

RISK

This is a marketing communication. Please refer to the prospectus, supplement and KID/KIID for the Funds, which contain detailed information on their characteristics and objectives, before making any final investment decisions.

The Funds are equity funds. Investors should be willing and able to assume the risks of equity investing. The value of an investment and the income from it can fall as well as rise as a result of market and currency movement, and you may not get back the amount originally invested. Further details on the risk factors are included in the Funds' documentation, available on our website.

Past performance does not predict future returns.

ABOUT THE STRATEGY

Launch	19.12.2007
Index	MSCI World
Sector	IA Commodity/Natural Resources
Managers	Will Riley Jonathan Waghorn
EU Domiciled	Guinness Sustainable Energy Fund Guinness Sustainable Energy UCITS ETF
UK Domiciled	WS Guinness Sustainable Energy Fund

INVESTMENT POLICY

The Guinness Sustainable Energy Funds are managed for capital growth and invest at least 80% in companies involved in the generation, storage, efficiency and consumption of sustainable energy sources (such as solar, wind, hydro, geothermal, biofuels and biomass). We believe that over the next twenty years the sustainable energy sector will benefit from demand growth, improving economics and both public and private support, offering attractive investment opportunities. The Funds are actively managed and use the MSCI World Index as a comparator benchmark only.

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COMMENTARY

A TRUMP/REPUBLICAN VICTORY

Donald Trump will be the next President of the USA, and the Republicans have taken control of the Senate. This month, we assess the implications for sustainable energy, and energy more broadly, considering his recent pre-election rhetoric and the potential actions of his senators.

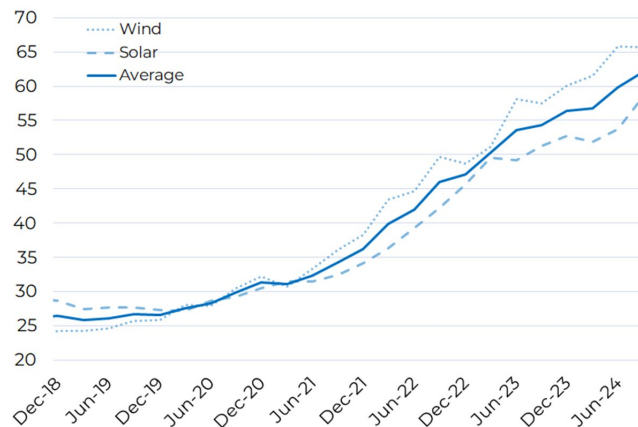
EQUITIES

The Guinness Sustainable Energy Fund (Class Y) delivered a return of -7.3% (in USD) in October, underperforming the MSCI World at -2.0%. Itron was the fund's top performer after posting better than expected quarterly earnings thanks to strong cost control. Weaker names included Enphase and SolarEdge. Underperformance was driven by continued demand weakness in Europe, with poor forward visibility resulting in further cuts to guidance. Encouragingly, Enphase's management indicated that the US destocking cycle may have bottomed and are optimistic about future growth. Within the month, we also saw Equinor acquiring a c.10% stake in Orsted, one of our portfolio holdings. This transaction follows a trend of M&A activity within the sustainable energy sector this year, highlighting the value that strategic and financial buyers are seeing in the space.

CHART OF THE MONTH: RISING PPA PRICES

North American renewable power purchase agreement (PPA) prices rose to over \$62 per megawatt hour in 3Q 2024, up over 14% year-on-year. According to LevelTen Energy, wind and solar PPA prices have risen at an average rate of 19% and 12% per annum respectively since 2018.






North American PPA prices (\$/MWh)



Source: LevelTen, Guinness Global Investors, October 2024

OCTOBER NEWS AND EVENTS IN REVIEW

In this section, we review the key news items and their impact on our various portfolio sub-sectors over the last month.

News	Sub-Sector	Impact
<p>October saw a continuation in the recent trend of M&A activity in the sustainable energy space. Global miner Rio Tinto acquired Arcadium Lithium for a 90% premium in a deal worth \$6.7bn. The size of this premium is notable and reflects both the sector's long-term growth potential and depressed valuations. In the same month, KKR announced intentions to purchase a 25% stake in Eni's biofuel unit, Enilive, at a valuation of c.\$13bn, well above market expectations. We also saw Equinor purchase a c.10% stake in offshore wind developer Orsted, for c.\$2.5bn. These deals follow previously announced takeovers in the sustainable energy space this year, including KKR's bid for Encavis, EQT acquiring OX2, and Brookfield's recent offer for Neoen.</p>	<p>Sustainable energy M&A activity</p>	
<p>October was seismic month for nuclear power generation as both governments and the private sector threw their support behind the technology in order to meet their rising energy needs. We saw news of hyperscalers such as Amazon and Microsoft signing long-term agreements with nuclear energy companies, supporting the development of small modular reactors and the recommissioning existing power plants. This trend has also been seen at the national level, with additional support for nuclear announced in Japan, Italy and the US as governments look to add more carbon-free energy to the grid.</p>	<p>Nuclear power generation</p>	
<p>Last month saw news of additional support for Europe's wind sector with France announcing that it would be launching tenders for 9.2GW of offshore wind projects as part of the country's target to achieve 45GW of installed capacity by 2050. Similarly, in October, the German government announced a package of measures designed to support the domestic wind industry from the threat of heavily subsidized Chinese competition. The package included state guarantees for wind energy production and a roadmap for reducing dependence on China for critical components.</p>	<p>Wind power</p>	
<p>Off the back of September's stimulus announcements, China's clean technology industry enjoyed a further boost after the government announced a series of initiatives to bolster domestic production and support profitability. Solar manufacturing names rose following rumours of potential government intervention to reduce oversupply and reverse the trend of declining prices. This echoes the country's prior intervention in coal and steel markets in 2015, in which the government launched policies to reduce capacity as part of wider supply-side structural reform. This followed recent pledges from China's PV and wind-turbine OEMs to halt a vicious price war that has roiled the sector and held back profitability.</p>	<p>Chinese clean technology</p>	
<p>Global electric vehicle (EV) sales recorded another impressive month of growth in September, with Rho Motion reporting a record-breaking 1.7 million units sold, up 31% year on year. Year-to-date EV sales are now up 22%. China continues to see the fastest rate of adoption, with plug-ins once again accounting for the majority (53%) of sales in the month according to Cleantechnica. In the same month the European Automobile Manufacturers' Association also reported positive momentum in Europe, with hybrid sales overtaking traditional internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles for the first time, growing their market share to c.33%, up c.22% from last year.</p>	<p>Electric Vehicles</p>	

MANAGERS' COMMENTS

A Trump/Republican victory

Donald Trump will be the next President of the United States of America, and the Republicans have taken control of the Senate. This month, we assess the implications for sustainable energy, and energy more broadly, considering his recent pre-election rhetoric and the potential actions of Republican senators. We conclude that, with respect to the Inflation Reduction Act, Trump will struggle to make substantial reforms. We see his executive powers giving him greater ability to promote fossil fuels than significantly slow the growth of a lower-carbon energy system in the US.

President-elect Trump's stance on energy

We expect a shift in US energy policy as President-elect Trump targets reduced energy costs, “*energy dominance*,” and improved competitiveness for US industry via the removal of environmental regulations. He is against the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), the key legislation providing \$369bn of tax credits for clean energy investment, on the basis that it is “*industry-killing, jobs-killing, pro-China and anti-American.*”

Nearly \$450bn in private investment has come into the US clean energy sector since the IRA's passage, according to the Clean Investment Monitor. By our analysis, more than three-quarters of all IRA-related manufacturing projects announced have been channelled into Republican states. Earlier this year, the World Economic Forum assessed that over 170,000 jobs had been created thanks to the passage of the IRA and that over nine million jobs would be created over the next decade, with the legislation catalysing as much as \$3 trillion of further investment. Importantly from a political standpoint, the new energy transition jobs are not coming at the expense of fossil fuel jobs. The number of coal mining employees in the US, for example, is actually up slightly since the IRA was announced. With this in mind, many observers disagree with Trump's views, instead suggesting that the IRA's focus on building a new domestic supply chain for lower-carbon energy is building a new industry with new jobs, whilst being pro-America and anti-China.

What next for the IRA?

Even with control of the senate, we believe that Trump is unlikely to be able to repeal the IRA. To initiate a repeal, a proposed law must first be sponsored by a senator or representative and then pass through the House of Representatives with a majority and, in most cases, through the Senate with a 60% majority. A 60% threshold (rather than simple majority) is typically required in the Senate to overcome the threat of the minority party filibustering, or delaying the bill indefinitely. Trump does not have this size of majority.

Moreover, many Republican senators appear to be in favour of the IRA because it is bringing a disproportionate share of investment and new jobs to Republican states. In August 2024, 18 Republican senators wrote to the Speaker of the US House of Representatives asking him to preserve the IRA's energy tax credits (the letter is available [here](#)). Quoting from the letter:

“Today, many U.S. companies are already using sector-wide energy tax credits – many of which have enjoyed bipartisan support historically – to make major investments in new U.S. energy infrastructure. We hear from industry and our constituents who fear the energy tax regime will once again be turned on its head due to Republican repeal efforts. Prematurely repealing energy tax credits, particularly those which were used to justify investments that already broke ground, would undermine private investments and stop development that is already ongoing. A full repeal would create a worst-case scenario where we would have spent billions of taxpayer dollars and received next to nothing in return.”

“Energy tax credits have spurred innovation, incentivized investment, and created good jobs in many parts of the country – including many districts represented by members of our conference... As Republicans, we support an all-of-the-above approach to energy development and tax credits that incentivize domestic production, innovation, and delivery from all sources.”

What can we learn from Obamacare in 2017

It is clear that repealing the IRA is not supported widely across the Republican party and, in our view, the support for it appears less than the support that existed for Trump’s proposed repeal of Obamacare in 2017. Indeed, it is worth considering Trump’s efforts around Obamacare to illustrate the difficulties of repealing existing legislation.

Repealing Obamacare was a central tenet of the Trump presidential campaign in 2016. When Trump took office in early 2017 (with control of both Houses), legislative attempts began immediately to effect a repeal. Despite having 52% of the Senate and using a budget reconciliation bill, the replacement “Better Care and Reconciliation Act” failed 43-57 as various Republicans dissented. Subsequent changes to Obamacare were very modest, including adjustments such as i) reducing the amount of time one has to register for a health exchange from 90 to 45 days and ii) reducing payments to insurance companies for co-payments/deductibles.

