. 	Global Controller reports into Chief Financial Officer (GEC member)
Government Affairs & Public Policy ('GAPP')	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engages in financial services public policy dialogue, including in relation to climate risk and sustainability disclosures, through participation in industry initiatives, engagement with regulators and standard setters around the world, and through whitepapers, comment letters and consultation responses regularly published on BlackRock's website. 	Heads of Government Affairs & Public Policy reports to Global Head of Corporate Affairs (GEC member)
Global Product Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leads sustainable product innovation and development, governance, and strategy across the global product platform. 	Chief Product Officer reports to President (GEC member)
Investment Divisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BlackRock investment divisions include ETFs and Index Investments, Portfolio Management Group, Global Trading & Transition Management, and Equity Private Markets. Active portfolio teams manage exposure to financially material environmental, social and / or governance risks, and consider environmental, social and / or governance information in their investment processes, as applicable and consistent with client goals. Investment teams often have sustainability-focused units. 	Heads of major investment verticals are members of GEC and GEC Investment Sub-Committee
Legal & Compliance ('L&C')	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assists in development of sustainability-related disclosures and compliance with applicable sustainability-related regulatory and reporting requirements across BlackRock. 	General Counsel / Chief Legal Officer is a member of the GEC
Risk & Quantitative Analysis Group ('RQA')	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responsible for BlackRock's Investment and Enterprise risk management framework which includes oversight of sustainability-related investment risks. RQA evaluates investment risks, including financially material sustainability risks, on an ongoing basis as part of regular investment risk management processes and, where applicable, during regular reviews with portfolio managers. This helps to ensure that such risks are understood, deliberate, and consistent with client objectives, complementing the first-line monitoring. Maintains a dedicated Sustainability Risk group that partners with risk managers and businesses to oversee sustainability risk across the platform. Consults with investors and sustainability experts across BlackRock to evaluate environmental, social and / or governance related data, models, methodologies and / or analytics. 	Chief Risk Officer is a member of GEC and GEC Investment Sub-Committee
Sustainable & Transition Solutions ('STS')	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leads BlackRock's sustainability and transition strategy, drives cross-functional change, supports client and external engagement, powers product ideation, and embeds sustainable expertise across BlackRock in partnership with other teams. 	Global Head of STS reports to a Vice Chairman (GEC member)

2.4 Remuneration

BlackRock has a clear and well-defined pay-for-performance philosophy and compensation programmes which are designed to meet a number of objectives. These objectives include the

promotion of sound and effective risk management across all risk categories, including sustainability risk, and discouraging excessive risk-taking (sustainability-related or otherwise).

The BGL Group has a remuneration policy in place, the responsibility for which rests with the Joint Board. This includes responsibility for the adoption and ongoing oversight of the remuneration policies and practices for employees based in EMEA.

The Management Development and Compensation Committee, which is the global, independent remuneration committee for BlackRock and comprises the NEDs of BlackRock, also acts as the independent remuneration committee for the BGL Group. It therefore supports the Joint Board in meeting its remuneration related obligations by overseeing the design and implementation of the remuneration policy in accordance with applicable regulations.

3. Strategy

BlackRock was founded on the premise of understanding and managing investment risk, anticipating client needs, and working with clients to achieve their investment goals. This is core to BlackRock's strategy.

Climate risk and the economic opportunities arising from the low-carbon transition are among the top priorities for many of BlackRock's clients. Clients are increasingly asking BlackRock how to mitigate risk and capture opportunities associated with climate and the transition to a low-carbon economy. As a fiduciary, BlackRock considers relevant and material risks and opportunities that could impact portfolios, when consistent with investment guidelines. For clients interested in sustainability and the transition to a low-carbon economy, BlackRock offers a wide range of investment products, analytics and research to help them achieve their chosen investment objectives.

BlackRock recognises that different clients have different investment preferences and objectives. BlackRock provides choice to clients, including by offering a wide range of investment products to help them meet their investment goals, and delivering on the instructions and guidelines that clients ultimately select.

BlackRock's investment decisions and its stewardship engagement and voting are governed strictly by its fiduciary duty to clients. As such, BlackRock does not make any commitments or pledges that would interfere with its independent determination on how to engage with issuers and vote proxies on behalf of its clients.