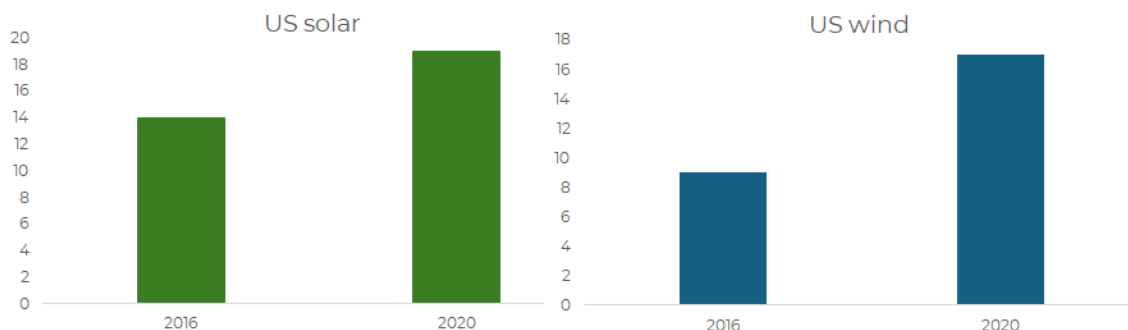
Given that Republican support for repealing the IRA is fractured, we do not expect that Trump has the ability legislatively to repeal the IRA. Without repeal, many of his proposed changes to the IRA, including the following, are unlikely to be enforced.

Without a full repeal of the IRA, some options for reform are available

Absent a repeal of the IRA, a Trump administration could slow-walk or weaken the implementation of existing aspects of the IRA to better achieve its political ends. There are some small parts of unfinished IRA guidance (from the Treasury) that could be changed or scrapped altogether, in areas such as the following:

- Enhancements of domestic content requirements, bringing stricter eligibility requirements for both the 45X (domestic manufacturing tax credit) and the domestic content investment tax credit adders for developers.
- Broadening the reach of Foreign Entity of Concern (FEOC) designation beyond electric vehicle components into areas such as wind, solar, critical minerals and battery supply chains. We note that bipartisan legislation has already been introduced in the Senate with this aim and hence this is a likely outcome.
- Directing federal agencies to slow down the awards of new offshore wind permits. Offshore wind is more vulnerable because, unlike solar and onshore wind, it requires federal permits to proceed. Interestingly, despite his long-held negative views on wind, installed US wind capacity grew by 45% during Trump’s last presidency.

US solar and wind annual installations (GW per annum) during President Trump’s first term



Source: BNEF; Guinness Global Investors, 2024

Executive Orders provide some options to prioritise fossil fuel

President Trump could also use Executive Orders to pursue some or all of the following in reasonably short order:

- Exiting the Paris Agreement, thereby overturning Biden’s Executive Order to rejoin in 2021 (which overturned Trump’s Executive Order to exit in 2017). Whilst uncertain, there is a risk that Trump might withdraw the US from the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, a move that would remove the United States from participation in global climate negotiations and make it more difficult for a future administration to rejoin the Paris Agreement.
- Appointing new FERC and EPA chairpersons and freezing all new rulemaking by such federal agencies until effective.

- Lifting the liquified natural gas (LNG) export pause and rolling back EPA rules.
- Imposing new tariffs on imports related to renewable energy, particularly from China.

Areas of agreement between the Democrats and Republicans

There are significant aspects of energy policy that both parties agree on. These include:

- Domestic manufacturing tax credits for clean energy equipment within the IRA, due to the bipartisan support of onshoring manufacturing. Trump railed against these types of tax credits while last in office but ultimately kept them, as he did with the Blenders Tax Credit used in alternative fuel production. History shows Trump's unwillingness to overturn tax credits which are, ultimately, bringing new investment and jobs to America.
- Fossil fuels in general, as Trump's campaign has proposed increasing domestic oil and gas production (especially by freeing up federal lands for development), refilling the strategic petroleum reserve, speeding up the approval of natural gas pipelines and prioritising blue hydrogen (carbon capture-enabled). These policies are more aligned with the Democrats than one might think, with oil and gas production from federal lands increasing under Biden's tenure, despite initial opposition. In practice, though, there has been little correlation between the party affiliation of the President and the outcome for fossil fuel production in the US, something we expect to continue.

Conclusion

President-elect Trump's victory in the US elections represents a backward step for the energy transition compared to the 'business as usual' scenario of a Harris victory. In our portfolio, we see his victory as negative for offshore wind players and lithium-ion battery manufacturers with US operations. We see Trump's victory as positive, however, for names exposed to the wider theme of electrification, especially our electrical equipment manufacturers.

It is worth remembering, though, that the US is currently responsible for around 7% of global solar installations, around 8% of global wind installations, and around 11% of global EV sales. This is not to downplay what is an important growing market in the energy transition, but to put it into global context. We would also stress that the majority of tax credits provided by the IRA are helping to accelerate lower-carbon sectors that already compete successfully, on an unsubsidised basis, with fossil fuels. In short, regardless of the election result, the global energy transition continues, as does the US energy transition.

In considering the various routes available to him, we expect Trump will be able to support the fossil fuel industry without being able to restrain the sustainable energy industry as much as he might wish. With tariffs and domestic content definitions open to him, he will look to improve the competitiveness and resilience of US manufacturing, but we do not see this as being particularly negative for the outlook for sustainable energy in the United States.

After an initial period of uncertainty where debate about Trump's plans continue, we ultimately expect investment under the IRA to pick up once again. We note that there is a substantial backlog of investment planned. According to the Financial Times, approximately 40% of major manufacturing projects funded by the IRA have been delayed or paused indefinitely in 2024, partly due to electoral uncertainty. Lifting the uncertainty around this investment would have a significant pro-growth multiplier effect on the US economy, and the growth would occur largely in Republican states. Thus, not only is it tough for the Trump administration to undo the IRA, but doing so is also likely to be unpopular and counterproductive. In our assessment, this leaves a few attention-grabbing tweaks to the IRA as the most likely course of action, just as it was for Obamacare.

PERFORMANCE

Past performance does not predict future returns.

The **Guinness Sustainable Energy Fund** (Class Y, 0.66% OCF) delivered a return of -7.3% in the month, while the MSCI World Index (net return) delivered -2.0% (all in USD terms).

Guinness Sustainable Energy Fund	Ytd	1 Yr	3 Yrs	5 Yrs	10 Yrs*
Fund (Class Y)	-2.2%	19.7%	-18.7%	91.9%	53.6%
MSCI World NR Index	16.5%	33.7%	20.4%	76.5%	154.3%
Out/Underperformance	-18.7%	-13.9%	-39.1%	15.5%	-100.7%

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Fund (Class Y)	-0.4%	-12.5%	10.4%	84.1%	31.4%
MSCI World NR Index	23.8%	-18.1%	21.8%	15.9%	27.7%
Out/Underperformance	-24.2%	5.6%	-11.4%	68.2%	3.7%

	2018*	2017*	2016*	2015*	2014*
Fund (Class Y)	-15.2%	20.2%	-15.4%	-12.0%	-12.1%
MSCI World NR Index	-8.7%	22.4%	7.5%	-0.9%	4.9%
Out/Underperformance	-6.5%	-2.2%	-23.0%	-11.2%	-17.0%

The Fund was launched on 19.12.2007. *Simulated past performance prior to the launch of the Y class on 16/02/2018. The Performance shown is a composite simulation for Y class performance being based on the actual performance of the Fund's E class, which has an OCF of 1.24%. On 31/12/2018, the benchmark became the MSCI World NR. Prior to this, the benchmark was the Wilderhill Clean Energy Index (ECO Index).

The **WS Guinness Sustainable Energy Fund** (Class Y, 0.67% OCF) delivered a return of 3% in the month in GBP, while the MSCI World Index (net return) delivered -0.3%.

WS Guinness Sustainable Energy Fund	Ytd	1 Yr
Fund (Class Y)	-3.4%	13.9%
MSCI World NR Index	15.5%	26.2%
Out/Underperformance	-18.9%	-12.3%

	2023
Fund (Class Y)	-5.8%
MSCI World NR Index	16.8%
Out/Underperformance	-22.6%

Data as of 31.10.2024. The Fund was launched on 30.12.2022.

Source: FE fundinfo, bid to bid, total return. Investors should note that fees and expenses are charged to the capital of the Funds. This reduces the return on your investment by an amount equivalent to the Ongoing Charges Figure (OCF). The performance shown has been reduced by the current OCF shown. Returns for share classes with different OCFs will vary accordingly. Transaction costs also apply and are incurred when a Fund buys or sells holdings. Performance returns do not reflect any initial charge; any such charge will also reduce the return.

Guinness Global Investors has been the investment manager of the **Guinness Sustainable Energy Fund UCITS ETF** since July 2024. We will include performance data for this vehicle in due course.

Guinness Sustainable Energy

Within the Fund, the strongest performers were Itron, Ormat Technologies, and Owens Corning while the weakest performers were Enphase, SolarEdge, TPI Composites, First Solar, and Aptiv.

Stock by Stock performance over the month, in USD

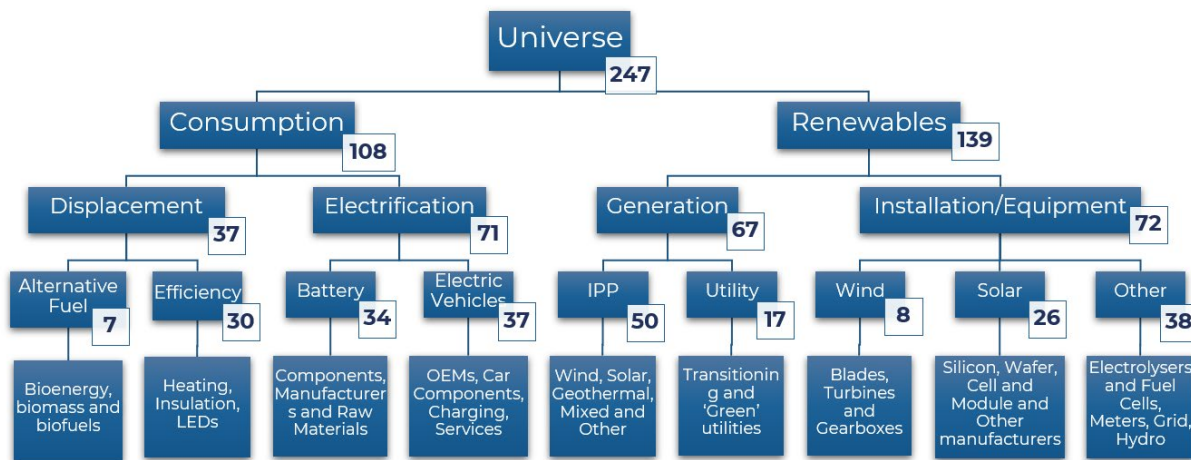


Source: Bloomberg. As of 31st October 2024

PORTFOLIO

The Guinness Sustainable Energy Fund is positioned to benefit from many of the long-term themes associated with the transition towards a lower-carbon economy and of sustainable energy generation via investment in companies with activities that are economic with limited or zero government subsidy and which are profitable. We do not limit ourselves to 'pure plays', opening our universe up to some companies with existing hydrocarbon-based fuel exposure, but this must be allied with a commitment to transitioning their business models towards sustainable energy sources. Our investment universe comprises around 250 companies which are classified into four key areas:

- **Generation** includes companies involved in the generation of sustainable energy, either pure-play companies or those transitioning from hydrocarbon-based fuels
- **Installation** includes companies involved in the manufacturing of equipment for the generation and consumption of sustainable energy
- **Displacement** includes companies involved in the displacement or improved efficient usage of existing hydrocarbon-based energy
- **Electrification** includes companies involved specifically in the switching of hydrocarbon-based fuel demand towards electricity, especially for electric vehicles



We monitor each of the industry areas very closely and hope that detailed top-down (macro) analysis of each (complemented with disciplined equity screening and stock valuation work) will allow us to deliver attractive fund performance via a broadly equally weighted portfolio of 30 stocks. The portfolio is designed to create a balance between maintaining fund concentration and managing stock-specific risk.