3.1 Investment approach

As a fiduciary, BlackRock's investment approach is informed by three principles:

- Understanding the client's investment objectives and providing choice to meet their needs;
- Seeking the best risk-adjusted returns within the scope of the mandate given by clients; and
- Underpinning its work with research, data, and analytics.

BlackRock incorporates financially material sustainability data or information, including material data and information related to climate, alongside other information into firmwide processes, where relevant, with the objective of enhancing risk-adjusted returns. BlackRock has a framework for environmental, social and governance integration that permits a diversity of approaches across different investment teams, strategies and particular client mandates. As with other investment risks and opportunities, the financial materiality of environmental, social and / or governance considerations may vary by issuer, sector, product, mandate and time horizon. As such, BlackRock's environmental, social and governance integration framework needs to allow for flexibility across investment teams. Please refer to BlackRock's [ESG Integration Statement](#) for additional information.

Research is at the centre of BlackRock's investment approach and processes. It informs BlackRock's investment decisions and product innovation. BlackRock researches major structural trends shaping the economy, markets, and asset prices. BlackRock assess how these trends could affect long-term value and how they could unfold over time. The transition to a low-carbon economy is one trend that BlackRock researches, because BlackRock sees it having implications on macroeconomic trends, company financial prospects and business models, and portfolios.

BlackRock's role in the transition is as a fiduciary to its clients. BlackRock's role is to help clients navigate investment risks and opportunities, not to engineer a specific decarbonisation outcome in the real economy. The money BlackRock manages is not its own – it belongs to BlackRock's clients, many of whom make their own asset allocation and portfolio construction decisions.

Sustainable investment solutions

To enable choice and meet client demand, BlackRock offers a wide range of sustainable investment strategies to clients. As of 31 December 2023, BlackRock had over 400 sustainable funds globally covering a spectrum of sustainable solutions, as well as customised solutions to meet clients' objectives, and managed \$802 billion globally in its sustainable investing platform on behalf of its clients. As of 31 December 2023, BlackRock managed \$138 billion globally in its transition investment platform on behalf of its clients.¹¹

BlackRock's sustainable investment platform provides clients with choice to invest in line with their specific investment goals and objectives. Across the platform, products use environmental, social and / or governance data as a portfolio construction input. A subset of those products also seeks to achieve long-term sustainability outcomes, in line with each product's specific investment objective. These solutions include a variety of products and strategies that support the transition to a low-carbon economy. An overview of BlackRock's sustainable product framework is provided in Figure 3.1.

Figure 3.1 BlackRock Sustainable Investing Platform

	Screened	Uplift	Thematic	Impact
Investment approach	Constrain investments by avoiding issuers or business activities with certain environmental, social and / or governance characteristics.	Commitment to investments with improved environmental, social and / or governance characteristics versus a stated universe or benchmark.	Targeted investments in issuers whose business models may not only benefit from but also may drive long-term sustainability outcomes .	Commitment to generate positive, measurable, and additional sustainability outcomes .
Additional details	Includes use of screens and may be enhanced with active engagement with specific issuers.	Environmental, social and / or governance data drives portfolio construction and security selection with some strategies leveraging to target a specific objective.	Strategy construction determined by focused exposure to the specific environmental or social theme.	Investment process must showcase "additionality" or "intentionality" in line with Operating Principles for Impact Management.

Further information on BlackRock's sustainable investment strategies is available in the **Strategy** section of the [BlackRock 2023 TCFD Report](#).

3.2 Investment stewardship

Investment stewardship is one of the ways in which BlackRock fulfils its fiduciary responsibilities as an asset manager to its clients. The BlackRock Investment Stewardship team serves as a link between BlackRock's clients and the companies BlackRock invests in on their behalf. The team aims to build constructive relationships with companies and encourage the corporate governance practices that

¹¹ In some instances, assets included in BlackRock's sustainable investing platform also qualify for inclusion in BlackRock's transition investing platform. As such, the value of assets in each platform should not be aggregated.

can contribute to long-term financial value creation. BIS does this by engaging with investee companies and proxy voting on behalf of BlackRock's clients who have given BlackRock such authority. BIS' approach to stewardship is outlined in its [Global Principles](#), regional [voting guidelines](#) and [engagement priorities](#).

Consistent with prior years, in 2023, BIS engaged with companies on five priorities that, in the team's experience, support long-term financial performance: Board quality and effectiveness; strategy, purpose, and financial resilience; incentives aligned with financial value creation; climate and natural capital; and company impacts on people. In their engagements during the 2022-2023 proxy year, the BIS team encouraged companies to provide disclosures aligned with the reporting framework developed by the TCFD to support investors' ability to assess these risks.

BlackRock voting choice

While many asset owners are pleased to have BlackRock's stewardship team cast proxy votes on their behalf, others want the choice to participate more actively in the proxy voting process. Launched in January 2022, BlackRock Voting Choice gives many clients the option to participate more directly in the proxy voting process where legally and operationally viable. Voting Choice is available for clients invested in certain institutional pooled funds in the United States, the United Kingdom, Ireland, and Canada that utilise equity index investment strategies, as well as clients in certain institutional pooled funds in the United States, the United Kingdom and Canada that use systematic active equity strategies.

3.3 Risks, opportunities, and scenario analysis

BlackRock recognises the importance of effective identification, monitoring, and management of climate-related risks and opportunities across its global business and corporate operations.

BIL's exposure to climate-related risk is primarily indirect, with such risks having the potential to affect future revenues and expenses, as opposed to assets and liabilities.¹² The assets that BIL manage belong to clients, not to BIL. BIL typically earns investment management fees as a percentage of Assets Under Management ('AUM'). BIL also earns performance fees on certain portfolios relative to an agreed-upon benchmark or return hurdle, as well as transition management fees.

Climate-related opportunities

BlackRock considers increased client demand for investment solutions that align with clients' sustainability, including climate-related, objectives to be a key opportunity. BlackRock believes that its \$802 billion dedicated Sustainable Investing Platform and its \$138 billion transition investment platform are well-positioned to meet the increased demand from clients looking to invest in products that include sustainability / transition-related characteristics.

Climate-related risks

Figure 3.2 contains a summary of the principal climate-related risks that BlackRock has identified, and which have also been deemed relevant to BIL's business strategy, together with an indication of the primary anticipated financial impact arising from each of these risks on BIL's strategy.

¹² As a corporate entity, BIL may also be exposed to climate-related risks. However, as outlined in section 1.3, the scope of this report is limited to the assets associated with BIL's TCFD in-scope activities (in line with the requirement contained in ESG 1.1.3 of the ESG sourcebook).

Figure 3.2 Summary of climate-related risks¹³

Risk	Description	Primary Anticipated Financial Impact
Market	Market-related risks are among the key risks to which BlackRock's profitability may be exposed. Fluctuations in asset value due to climate-related risks could lead to a reduction in investment management revenues as a result of decline in the value of BlackRock's AUM, withdrawal of funds from BlackRock's products or the rebalancing or reallocating of assets into BlackRock products that yield different fee levels.	Reduced revenues
Product	BlackRock may be unable to develop new products and services to suit clients' climate-related needs and the development of new products and services may expose BlackRock to reputational harm, additional costs or operational risk. Unsuccessful efforts to develop products or services to suit clients' climate-related needs could expose BlackRock to additional costs and / or cause revenue and earnings to decline. Changes in client preferences and / or changes to regulation to which its clients are subject could reduce demand for certain investment products offered by BlackRock.	Increased expenses and / or reduced revenues
Reputation	BlackRock is subject to competing demands from different stakeholder groups with divergent views on climate-related matters, including in countries in which BlackRock operates and invests, as well as in states and localities where BlackRock serves public sector clients. This divergence has and continues to increase the risk that any perceived or actual action or lack thereof by BlackRock on such matters on behalf of its clients will be viewed differently by various stakeholders and adversely impact BlackRock's reputation and business, including through withdrawals, redemptions, terminations or decisions not to commit or invest new capital by clients, as well as legal and governmental action and scrutiny.	Reduced revenues
Regulatory	New, extensive and / or divergent environmental and sustainability-related disclosure requirements, regulations, guidance or taxes that apply to BlackRock's products or other aspects of BlackRock's operations could increase compliance costs or require BlackRock to alter business or operating activities. New laws, regulations or guidance could impact client investment strategies or allocations in a manner that is adverse to BlackRock.	Increased expenses and / or reduced revenues

The impact of climate-related risks, together with other relevant risks, on the BGL Group strategy and financial performance is considered in the BGL Group internal capital adequacy and risk assessment ('ICARA') process and, specifically, through the ICARA stress testing process. BIL is included within the scope of the BGL Group ICARA.