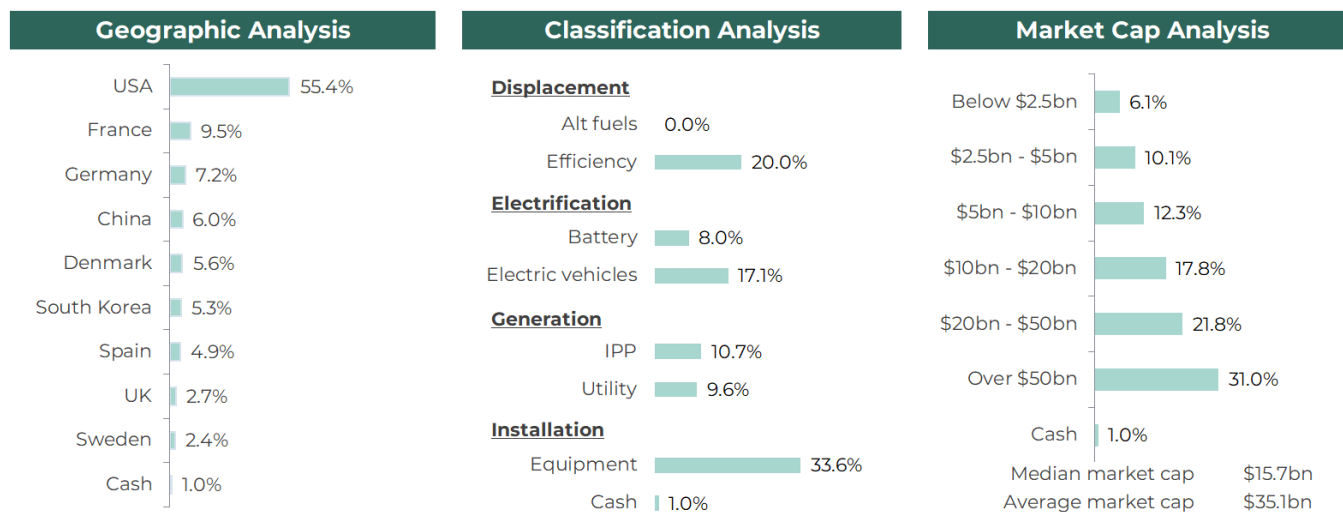
Guinness Global Investors is a signatory of the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment. The Guinness Sustainable Energy Fund prioritises returns whilst delivering concentrated exposure to companies playing a key role in global decarbonisation. The Fund’s holdings align most closely with four of the UN’s sustainable development goals:



Buys/Sells

There were no stock switches during the month but the portfolio was actively rebalanced.

Portfolio structure analysis



Data as of month end. Source: Guinness Global Investors. Portfolio holdings are subject to change.

Portfolio sector breakdown

The following table shows the asset allocation of the Fund at month end and at previous year ends.

Asset allocation as %NAV	Current	Change	Year end		Previous year ends			
	Oct-24		Dec-23	Dec-22	Dec-21	Dec-20	Dec-19	Dec-18
Consumption	45.0%	1.2%	43.9%	44.9%	43.4%	36.7%	41.7%	26.5%
Displacement	20.0%	4.7%	15.3%	15.0%	11.8%	9.9%	13.4%	16.4%
Alternative Fuel	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	3.9%
Efficiency	20.0%	4.7%	15.3%	15.0%	11.8%	9.9%	13.4%	12.5%
Electrification	25.1%	-3.5%	28.5%	29.9%	31.6%	26.8%	28.2%	10.1%
Batteries	8.0%	-2.2%	10.2%	11.6%	8.9%	10.8%	12.6%	3.9%
Electric vehicles	17.1%	-1.3%	18.4%	18.2%	22.8%	16.0%	15.7%	6.2%
Renewables	54.0%	2.1%	51.9%	49.3%	51.3%	60.4%	54.1%	69.7%
Generation	20.4%	0.9%	19.5%	17.7%	23.1%	24.6%	22.2%	27.3%
IPP	10.7%	-0.2%	10.9%	8.7%	14.5%	17.0%	18.9%	26.7%
Utility	9.6%	1.0%	8.6%	9.0%	8.6%	7.6%	3.2%	0.6%
Installation	33.6%	1.2%	32.4%	31.6%	28.2%	35.8%	32.0%	42.5%
Equipment	33.6%	1.2%	32.4%	31.6%	28.2%	35.8%	32.0%	42.5%
Cash	1.0%	-3.3%	4.2%	5.8%	5.3%	3.0%	4.2%	3.8%

Source: Guinness Global Investors

Valuation

At the month end, the Guinness Sustainable Energy portfolio traded on the following multiples:

As at 31 October 2024	PE			EV/EBITDA			Dividend Yield		EPS Growth (%pa)		CFROI	
	2023	2024E	2025E	2023	2024E	2025E	2024E	2025E	2019-24	2024-27	2024E	2025E
Guinness Sustainable Energy Fund	17.0x	18.0x	15.1x	10.9x	11.2x	9.4x	1.5%	1.7%	7.6%	15.4%	7.3%	10.7%
MSCI World Index	21.8x	20.4x	18.5x	14.4x	13.3x	12.0x	1.8%	1.9%	6.8%	10.6%	9.2%	9.8%
Fund Premium/(Discount)	-22%	-12%	-19%	-24%	-16%	-21%						

*2023 P/E = Latest month-end price / 2023 earnings; Portfolio = median CFROI; Index data = HOLT MSCI World ETF median CFROI, EPS derived from consensus, adjusted for Canadian Solar

Source: Guinness Global Investors, Bloomberg

Portfolio holdings as at end October 2024

Our portfolio is typically allocated across 30 broadly equally weighted equities providing exposure across the value chain of sustainable energy.

We hold a 45% weight to companies associated with the consumption (or demand) of sustainable energy. Our largest exposure here is to companies involved in the electrification of demand, either via the creation of new batteries (8%) or the electrification of transportation (c.17% weight), while we have 20% weight to those companies involved in either displacing existing energy sources or improving overall energy efficiency.

We hold two lithium-ion battery manufacturers. LG Chem is a Korean chemicals company and the largest lithium-ion battery manufacturer in the world, while Samsung SDI is a pure-play lithium-ion battery manufacturer currently in the top 10 in the world.

The portfolio holds six names in the electric vehicle sub-category, giving it exposure to companies that provide semiconductors, electronics, components and software/services to the growing EV and autonomous vehicle industry. Onsemi, Infineon and NXP Semi are providers of power semiconductors and microcontrollers that are a necessity for higher-voltage electric vehicles to become competitive with ICE (internal combustion engine) vehicles, while Gentherm, Aptiv and Sensata are component manufacturers and service providers that should benefit from the ever-increasing amount of electronics present in electric vehicles.

Our displacement holdings provide pure-play quality exposure to heating industries (Nibe Industrier), insulation (Installed Building Products, Owens Corning), energy efficient electrical equipment and services (Hubbell) and energy efficiency projects (Ameresco), and the group as a whole will benefit from the increasing industry focus on energy efficiency that is expected to be a very long-term trend.











In terms of the supply of sustainable energy, we hold a c.20% weight to companies involved in the generation of sustainable energy and c.34% weight to those exposed to the installation of or equipment used in the process of sustainable energy generation.

China Suntien and China Longyuan are our two pure-play Chinese wind power producers and they represent two of our seven generation holdings. The remaining exposure comes in the form of geothermal (Ormat), plus offshore wind and broad-based wind/solar renewable energy generation through Orsted and NextEra Energy (the largest producer of renewable energy in the world). Iberdrola is our one utility.

We hold exposure to the solar and wind equipment and manufacturing value chains. Xinyi Solar is the world's largest supplier of the glass used in solar cell modules, and both Enphase and SolarEdge manufacture the inverters required to convert DC solar power into consumable AC electricity. Canadian Solar and First Solar give integrated exposure to the solar cell and module manufacturing process. Vestas provides broad exposure to the strong growth that we expect in the onshore and offshore wind markets, while TPI Composites offers niche exposure to the high-skilled business of manufacturing wind turbine blades.

Our remaining exposure to installation (Itron, Eaton, Legrand, Siemens and Schneider Electric) consists of companies that provide equipment and services to improve the efficiency and metering of electricity transmission and consumption.

Portfolio themes as at end October 2024

Theme	Example holdings	Weighting (%)
1 Electrification of the energy mix	 	30.1%
2 Rise of the electric vehicle and auto efficiency	 	19.7%
3 Battery manufacturing		5.8%
4 Expansion of the wind industry		9.9%
5 Expansion of the solar industry		9.6%
6 Heating, lighting and power efficiency	 	20.7%
7 Geothermal		3.3%
8 Other (inc cash)		0.7%

Portfolio at end September 2024 (one month in arrears for compliance reasons)