Climate scenario analysis & stress testing

Climate scenario analysis allows an organisation to develop insight into how the physical and transition risks and opportunities arising from climate change might impact its business and corporate operations over time. While climate scenario analysis is not meant to predict the future, it allows organisations to explore possible outcomes, the assumptions they depend upon, and the courses of action and / or events that could bring them about.

BlackRock has conducted a firmwide climate scenario analysis exercise to understand the potential implications of climate-related transition and physical risk under a variety of emission scenarios to BlackRock's business strategy over the short-, medium-, and long-term. BlackRock's firmwide climate scenario analysis included consideration of the impact of climate-related transition and physical risks on BlackRock's assets under management, including the assets managed by BIL. BlackRock has leveraged scenarios from the Network for Greening the Financial System ('NGFS') and from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change ('IPCC'). NGFS scenarios readily provide analytics to assess both physical and transition risks, while the IPCC scenarios are largely focused on assessing physical risks.

The results of the climate scenario analysis indicate that BlackRock's diversified platform and commitment to providing choice to its clients creates flexibility in its business model that is likely to

¹³ The inclusion of climate-related risks in Figure 3.2 should not be construed as a characterisation regarding materiality or financial impact of these risks.

support BlackRock's resilience as it adapts to the impacts of both transition and physical climate risks. While BlackRock's AUM and associated revenues and profit margin may be impacted by climate change, each scenario reviewed presented different plausible challenges, risks and opportunities that may occur through 2050.

Further information on BlackRock's approach to scenario selection, impact assessment and scenario conclusions, together with the limitations inherent in the scenario analysis exercise, is available in [BlackRock's 2023 TCFD Report](#). While scenario analysis is not currently prepared at the subsidiary entity-level, it is anticipated that BlackRock's approach to climate scenario analysis will continue to evolve.

For the BGL Group, including BIL, the ICARA process includes sustainability-related stress testing, which considers the impact of sustainability, including climate-related, risks on the strategy and financial performance of the BGL Group. The BGL Group ICARA is intended to assess the level of capital and liquidity that adequately supports all relevant current and future risks to which the BGL Group may be exposed, given its business activities and operating model.

The 2024 BGL Group ICARA includes two sustainability-related stress tests, both of which consider the product, regulatory and reputational risks associated with sustainable investing. Specifically, the stress tests consider (i) the risk that the BGL Group will not be able to provide a satisfactory approach to sustainability investing that meets all types of clients demands, preferences and objectives, and (ii) the risk associated with a breach of sustainability-related regulatory requirements due to operational implementation issues from diverging sustainability policies and distribution labels across jurisdictions. The impact of these stress tests is assessed over a three-year planning horizon. For each of these stress tests, while a reduction in profitability is forecast, the BGL Group remains profitable and maintains sufficient capital and liquidity to satisfy its own funds threshold requirements.

3.4 Industry engagement and public policy

BlackRock advocates for public policies that it believes are in the long-term best interests of BlackRock's clients and shareholders. In doing so, BlackRock supports the creation of regulatory regimes that increase financial market transparency, protect investors, and facilitate the responsible growth of capital markets, while preserving consumer choice and properly balancing benefits versus implementation costs. BlackRock's GAPP team contributes to financial services standard setting efforts and public policy discourse. As it relates to climate and sustainability disclosure related policy matters, BlackRock strives to engage constructively in the global dialogue through participation in industry initiatives as well as through engagement with regulators and standard setters around the world.

Industry initiatives

BlackRock and its employees participate in industry initiatives to contribute to a dialogue on issues that are important to BlackRock's clients, including those related to climate-related risks and the transition to a low-carbon economy, as well as those to support the development of consistent industry standards and approaches around climate-related disclosure standards.

Public policy

BlackRock supports corporate sustainability disclosure aligned with the TCFD framework to support investment decision making. Since sustainability-related material investment risk is a global issue and many investors allocate funds globally, BlackRock supports a coordinated approach by regulators and standard-setting bodies across jurisdictions, to facilitate high quality, comparable disclosures. BlackRock acknowledges the significant contributions already made in this area by initiatives, such as the TCFD, the Sustainability Accounting Standards Board, the International Sustainability Standards Board, the Science Based Targets initiative, the Global Reporting Initiative, amongst others which bring together public entities and private sector firms and believes that coordinated regulatory action is required across markets to ensure a level playing field for companies and investors. In BlackRock's view, investors can make better-informed investment decisions when companies provide a clear picture of how they are managing material risks and opportunities, including where appropriate, any material sustainability-related, including climate, risks and opportunities.