Guinness Sustainable Energy Fund (30 September 2024)			P/E			EV/EBITDA			Price/Book			Dividend Yield		
Stock	ISIN	% of NAV	2023	2024E	2025E	2023	2024E	2025E	2023	2024E	2025E	2023	2024E	2025E
Displacement/Efficiency														
Hubbell Inc	US4435106079	4.6%	29.7x	26.0x	24.3x	19.7x	18.6x	17.3x	8.0x	7.1x	6.1x	1.1%	1.1%	1.2%
Nibe Industrier AB	SE0015988019	2.5%	24.2x	64.6x	32.5x	15.7x	26.5x	18.0x	3.7x	3.7x	3.4x	1.1%	0.7%	1.1%
Trane Technologies PLC	IE00B8K9ZQ967	4.8%	43.0x	35.8x	31.5x	26.4x	24.5x	22.2x	12.6x	11.9x	10.5x	0.8%	0.8%	0.9%
Installed Building Products Inc	US45780R1014	3.2%	28.6x	21.5x	20.5x	15.0x	14.3x	13.5x	10.4x	8.2x	0.9x	0.9%	1.2%	0.6%
Owens Corning	US6907421019	3.3%	13.5x	11.5x	10.8x	7.0x	6.7x	6.3x	3.0x	2.6x	2.3x	1.2%	1.4%	1.4%
Ameresco Inc	US02361E1082	2.3%	30.5x	33.6x	20.8x	22.0x	16.6x	13.2x	2.2x	2.1x	1.9x	0.0%	n.m.	n.m.
		20.7%												
Electrification/Battery														
LG Chem Ltd	KR7051910008	2.8%	18.0x	33.7x	12.2x	8.1x	7.8x	5.3x	0.8x	0.8x	0.8x	1.0%	1.0%	1.6%
Samsung SDI Co Ltd	KR7006400006	3.0%	12.6x	20.3x	14.2x	9.6x	10.5x	7.2x	1.3x	1.3x	1.2x	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%
Johnson Matthey PLC	GB00BZ4BQC70	2.7%	9.9x	9.9x	8.5x	6.1x	6.0x	5.5x	1.2x	1.1x	1.1x	4.5%	5.1%	5.1%
		8.5%												
Electrification/Electric Vehicles														
Aptiv PLC	JE00B783TY65	2.9%	16.6x	11.5x	9.3x	8.5x	7.9x	7.3x	1.7x	1.9x	1.5x	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%
ON Semiconductor Corp	US6821891057	3.2%	14.2x	18.1x	15.1x	9.7x	12.4x	10.6x	4.0x	3.4x	2.8x	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Infineon Technologies AG	DE0006231004	3.1%	12.4x	17.3x	15.3x	7.7x	9.1x	8.2x	2.7x	2.2x	2.0x	1.1%	1.1%	1.2%
NXP Semiconductors NV	NL0009538784	3.1%	17.8x	17.8x	15.6x	11.9x	13.3x	12.0x	7.1x	6.5x	5.6x	1.7%	1.7%	1.9%
Sensata Technologies Holding PLC	GB00BFMBMT84	2.8%	10.5x	10.1x	9.3x	7.6x	9.1x	8.7x	1.8x	1.7x	1.6x	1.3%	1.4%	1.4%
Gentherm Inc	US37253A1034	1.9%	21.9x	16.5x	13.6x	9.3x	8.0x	7.0x	2.3x	n.m.	n.m.	0.0%	n.m.	n.m.
		17.1%												
Generation/IPP														
China Longyuan Power Group Corp Ltd	CNE100000HD4	2.2%	6.9x	8.0x	7.1x	9.9x	10.0x	9.0x	0.8x	0.7x	0.7x	3.5%	3.6%	4.0%
Ormat Technologies Inc	US6866881021	3.3%	37.2x	39.9x	32.1x	17.3x	12.9x	11.8x	2.0x	1.8x	1.8x	0.6%	0.6%	0.6%
NextEra Energy Inc	US65339F1012	4.6%	27.1x	24.8x	23.5x	16.4x	16.0x	14.3x	3.7x	3.1x	2.9x	2.2%	2.4%	2.7%
Orsted A/S	DK0060094928	3.2%	34.4x	24.2x	15.9x	9.1x	9.6x	8.4x	3.3x	2.6x	2.2x	0.0%	n.m.	n.m.
China Suntien Green Energy Corp Ltd	CNE100000TW9	1.5%	6.1x	6.0x	5.0x	10.6x	9.4x	8.2x	0.7x	0.6x	0.6x	6.4%	6.6%	7.7%
		14.9%												
Generation/Utility														
Iberdrola SA	ES0144580Y14	4.8%	18.9x	16.3x	16.1x	11.2x	9.5x	9.4x	2.0x	1.8x	1.7x	3.8%	4.2%	4.4%
		4.8%												
Installation/Equipment														
Schneider Electric SE	FR0000121972	4.6%	34.2x	28.6x	25.2x	20.4x	18.9x	17.0x	5.2x	4.6x	4.2x	1.4%	1.6%	1.7%
Legrand SA	FR0010307819	4.5%	23.2x	21.7x	20.2x	15.1x	15.0x	14.0x	4.1x	3.7x	3.5x	1.8%	2.1%	2.2%
Eaton Corp PLC	IE00B8KQ827	4.3%	39.8x	30.9x	27.8x	27.0x	24.2x	21.8x	7.0x	6.8x	6.2x	1.0%	1.1%	1.2%
Siemens AG	DE0007236101	4.0%	22.2x	17.2x	16.3x	13.6x	12.9x	12.0x	3.2x	2.8x	2.6x	2.5%	2.7%	2.8%
Itron Inc	US4657411066	3.4%	60.2x	23.4x	22.0x	27.0x	18.4x	16.5x	3.7x	3.5x	3.0x	0.0%	n.m.	n.m.
Xinyi Solar Holdings Ltd	KYG9829N1025	2.0%	9.0x	10.1x	8.0x	6.8x	7.1x	5.9x	1.2x	1.1x	1.0x	5.3%	4.8%	5.9%
SolarEdge Technologies Inc	US83417M1045	0.3%	17.2x	n.m.	n.m.	7.4x	n.m.	n.m.	0.5x	0.7x	0.7x	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Enphase Energy Inc	US29355A1079	1.8%	34.9x	44.6x	24.2x	26.7x	37.1x	20.5x	15.6x	15.1x	10.0x	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
First Solar Inc	US3364331070	3.6%	29.6x	18.4x	11.6x	20.1x	13.0x	8.4x	4.0x	3.3x	2.6x	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Canadian Solar Inc	CA1366351098	2.0%	3.8x	17.8x	5.4x	6.2x	8.1x	5.5x	0.4x	0.3x	0.3x	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Vestas Wind Systems A/S	DK0061539921	2.8%	161.0x	43.3x	17.2x	17.1x	12.4x	7.8x	6.7x	5.9x	4.6x	0.0%	0.6%	1.4%
TPI Composites Inc	US87266J1043	0.2%	n.m.	n.m.	n.m.	n.m.	203.9x	8.0x	n.m.	n.m.	n.m.	0.0%	n.m.	n.m.
		33.4%												
Cash	Cash	0.7%												

The Fund's portfolio may change significantly over a short period of time; no recommendation is made for the purchase or sale of any particular stock.

OUTLOOK - sustainable energy & the energy transition

Over the next thirty years, the world will continue its transition to a sustainable energy system. The key factors driving the transition are:

- **Population and GDP growth** putting a significant strain on today's energy supply
- **Economics** as sustainable sources of energy will be cheaper than the incumbents
- **Climate change** leading the world to reduce carbon emissions via cleaner energy
- **Pollution** forcing governments to drive air pollution out of cities via cleaner energy
- **Energy security** as sustainable energy sources, which are more evenly spread across all countries, facilitate lower reliance on energy imports.

The outcomes of the energy transition will of course be wide-ranging. On the **supply** side, we see a sustained shift towards renewable power generation, fulfilling global power generation needs which are set to double by 2050. On the **demand** side, we believe that improved energy efficiency will be key to limiting energy consumption growth to a manageable level so that it can be increasingly satisfied by renewable sources.

The long-term direction is clear and is driven by economics, in our opinion, while near-term geopolitical issues (such as the invasion of Ukraine in February 2022) could potentially have an effect on the speed of the transition and the relative importance of the factors stated above.

Policy support for decarbonisation

Policy commitment in recent years has been particularly supportive. However, the path has not always been smooth and it is unlikely to be a smooth ride from here. The most significant policy milestones in 2023 include:

- Further details were provided in **Europe** about how the EU will localise clean technology manufacturing and supply chains, in order to reduce its reliance on China, as part of its goal to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. The EU plans include a 55% cut to emissions, 13% lower final energy consumption and 45% renewables in the energy mix by 2030.
- In the **United States** there was a meaningful surge in activity thanks to the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), with \$369bn of tax breaks morphing into \$1.6 trillion of capital being mobilised towards achieving net zero aims. According to the World Economic Forum, this will create over 170,000 jobs and more than 9 million jobs over the next decade. Importantly, with 2024 being an election year, 80-90% of these new jobs are within Republican states.
- From a **global** perspective, around 130 countries have now signed up to the COP 28 Global Renewables and Energy Efficiency Pledge, committing to deep emissions reductions by 2030, requiring a tripling of global installed renewable energy capacity and a doubling of the rate of annual energy efficiency improvements.

Energy displacement

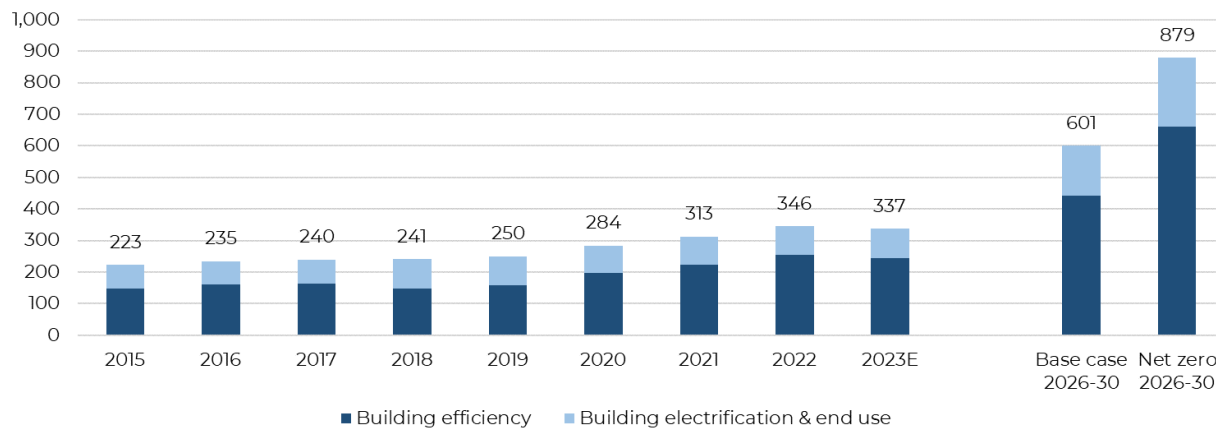
It is a common misconception that achieving rapid growth in renewable power generation will be enough to deliver government targets for pollution, energy security and decarbonisation. Renewable power generation is a key part of the solution, but we see the displacement and more efficient use of existing energy sources as just as critical, and arguably more urgent, in achieving these goals. The IEA refers to the theme of energy efficiency as being the 'first fuel' that should be considered in delivering the energy transition. It is the one energy source that every country can access in abundance today.

In our base case, we assume global energy demand growth over the next 30 years of around 1% pa. This assumes significant efficiency improvements relative to an historical energy demand growth rate of around 2% pa. Within the energy displacement sector, the key areas of focus are **efficiency** and **alternative fuels**.

Energy efficiency

Buildings account for around 30% of global emissions, with space heating, water heating, and space cooling accounting for 60% of their energy use. Decarbonising buildings will require investment in heat pumps to electrify space and water heating, insulation to improve thermal efficiency, and efficient cooling to help inhabitants cope with rising outdoor temperatures. We see spending on building efficiency and electrification increasing from \$340bn in 2022 to \$600bn pa from 2026-30 (a forecast rate of around 10% pa versus a historic rate of around 5% pa) driven by energy security, economics and tightening building standards.