4. Risk management

An integral part of BlackRock's identity is the core belief that rigorous risk management is critical to the delivery of high-quality asset management services. This section discusses BlackRock's approach to risk management, including the risk identification, assessment and monitoring processes adopted by BlackRock.

BGL is the holding company for BlackRock's regulated business in EMEA, including BIL. As referred to in section 2, risk management in BIL is governed by the Joint Board. BIL follows the BGL Group's policy and control frameworks. The elements of the risk management framework described in this section are applied at the BGL Group level.

4.1 Risk management approach

BlackRock employs a three-lines of defence approach to managing investment risks in client portfolios. BlackRock's investment teams and business management are the primary risk owners, or first line of defence. Portfolio managers and research analysts are responsible for evaluating the financially material environmental (as well as social and / or governance) risks and opportunities for an industry or company consistent with the portfolio's investment guidelines, just as they consider other potentially material economic issues related to their investments. Examples of climate-related risks taken into account include risks from regulatory change or litigation and exposure to physical impacts such as flooding or other extreme weather events or changes in temperature.

BlackRock's risk management function, RQA, serves as the second line of defence in BlackRock's risk management framework along with BlackRock L&C. RQA evaluates investment risks, including financially material environmental, social and governance-related risks, on an ongoing basis as part of regular risk management processes and, where applicable, during regular reviews with portfolio managers. This helps to ensure that such risks are understood, deliberate, and consistent with client objectives. RQA also has a dedicated Sustainability Risk group that partners with risk managers and businesses to oversee sustainability risk across the platform.

The third line of defence, BlackRock's Internal Audit function, operates as an assurance function. The mandate of Internal Audit is to independently assess the adequacy and effectiveness of BlackRock's internal control environment to improve risk management, control, and governance processes.

4.2 Climate risk – identification

BlackRock considers many investment risks in its firmwide processes. In order to seek the best risk-adjusted returns for its clients, BlackRock manages material risks and opportunities that could impact portfolios, including financially material environmental, social and / or governance-related risks.

Climate-related risk includes:

- **Climate transition risk:** Risk related to the transition to a lower carbon economy. Whether policy, technology, market or reputation risk arises from the adjustments to a low-carbon economy in order to mitigate climate change.
- **Climate physical risk:** Risk associated with the physical impacts due to climate change. Physical risk arises from the physical effects of climate change which can be acute or chronic. For example, frequent and severe climate-related events can impact products and services, and supply chains.

Climate risks may be identified through exposure to key performance indicators linked directly to particular activities, or identified indirectly through their effect on different existing risk types (including, but not limited to, market, liquidity, concentration, credit, asset-liability mismatches, etc.). Sustainability risk factors may have a material impact on an investment held in a product, may increase volatility and may result in a loss to the value of units in a product.

Certain issuers may be particularly exposed to heightened climate risks through their sector or business practices. BlackRock has a framework to identify and monitor issuers particularly exposed to climate risks.

4.3 Climate risk – assessment

Climate risks are identified at various steps of the investment process, where relevant, from research, allocation, selection, portfolio construction decisions, or management engagement, and are considered relative to funds' risk and return objectives. Assessment of these risks is done relative to their materiality (i.e., likelihood of impacting returns of the investment) and in tandem with other risk assessments (e.g., liquidity, valuation, etc.). How climate considerations are sourced, assessed, and incorporated will vary with portfolio objective, investment style, and asset class. BlackRock's investment professionals assess a variety of economic and financial indicators, including relevant material climate factors, to make investment decisions that align with the product objectives.

4.4 Climate risk – monitoring and response

As set out in section 4.1, BlackRock's investment teams and business management are the primary risk owners, or the first line of defence. BlackRock's risk management function, RQA, is responsible for BlackRock's Investment and Enterprise risk management frameworks and serves as a key part of the second line of defence along with BlackRock L&C. RQA evaluates investment risks, including financially material climate risks, during regular reviews with portfolio managers. This helps to ensure that such risks are understood, deliberate, and consistent with client objectives, complementing the first-line monitoring.