Global building efficiency-related investment by scenario (\$bn)



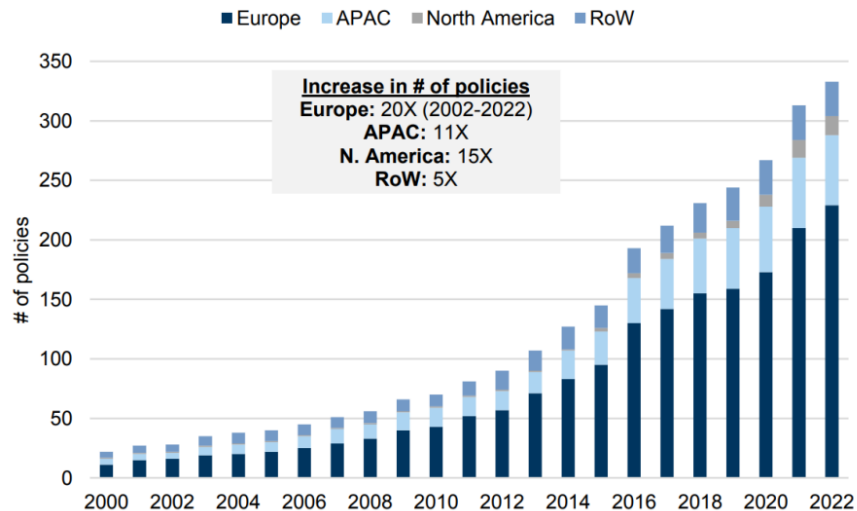
Source: IEA, Guinness Global Investors; December 2023

Heat pumps are a vital tool for electrifying and decarbonising heat and reducing reliance on natural gas imports, especially in the EU, where over one-third of natural gas is used for heating in buildings. European heat pump sales have grown strongly in recent years, increasing by 35% and 39% in 2021 and 2022 respectively, bringing annual sales to over 3 million units. This expansion was primarily driven by high gas prices and increased policy support as a result of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, since heat pumps remain a vital tool to secure Europe’s energy independence from Russia. The EU’s target to install 60 million additional heat pumps between 2023-30 is expected to reduce the bloc’s household gas demand by 40% and would require installations to grow at around 20% pa.

Insulation can improve the thermal efficiency of a building’s exterior walls and roof. As a result, insulation can help reduce energy consumption from heating and cooling by up to 40%, offering payback periods as short as 1-3 years.

Over the past 20 years, most regions have seen a 10x increase in government policies targeting building energy efficiency (including insulation). Government incentives, stricter energy efficiency requirements and higher energy costs have helped the global insulation market to grow at 6.5% pa from 2012-22 and we see economics and ratcheting regulation continuing to drive strong growth out to 2030.

Global policies targeting building insulation, envelope technologies and eco-design



Source: IEA, Goldman Sachs, December 2023

Space cooling is the largest driver of building electricity demand, with energy consumption more than tripling since 1990. Ensuring access to energy efficient cooling is of primary importance to minimise the number of heat-related deaths, especially among the elderly. The number of air conditioning units in operation globally has increased by 2.5x in the past 20 years and is set to grow by a further 50% by 2030. Thanks to a consolidated industry and a fragmented customer base, air conditioning manufacturers enjoy strong pricing power and we expect this to continue out to 2030.

Alternative fuels

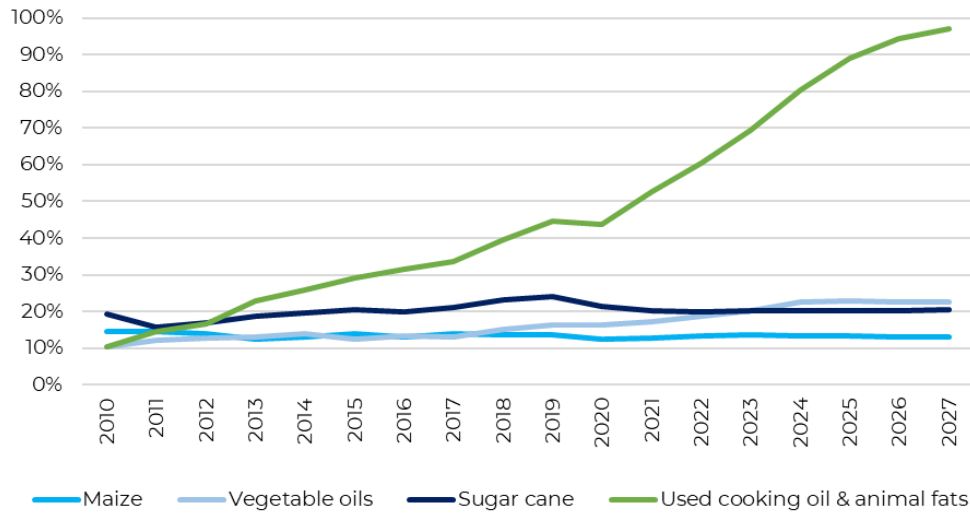
Global biofuel consumption is expected to be just under 180bn litres in 2023, displacing around 2 million barrels of oil per day, equating to 4% of oil demand from transportation. The market continues to be dominated by the USA, Brazil, Europe and Indonesia, which make up 85% of global consumption.

Biofuel demand is expected to have grown by 6% in 2023 versus 2022, with growth continuing to be underpinned by policy and regulation. Demand benefited from prices falling from 2022 highs thanks to lower vegetable oil prices and increasing supply, while new Clean Fuel Regulations from Canada helped to provide visibility to future growth.

From 2023-2027, biofuel demand is expected to expand at 3-4% pa. Nearly two-thirds of growth will be driven by emerging economies, skewing heavily towards first-generation biofuels such as bioethanol and biodiesel. These fuels are derived from edible crops such as sugarcane and corn, and despite their sizeable role in reducing transportation related emissions, they have attracted criticism for diverting farmland away from food production.

The remaining third of demand growth will come from developed markets seeking higher volumes of second-generation biofuels such as renewable diesel and Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF). These fuels are derived from waste products such as animal fats and used cooking oil. They garner higher subsidy support in the United States and also meet strict EU requirements. Demand for these feedstocks is set to increase by 35% over the next four years, taking biofuels to 95% of total demand in 2027 (up from 70% in 2023).

Biofuel demand as a percentage of total feedstock supply



Source: IEA, Guinness Global Investors estimates; December 2023

Despite generous incentives and strict standards creating an industry where production costs are still 2-3x that of fossil fuel equivalents, further government intervention may be required to avoid a supply crunch in the near future.

Implications of a net zero scenario on our displacement outlook

Our base case for the energy transition assumes global energy demand growth of 1% pa, which compares to historic long-run average demand growth of 2% pa. Reducing energy demand growth to 1% pa requires significant investment in energy efficiency across buildings, heating, transportation and industry.

To be clear, however, reducing energy demand growth to 1% pa does not align with net zero. A net zero scenario would require world energy demand to be broadly flat over the next two decades and we do not yet see the investment, industry scale or technologies in place to achieve this. Examples of changes to energy efficiency or alternative fuel production that would be needed to align with net zero include the following:

- Within **efficiency**, annual improvements in energy intensity would need to double from 2% in 2022 to average 4% pa out to 2030 globally. This translates into building efficiency, electrification and end-use investment increasing to over \$800bn pa this decade (from \$350bn today). Installation of heat pumps would need to increase globally by 20% pa out to 2030 while air conditioner efficiency must improve by more than 50% by the end of this decade.
- **Alternative fuel** production growth would need to more than double, averaging over 11% pa out to 2030 to help reduce emissions from new and existing trucks, planes, ships and passenger vehicles. SAF would face the biggest challenge of growing from less than 0.1% of aviation fuel demand today to around 10% in 2030.

Electrification

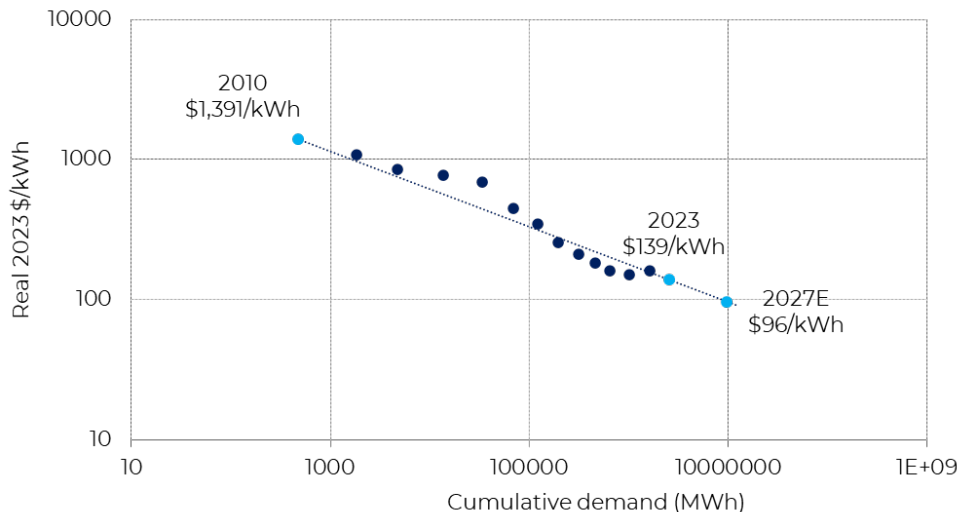
The steps required to transition to a low-carbon economy can broadly be summarised into three actions: i) reduce demand, ii) clean up electricity supply and iii) electrify the remaining demand. Our electrification sector includes enablers across lithium-ion battery and electric vehicle supply chains which do all three of these. **Batteries** serve a key role in cleaning up electricity, capturing excess clean energy during the day and releasing it when supply is low. They contribute towards electrification, acting as the power source for **electric vehicle** (EV) drivetrains. On top of this, EVs contribute towards greater

energy efficiency, converting over 85% of energy stored into motion, compared to less than 40% for internal combustion engines. We consider each of these areas in turn below.

Batteries

In last year’s outlook, we reported that 2022 was the first year on record that **lithium-ion battery** pack costs had increased, driven by soaring metal prices. In 2023, this trend reversed, with lithium and nickel prices cooling by 80% and 40% respectively due to slower electric vehicle demand growth. Shrinking commodity costs helped to drive a 14% decline in average battery pack prices to \$139/kWh. According to Bloomberg New Energy Finance (BNEF), this meant that real battery prices have fallen by 90% since 2010 and are forecast to fall below the EV/ICE parity benchmark of \$100/kWh in 2027.