5. Metrics and Targets

As an asset manager, BlackRock acts as an agent investing assets that belong to its clients on its clients' behalf. In this section, BIL reports estimates reflecting the absolute emissions associated with the investments BIL makes on behalf of its clients in corporate securities¹⁴ (where data is available). BIL also reports emissions intensity for sovereign debt assets (where data is available), carbon footprint and weighted average carbon intensity.¹⁵

BIL does not set climate-related targets for the assets it invests on behalf of clients. BIL is a fiduciary and as such, recognises that different clients have different investment preferences and objectives. The metrics disclosed in this section are predominantly influenced by two factors: (i) client preferences (which products clients choose to invest in) and (ii) market conditions (affecting the assets held in, and weightings of assets within, those products). Changes over time in the metrics disclosed result from the preferences and choices made by BIL's clients, including how clients have allocated capital to BlackRock as their fiduciary. For additional detail relating to product specific sustainability objectives, please refer to the relevant fund prospectuses, product briefs and fact sheets available on applicable public fund websites.

Metrics

Figure 5.1 shows a summary of the climate-related metrics reported by BIL for this entity report. Each of these metrics comes with its own uses and limitations, as shown.

Figure 5.1: Overview of reported climate-related metrics

	Exposure to Emissions		
	Absolute Emissions	Carbon Footprint	Weighted Average Carbon Intensity
Unit	tCO ₂ e	tCO ₂ e/\$m AUM	tCO ₂ e/\$m Revenue
What it measures	Proportionate exposure to investee Greenhouse Gas ('GHG') emissions	Emissions intensity per unit of investment	Emissions normalised by revenue (in USD)
Pros	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standard data inputs Direct connection to transition to lower carbon economy Industry standard (Partnership for Carbon Accounting Financials ('PCAF')) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standard data inputs Normalises for size, allowing for comparability 	
Cons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doesn't account for size Market movement can create noise Incomplete data / asset class coverage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Market movements can create noise Incomplete data / asset class coverage 	

¹⁴ Corporate securities relate to listed equities, corporate bonds, and associated derivatives. In-scope derivatives are derivatives with corporate issuer underliers and include equity warrants and options, convertible debt and equity, total return swaps, and credit default swaps. The following derivative types are out of scope: equity index options, currency options, options on commodities and volatility index, CDX, swaps (other than CDS and total return), and synthetics.

¹⁵ Please refer to section 1.3 of this report for confirmation of the approach that has been adopted for determining the AUM in scope of BIL's emissions metrics.

Methodology

BIL referenced the PCAF developed Global GHG Accounting & Reporting Standard for the Financial Industry, as a starting point for estimating absolute emissions. Please refer to the **Metrics and Targets** section of the [BlackRock 2023 TCFD Report](#) for further detail relating to PCAF standards and BlackRock's adoption of them for the asset classes included in Figure 5.2. Further clarity is provided below in respect of the treatment of derivatives, real estate and non-corporate fixed income assets as it relates to BIL's TCFD in-scope business.

- Derivatives that are not linked to a corporate issuer have been excluded due to the fact they do not have associated emissions and are therefore not relevant for TCFD reporting.
- Derivatives linked to a corporate issuer have been included in the metrics reported. This approach has a minimal impact on absolute emissions and carbon footprint estimates for BIL given that the majority of BIL's AUM is held in long-only index portfolios where short positions and derivatives are not a significant component of the investment strategy.
- Real estate asset emissions have been excluded from this reporting as there are minimal physical real estate holdings during the reporting period.
- Additional asset classes that are excluded from this instance of reporting include non-corporate fixed income¹⁶ and commodities. These assets do not have associated issuing entities that report emissions. There are gaps in respect of the data available for these asset classes that are widely recognised by the market as an area for improvement in data coverage and methodological standardisation.

Figure 5.2: GHG emissions from AUM – methodological highlights

Emissions Included	Scope 1, Scope 2 & Scope 3
Asset Classes Included	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Listed equities, corporate bonds, and associated derivatives
Asset Classes Excluded	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Non-corporate fixed income, commodities, alternatives (including real estate), and derivatives not linked to corporate issuers
Data Sources	MSCI

In the absence of explicit regulatory guidance on the calculation methodology to be adopted for intensity metrics, BIL has elected to reflect in the calculation denominator only those assets for which BIL has been able to collect emissions data. This approach aligns the scope of assets reflected in the numerator of the intensity metrics calculation with the scope of assets reflected in the corresponding denominator.