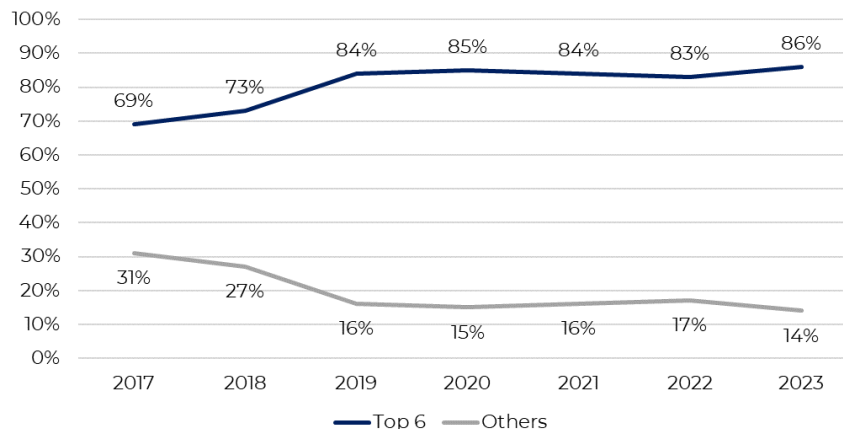
Cumulative demand for LiB packs (MWh) vs battery pack price (\$/kWh)



Source: BNEF, Guinness Global Investors, December 2023

In the year, the industry faced **oversupply concerns**, with CRU Group suggesting that planned Chinese capacity would be 2.5-3x higher than global demand from 2025-2030. While we do see overcapacity in the sector, we believe this is likely overstated. The top six battery manufacturers (CATL, BYD, LGES, Samsung SDI, SK On, and Panasonic) are responsible for 85% of electric vehicle battery volumes. These companies are behind just 50% of planned capacity additions out to 2025, with capital expenditure plans typically underpinned by supply arrangements with EV manufacturers. The remaining 50% of additions are expected to be brought online by more indebted and less profitable tier-2 suppliers. A lot of this tier-2 capacity ultimately may not come online, as declining share and poor cashflows lead to funding constraints and sector consolidation.

Top 6 battery manufacturer volume-based market share

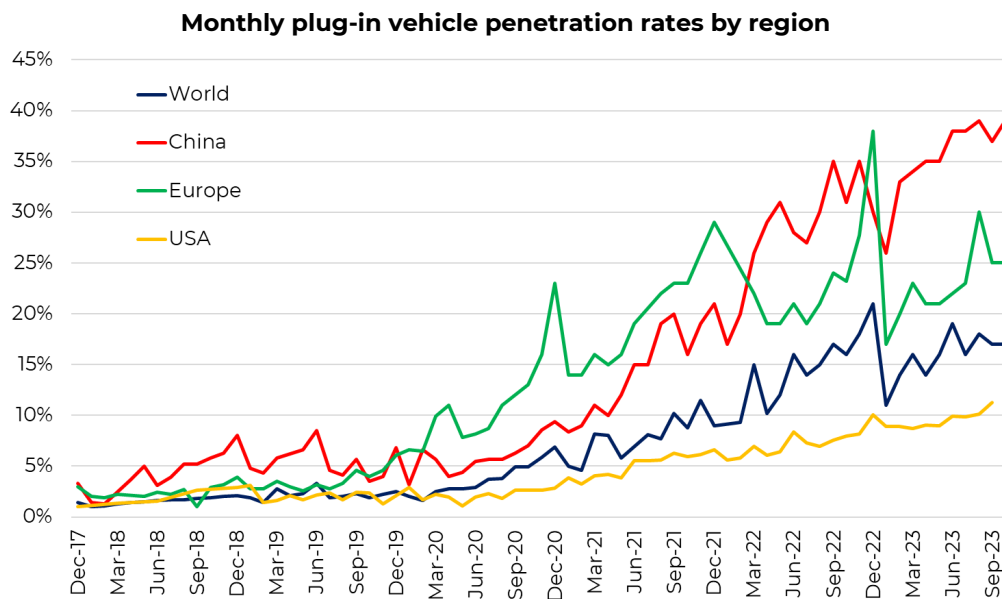


Source: EV-Volumes, HSBC, Guinness Global Investors, December 2023

The last 12 months have also seen legislators wrestle for control over **battery supply chains** to reduce their dependence on Chinese imports. The EU announced its Critical Raw Materials Act and the US released guidance that EVs with Chinese battery components would not be eligible for full IRA tax benefits. With China processing around 75% of the world's lithium and supplying over 50% of battery components globally, we believe it will be extremely challenging to extricate Chinese companies from Western supply chains.

Electric vehicles

Electric vehicles saw continued adoption in 2023, albeit at a slower pace than seen in recent years. After growing at over 100% and over 50% in 2021 and 2022, sales of plug-in vehicles are expected to have grown by around 35% in 2023 to around 14 million units, representing an 18% penetration rate. China will retain its crown as the largest market for EVs, representing 60% of global plug-in vehicle sales, with monthly penetration rates approaching 40%. Europe will come in second, at 25% of global sales and penetration rates of around 25%, with the USA in third at around 10% of global sales, breaching 1 million units and seeing EVs making up over 10% of monthly sales for the very first time.

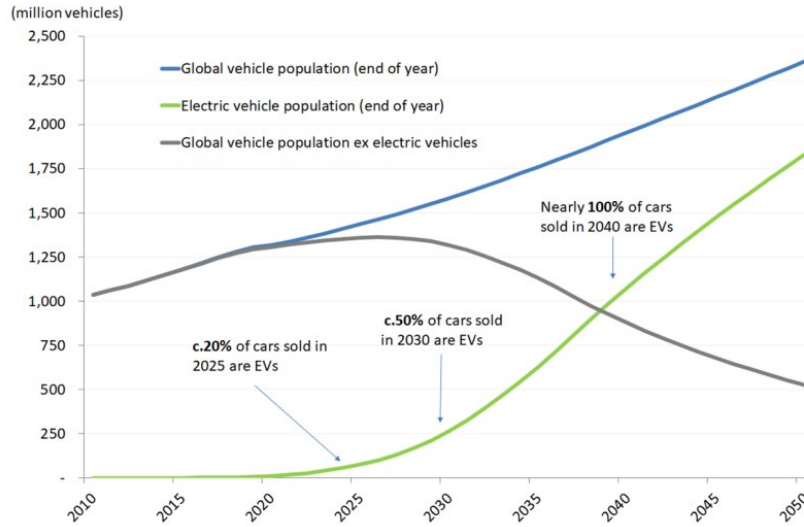


Source: Cleantecnica, AtlasEVhub, Guinness Global Investors, December 2023

These regional differences largely reflect the main driver of adoption: affordability.

- **China** saw the withdrawal of government EV subsidies at the end of 2022, resulting in a slowing of sales at the start of 2023, sparking a year-long price war among manufacturers. This, combined with a bias for cheaper lithium iron phosphate (LFP) chemistries and smaller average battery sizes, resulted in sales prices for electric vehicles across multiple segments reaching price parity with internal combustion engine vehicles.
- **Europe** has a more nuanced picture, where moderate subsidies and higher gasoline prices led to certain models being cheaper to own than petrol or diesel counterparts. However, the threat of cheap Chinese imports in 2023 has impelled local manufacturers to cut costs to avoid losing out to imports.
- The market for electric vehicles in the **United States** is generally less competitive. Import tariffs and subsidies for local producers have led to higher prices, allowing cost-advantaged Tesla to take a 50% market share. A preference for larger vehicles (SUVs, trucks) with larger batteries (100kWh+) alongside lower average pump prices mean that the relative economics of owning an EV are not as attractive as in other regions. Despite record EV sales and penetration rates in 2023, further battery price declines are needed to see continued adoption.

Global auto, ICE and EV population to 2050



Source: US DOE, Guinness Global Investors estimates; December 2023

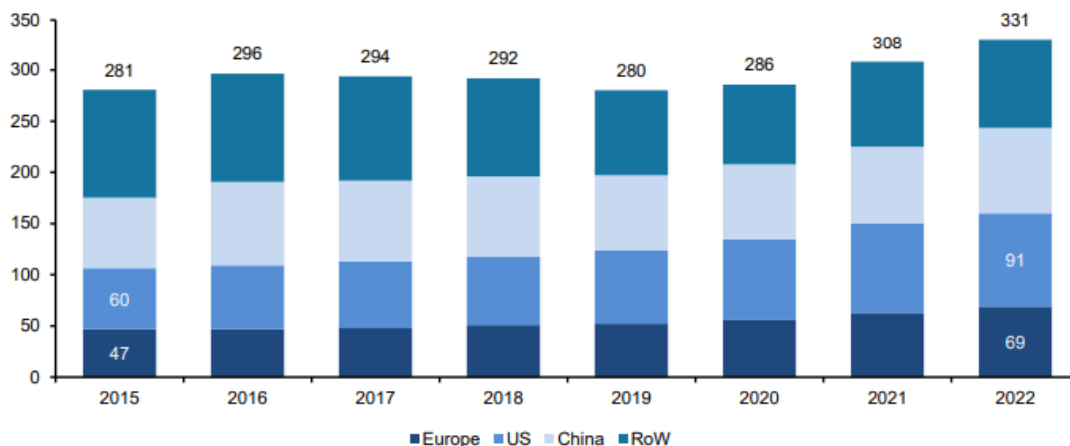
The decline in battery prices (and commensurate improvement in EV affordability) observed over recent years has coincided with climbing expectations of EV sales (Bloomberg New Energy Finance has upgraded its electric vehicle sales estimates by 100% and 50% for 2025 and 2030 in the past five years alone). We estimate that EV sales should exceed 16 million in 2024, representing around 20% of total passenger vehicle sales and coming in one year earlier than our long-held target of 20% EV penetration by 2025. Beyond that, we maintain our long-held view that electric vehicles continue to take share, reaching 50% of global light vehicle sales by 2030 and nearly all new vehicle sales by 2040. At that point, it implies an overall population of one billion EVs, over 35 times greater than the global stock in 2022 of 27 million.

Power grids

The global power grid consists of over 2.6 million miles of transmission lines, over 43 million miles of distribution lines and over 700,000 substations. A significant proportion of this infrastructure in the US and Europe is ageing, analogue (rather than digital) and increasingly capacity constrained.

According to the IEA, global grid investment averaged c.\$300bn from 2018-22 and has been growing slowly (2% pa) over the past eight years. Growth has predominantly been driven by Europe and the US (c.6% pa) due to decarbonisation and replacement spending. Distribution (low and medium-voltage) accounted for roughly two-thirds of the spend with transmission (high-voltage) making up the rest.

Annual transmission and distribution investments (\$bn)



Source: Bernstein, IEA, December 2023

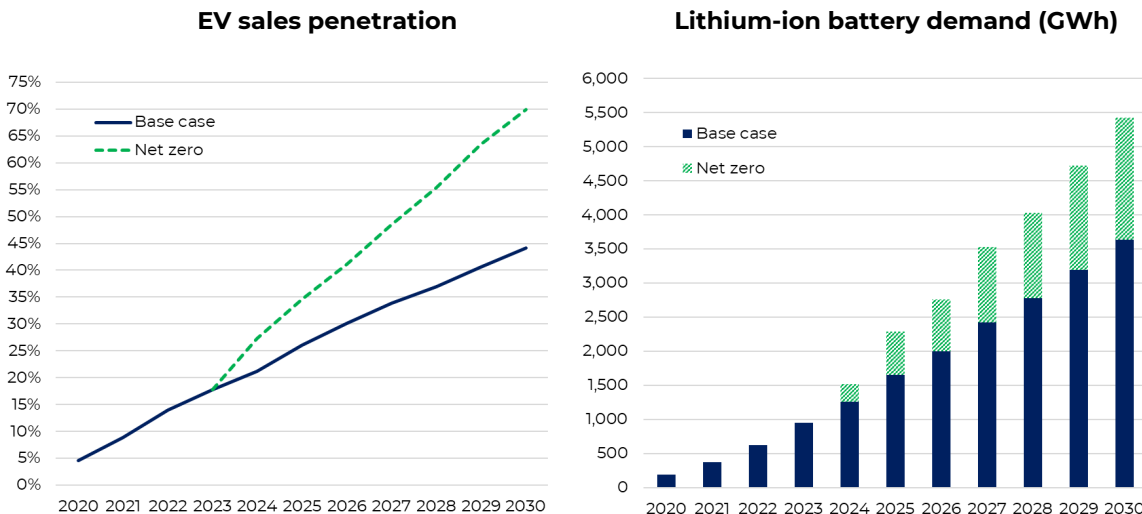
Our base case assumes that annual grid investment grows by around 4% pa, twice the historic rate, rising from \$300bn in 2022 to over \$800bn pa in the 2040s. Around two-thirds of this will be spent on distribution and one-third on transmission, with a rising share of this being digital. Around c.40% will be spent on replacing ageing assets, c.40% reinforcing the network to improve reliability and efficiency and c.20% extending the existing grid to new generation facilities.

Greater residential adoption of heat pumps and electric vehicles leads us to expect that **distribution** will attract a higher proportion of the investment than transmission. Heat pumps and EVs increase residential electricity demand by c.90% and c.50% respectively. Moreover, the addition of EVs requires modernisation and digitisation of the distribution grid to facilitate bidirectional charging and allow EV batteries to help balance the grid. Bernstein estimate that to ensure grid reliability, US utilities will need to spend nearly \$1,600 on transmission and distribution infrastructure for each electric vehicle on the road.

- The continued adoption of renewables, characterised by smaller and more distributed power plants, will drive demand for more **transmission** lines. We see transmission investment enjoying a further tailwind from the building of more interconnectors to facilitate the international trade of electricity. We think these will be vital for ensuring energy security by allowing regional renewable energy surpluses and deficits to be equalised.
- We see investments in **digitalisation** of the grid increasing from c.19% in 2020 to 42% in 2050. Integrating the physical grid into computer-based systems through the use of smart meters and sensors, communication networks and data analytics can help identify outages faster, automate grid performance, and improve uptime and efficiency. For network operators, data insights allow them to reduce maintenance costs through predictive maintenance. For consumers, smart meters can help reduce energy bills by enabling smart charging of electric vehicles at off-peak tariffs.

Implications of a net zero scenario on our electrification and grid outlook

For **electric vehicles**, BNEF estimate that in a net zero scenario, global EV penetration rates must hit 35% by 2025 and 70% by 2030 (versus their current base case estimates of 26% and 44% respectively). This translates into global battery demand of 2.3 TWh in 2025 and 5.5 TWh in 2030 compared to 0.95 TWh today. This is 40-50% higher than their 'base case' economic transition assumptions for each year, which themselves still imply annual growth rates of 20-30% pa from current levels.

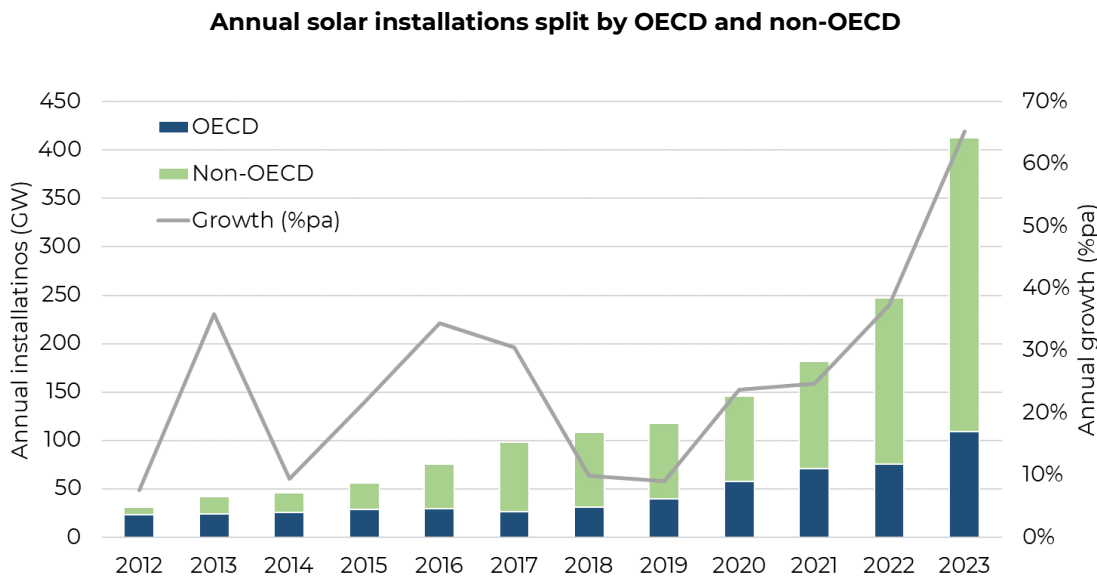


Source: BNEF, Guinness Global Investors, December 2023

For **grids**, the IEA net zero scenario requires investment to nearly double from the current \$300bn to around \$580bn pa for the remainder of this decade and to more than double again to around \$1.4tn per annum in the 2040s (nearly double the investment levels implied by their base case).

The solar sector

The solar industry has grown rapidly in 2023, with installations likely to have exceeded 415GW for the full year (up tenfold over the last decade and 65% higher than 2022). This is materially ahead of our prior 2023 expectation of 310GW and will represent the fastest annual growth rate since 2010 (following several years of robust (20%+) growth). The non-OECD continues to dominate the global market.



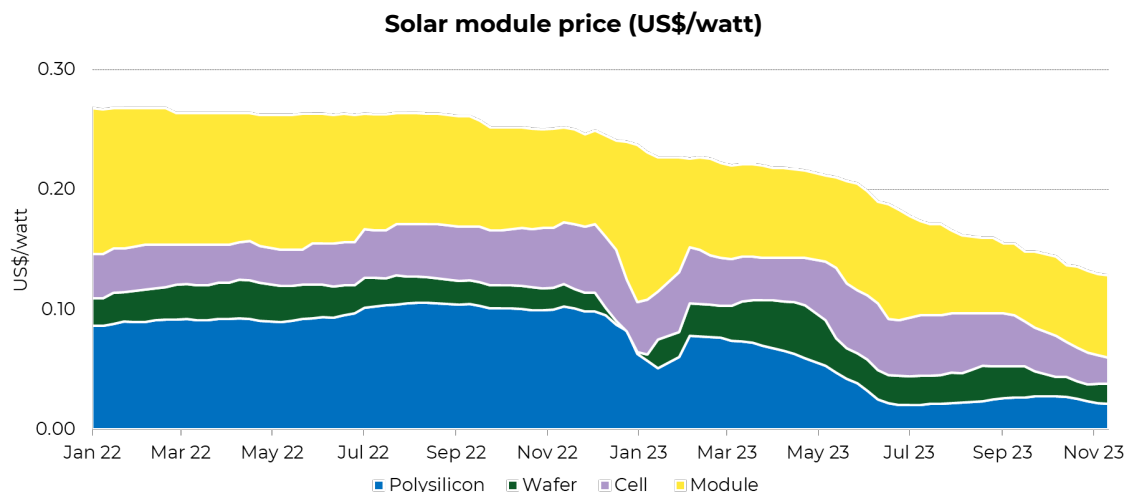
Source: BP, BNEF, PV InfoLink, IEA and Guinness Global Investors estimates, December 2023

On a regional basis, the key driver of the industry continues to be China – accounting for nearly 60% of all installations and 80% of the year-on-year growth. This has been largely driven by utility-scale “megabase” projects, where the government allocates huge areas of land for multi-gigawatt projects, thereby avoiding many of the permitting pitfalls seen in the US and Europe.

Guinness Sustainable Energy

Outside China, there has been a more mixed picture. Commercial and Utility solar (which account for c.80% of the market) continue to grow apace, with installations hitting record highs. Offsetting this, however, is the residential market, which has seen pockets of weakness in both the US and Europe as a function of higher interest rates, changing regulation and the waning impact of the war in Ukraine. Taken in aggregate, however, both geographies are expected to grow well in excess of 30% in 2023 and account for 8% and 13% of global installations respectively.

Underpinning much of this growth has been the ever-improving economics of solar relative to fossil fuel-based options and current wholesale electricity prices. Over the year, the cost of solar modules declined by more than 50%, driven by a normalisation of global supply chains and material growth in polysilicon supply. According to BNEF, the global capacity for solar-grade polysilicon increased to 2.4m tons during the year, more than double what is required for current PV installation levels. The consequent deflationary impact on the polysilicon price has reverberated throughout the solar supply chain meaning that solar module prices now sit at a **record low level** of \$0.13/watt.



Source: BNEF, Guinness Global Investors estimates, December 2023

Looking to 2024, we expect these improved economics to continue to spur growth in all major geographies with full-year global installations likely topping 500GW. In China, we see a continued tailwind from a second and third round of “megabase” auctions as the government seek to achieve 1,200GW of installed capacity by 2030. In Europe and the US, the lagged benefits (and increased clarity) of policy support coupled with robust utility capital expenditure should serve to drive utility installations to new highs. This will be somewhat tempered by continuing sluggishness in the residential market, but this should begin to clear in the second half. All in, we expect European and US solar demand to rise to 70GW and 39GW respectively.

Global solar module installations, 2010-2024E (GW)

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024E
OECD solar installations (annual)															
North America	1	2	4	6	7	8	14	11	10	11	19	25	24	34	39
Germany	7	7	8	3	2	1	2	2	4	4	5	6	7	13	15
Spain	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	3	5	7	8	9
Rest of Europe	3	4	5	5	5	6	4	3	4	6	12	19	21	36	42
Australia	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	4	4	4	5	4	5	5
South Korea	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	2	3	6	4	3	3	3
Japan	1	1	2	7	10	11	8	8	7	7	9	6	6	6	5
Total OECD	17	23	24	24	25	29	29	26	31	40	58	71	76	109	122
<i>Change</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>-3</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>33</i>	<i>13</i>
Non-OECD solar installations (annual)															
China	0	3	3	14	13	19	30	53	44	33	52	69	107	240	256
India	0	0	1	1	1	2	5	10	11	12	4	12	18	15	18
Rest of non-OECD	1	3	3	4	6	6	11	9	22	34	32	30	47	49	105
Total Non-OECD	2	5	8	18	21	27	46	72	77	78	88	111	172	304	379
<i>Change</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>58</i>	<i>132</i>	<i>75</i>
Total solar installations (annual)	19	29	31	42	46	56	75	98	108	118	146	182	250	413	501
<i>Change</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>36</i>	<i>76</i>	<i>163</i>	<i>88</i>

Source: BP, BNEF, PV InfoLink, IEA and Guinness Global Investors estimates, December 2023

The wind sector

Despite a return to growth in 2023, the wind industry continues to experience a bumpy recovery. On the one hand, it is having to navigate the near-term impact of supply chain disruptions and increased financing costs, while on the other hand it has a very favourable long-term outlook driven by relative economics and supportive policy. Despite the cross-currents, the industry globally is likely to have installed **a new record of around 103 GW of new capacity**, up 15 GW on 2022 levels.