Results & discussion

Figure 5.3 provides estimates of absolute emissions for BIL's AUM in corporate securities (where data was available). Estimated absolute emissions, inclusive of scopes 1 to 3, were 12.17 million tons CO₂e in 2023. The 2023 carbon footprint for scopes 1 and 2 was 86.37 tons of CO₂e per million dollars of AUM, while the scope 3 carbon footprint was 528.00 tons of CO₂e per million dollars of AUM.

¹⁶ Although GHG emissions are not reported in respect of non-corporate fixed income assets, emissions intensity metrics are reported in respect of sovereign debt assets. This is considered further below.

Absolute emissions and carbon intensity metrics are sensitive to fluctuations in asset values – particularly, though not exclusively, due to changes in enterprise value including cash from one period to the next. Such market volatility can introduce noise that reduces comparability from one year to the next. Other factors that drive changes in absolute emissions are: (i) changes to emissions of the underlying investee companies, and (ii) changes to asset allocation. Sensitivity to market volatility can obscure which of these factors is driving the changes in the metric year-over-year.

Figure 5.3: GHG emissions associated with BIL's AUM¹⁷

	2023 ¹⁸
Absolute Emissions (million tCO ₂ e) Scope 1 & 2	1.66
Absolute Emissions (million tCO ₂ e) Scope 3	10.51
Carbon Footprint (tCO ₂ e/\$m AUM) Scope 1 & 2	86.37
Carbon Footprint (tCO ₂ e/\$m AUM) Scope 3	528.00
Weighted Average Carbon Intensity (tCO ₂ e/\$m Revenue) Scope 1 & 2	145.92
Weighted Average Carbon Intensity (tCO ₂ e/\$m Revenue) Scope 3	1,014.66
Data Quality (Emissions Coverage)	69.59%

Data above represents unaudited, estimates based on the portion of BIL's AUM for which emissions data and methodologies are available. There are several limitations associated with these figures. Please review results in conjunction with the limitations section referenced below.

Sovereigns

BIL is reporting emissions intensity metrics for sovereign debt assets (where data is available). While there is not yet consensus on which intensity metrics to use when determining emissions intensity for sovereign assets, BIL believes it is important to provide a preliminary view to support the BlackRock's commitment to transparency. In relation to sovereign debt assets, BIL is reporting GHG intensity and GHG per capita. GHG intensity of an economy is measured in units of tons per USD million nominal GDP. GHG per capita is measured in tons of CO₂e per capita.

Please refer to the Sovereigns methodology detailed in the **Metrics and Targets** section of the [BlackRock 2023 TCFD Report](#) for further detail on BlackRock's approach.

Results & discussion

Sovereign emissions intensity is a metric which represents the nation's carbon efficiency, or how dependent its economic activity is on carbon emissions. A higher emissions intensity indicates a relatively higher exposure to transition risks associated with emissions regulations, as well as greater contribution of global GHG levels and the associated impact on warming.

¹⁷ All metrics in this table include corporate securities (listed equity, corporate bonds, associated derivatives) where data was available and excludes all other AUM. Where companies do not disclose their emissions, MSCI applies proprietary methods to estimate emissions. Of the 69.59% emissions coverage, 59.23% represents reported emissions data and 10.36% represents estimated emissions data.

¹⁸ Holdings value analysis date is as of 29 December 2023. Due to the known limitation of lagged emissions data reporting, emissions data included in the analysis for a given holding year may reflect GHG emissions from prior year(s) for at least a subset of holdings included in the analysis. See limitations section for more details.

Figure 5.4: GHG emissions intensity metrics for Sovereigns included in BIL's AUM¹⁹

	2023 ²⁰
GHG intensity (tons/USD million nominal GDP)	309.33
GHG per capita (tons)	9.73

Data above represents unaudited estimates.

Limitations

A fuller discussion of limitations relating to data quality, lagged data, backward-looking metrics and sensitivity to market value are all elaborated upon in the **Metrics and Targets** section of the [BlackRock 2023 TCFD report](#), which should be referred to for a comprehensive assessment of identified data-related limitations.

¹⁹ GHG emissions intensity and GHG per capita include sovereign debt assets and excludes all other AUM.

²⁰ Holdings value analysis date is as of 29 December 2023. Due to the known limitation of lagged emissions data reporting, emissions data included in the analysis for a given holding year may reflect GHG emissions from prior year(s) for at least a subset of holdings included in the analysis. See limitations section for more details.

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