In 2022 the key issue for the sector was high raw material prices which adversely impacted the economics of the supply chain and pushed margins for all the major turbine producers into negligible or negative territory. In 2023 the issue passed to the developers as turbine manufacturers looked to pass on cost increases, while at the same time financing costs increased in line with global interest rates. This issue was particularly acute within the offshore wind sector, where the lag between securing projects and locking in costs is far longer, prompting high-profile project cancellations from the likes of Orsted, Shell and Vattenfall.

Despite these headwinds we continue to expect a positive outlook for the global wind sector – both on and offshore – with the industry likely to deliver record installations again in 2024. In the medium term, we take confidence from the book-to-bill ratio for turbine manufacturers – a key leading indicator for growth in the sector – continuing to inflect positively.

Beyond 2025 we see many of the current bottlenecks dissipating and supportive policy from all key regions in the world prompting a near 70% increase in installations by the end of the decade, reaching around 170GW. We detail some of these drivers, both positive and negative, individually for the onshore and offshore industries below.

Global onshore and offshore wind installations (GW)

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024E
Onshore wind installations (annual)															
North America	6	8	15	2	7	10	9	8	8	10	17	14	10	8	10
Latin America	0	0	0	0	5	3	3	3	4	3	3	6	4	6	5
Europe	9	10	12	11	11	11	12	13	8	9	14	14	15	16	13
China	17	18	14	15	21	29	22	17	19	26	54	42	44	54	57
India	1	1	2	2	2	3	4	4	2	2	1	2	2	3	4
RoW	3	4	4	3	4	5	5	5	4	4	4	8	5	4	6
Total onshore	35	40	46	33	49	61	55	49	46	55	93	84	79	91	95
Change	-3	5	6	-14	17	11	-6	-6	-3	9	38	-9	-5	12	3
World ex China	18	22	32	18	29	32	33	32	27	29	40	43	36	38	38
Offshore wind installations (annual)															
China	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	2	3	4	14	5	8	12
UK	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	2	2	1	1	3	1	2
Germany	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	2	0	1	0	1	1
RoW	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	1	1	2	6
Total offshore	1	0	2	2	1	4	1	4	4	8	7	17	9	12	21
Change	1	-1	1	1	-1	4	-4	3	0	3	-1	10	-8	3	9
World ex China	1	0	1	2	1	3	0	4	3	5	3	3	4	4	9
Total wind installations	36	40	48	35	50	65	56	53	50	63	100	101	88	103	115
Change	-2	4	8	-13	16	15	-9	-3	-2	12	38	1	-13	15	12

Source: BP, IEA, BNEF, Guinness Global Investors estimates, December 2023

Onshore wind

The onshore wind sector is likely to have delivered 91GW of new installations in 2023, with China accounting for 60% of the total and nearly 90% of the year-on-year growth. As with solar, the key driver here is the latest set of centrally-planned megaprojects – generally located in windy parts of northern China. The first set of such projects (40GW) was announced in 2021, with commissioning set for end 2023. This is to be followed by both a second and third wave of projects spanning 2024 and 2025. The combination of this, coupled with new state directives on repowering (the process of swapping older turbines with new, more efficient ones) should see installations average more than 55GW out to the end of the decade.

In Europe, the 16GW of installations we expect this year represents a record. However, installations may flatline in the near term as the impact of permitting and grid constraints coupled with poorly designed auction processes temporarily stalls progress. For example, the latest 1,500MW onshore auction in Spain saw just 45MW of capacity awarded as developers shied away from a price cap which failed to reflect the current cost environment. Ultimately, such auctions are highly likely to be redesigned and will be offset by other factors (such as more countries implementing the EU's new permitting recommendations which, in the case of Germany, have seen close to a 40% jump in permitting year-over-year).

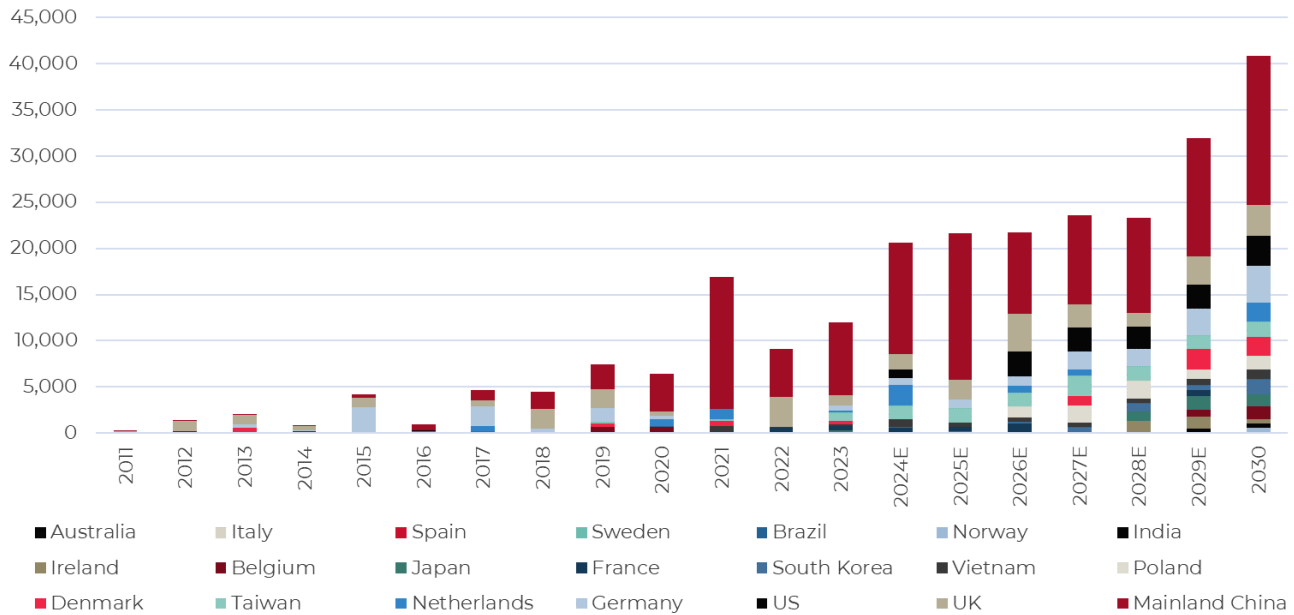
In the US, the combination of cost pressures and the lack of clarity on the IRA tax credits has caused a temporary lull in activity meaning installations are likely to be down in 2023. That said, the US Treasury has now provided finalised guidance for the wind industry, and we are beginning to see rising project pipelines as a consequence. This will lead to increased activity in 2024, but will really begin to impact from 2025 onwards, when, coupled with large new transmission lines being commissioned in the Midcontinent and the Southwest, we expect to see installation activity grow at over 10% a year.

Offshore wind

The offshore industry remains a small and presently troubled segment of the market but it is critical to the overall growth of the wind market out to 2030. Installations in 2023 are likely to have reached 12GW, led heavily by China, but this figure is set to grow to 40GW by 2030 – a 20% pa growth rate. This means that despite accounting for just 12% of the overall market in 2023, offshore wind will account for over 40% of the expected growth in total global wind installations to 2030.

Despite negative recent headlines, the fundamental attractions of the offshore wind industry remain the same: in addition to generally experiencing higher wind speeds, offshore wind installations tend to be easier to permit, allowing for bigger turbines close to large urban centres. Recent project cancellations, particularly in the US, have raised concerns about the viability of offshore wind in general, but we view these issues to be largely transitory and US-specific. Unlike the key offshore wind centres, the US has not yet built out its supply chain, making it more vulnerable to disruption. Furthermore, unlike the rest of the world, most legacy US contracts did not include mechanisms to account for inflation. While this has wreaked havoc on a certain era of offshore projects, we don't expect it to repeat in the future and thus don't think it appropriate to extrapolate to the whole industry or indeed future US projects. Instead, we see robust state level commitment to offshore wind targets, project economics underpinned by structurally higher global electricity prices (ex-US) and the proliferation of offshore wind technology beyond the handful of existing core geographies.

Offshore wind installations (MW)



Source: BNEF, Guinness Global Investors estimates, December 2023

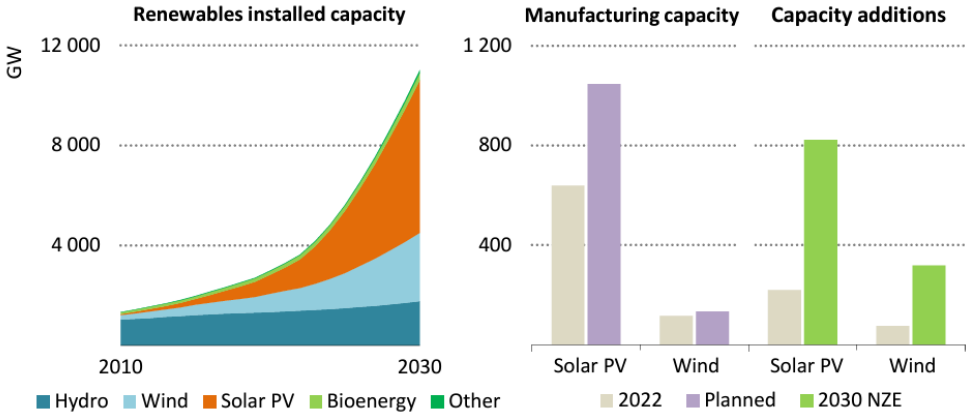
Implications of a net zero scenario on our solar and wind outlook

The IEA net zero scenario envisages that renewables have a 60% share of global electricity generation in 2030, up from 30% in 2022. Solar and wind generation dominate, with their combined shares increasing from 12% in 2022 to 40% in 2030 thereby accounting for over 90% of the overall increase in renewables capacity to 2030 and 85% of the increase in renewable electricity generation.

In terms of new installations, global **solar** capacity additions increase from 220GW in 2022 to 820GW in 2030 while **wind** installations rise from 75GW in 2022 to 320GW in 2030. Offshore wind accounts for around one-third of the total installations in 2030.

The solar industry is clearly targeting very high levels of growth and is arguably positioned to deliver sufficient manufacturing capacity to satisfy the net zero scenario. However, the wind industry appears to be lagging substantially and therefore much more in need of policy support to achieve the required manufacturing capacity.

Global renewables installed capacity and solar/ wind manufacturing capacity in a net zero scenario, 2022 and 2030



Source: IEA, December 2023

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GUINNESS SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FUND

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The documentation needed to make an investment, including the Prospectus, the Key Investor Information Document (KIID), Key Information Document (KID) and the Application Form, is available in English from www.guinnessgi.com or free of charge from the Manager: Waystone Management Company (IE) Limited 2nd Floor 35 Shelbourne Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin D04 A4E0, Ireland; or the Promoter and Investment Manager: Guinness Asset Management Ltd, 18 Smith Square, London SW1P 3HZ.

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General Enquiries: 0345 922 0044

E-Mail: iwtas-investorservices@waystone.com.

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