

# Ecofin Global Utilities and Infrastructure Trust plc (EGL)

As of 31/07/2019

## Performance (as of 31 July, 2019)

(all total returns in £)	1 M %	3 M %	6 M %	1 Y %	2 Y %	Since Admission* %
<b>Net Asset Value</b>	3.8	10.1	15.5	19.0	25.9	33.9
<b>Share Price</b>	3.4	8.4	17.0	21.5	26.8	49.1
FTSE All-Share Index	2.0	2.6	10.6	1.2	10.5	22.3
FTSE ASX Utilities	0.4	0.3	-2.4	-0.4	-9.3	-15.8
MSCI World Index	4.5	8.0	17.6	12.0	26.7	44.3
MSCI World Utilities Index	3.6	9.6	15.5	21.3	26.6	35.6
S&P Global Infrastructure Index	1.9	8.9	16.3	16.0	16.9	29.6

\*26 September, 2016. As at 13 September, 2016, the value of the assets attributable to EGL, further to the reconstruction of Ecofin Water & Power Opportunities plc (EWPO), was £124,528,000 or 135.54p per share. By 26 September, 2016, the date of admission of EGL's shares to trading, the value of the Company's assets had increased to £129,200,000 or 140.63p per share and the mid-market price of the shares was 113.00p. Source: Bloomberg. Performance is shown on a total return basis, i.e., assuming reinvestment of dividends.

## Yield, diversification, low volatility

Ecofin Global Utilities and Infrastructure Trust plc (EGL) is a closed-end investment company domiciled in the UK whose shares are listed and traded on the London Stock Exchange. The Company carries on its business so that it qualifies as an authorized UK investment trust. EGL invests primarily in the equity and equity-related securities of utility and infrastructure companies which are listed on recognized stock exchanges in European countries, the United States and other developed, OECD countries although it may invest up to 10% of its assets in companies whose equity securities are listed on stock exchanges in non-OECD countries. It may also invest up to 10% of its assets in debt securities, which are typically traded on over-the-counter markets.

Investment objective: The Company's investment objectives are to achieve a high, secure dividend yield on its investment portfolio and to realise long-term growth in the value of the portfolio for the benefit of shareholders while taking care to preserve capital.

Yield: The Company targets a dividend yield of at least 4% on net assets using gearing and, if necessary, reserves to augment the portfolio yield.

Gearing: EGL may borrow up to 25% of its net assets to earn a higher level of dividend income and to offer shareholders a geared return on their investment. The Company pursues a flexible gearing policy, borrowing in major currencies at floating rates of interest under a facility which allows the Company to repay its borrowings at any time without penalty.

## Dividends

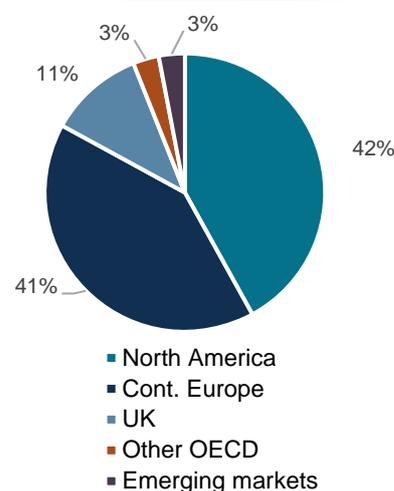
The Company distributes quarterly dividend payments of 1.6p per share, or 6.4p per share per annum. The first interim dividend was paid in December 2016; thereafter, quarterly payment dates fall on the last business day in February, May, August and November.

## As of 31 July, 2019

Net assets	£152,591,322
NAV per share	166.09p
Share price	146.25p
Premium/(Discount)	(11.9%)
Gearing	7.0%
Yield*	4.4%

\*Yield is based on dividends paid (annual) as a percent of the share price. Initial quarterly dividend of 1.6p per share was paid in December 2016; subsequent interim dividends of 1.6p per share have been paid on the last day of February, May, August and November.

## Geographical allocation (% of portfolio)



## Sector allocation

	% of Portfolio
Regulated utilities	21
Transportation	15
Integrations	44
Renewables (incl. YieldCos)	<u>20</u>
	<b>100</b>

## 10 Largest holdings

	% of Portfolio	Country
NextEra Energy	6.1	US
Iberdrola	4.9	Spain
Enel	4.5	Italy
Engie	4.0	France
EDP	4.0	Portugal
Covanta	3.7	US
RWE	3.5	Germany
NextEra Energy Partners	3.5	US
Exelon	3.4	US
National Grid	<u>3.4</u>	UK
<b>Total (41 holdings)</b>	<b>41.0</b>	

## Manager's comments

- Equity markets rose and EGL's NAV performed strongly again in July. The month ushered in a new leader of the Conservative Party and PM in the UK and renewed pressure on sterling with Boris Johnson's 'Brexit by 31 October' pledges. Sterling declined by approximately 4% against the US dollar and 2% versus the Euro. The MSCI World Index increased by 0.5% in local currency and by 4.5% in sterling terms; similarly, the MSCI World Utilities Index declined slightly in local currency but rose by 3.6% in sterling terms. In the Company's sectors the best local currency returns were to be found amongst European utilities.

(total return in £)	July %	Cal. YTD %
MSCI World Utilities	3.6	18.0
UK Utilities ( <i>FTSE 350 Utilities Index</i> )	0.4	5.9
Continental Utilities ( <i>DJ European Stoxx Utilities Index</i> )	3.3	20.7
US Utilities ( <i>S&amp;P 500 Utilities Index</i> )	3.6	19.4
S&P Global Infrastructure	1.9	22.8
<b>EGL NAV</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>22.5</b>

- Notwithstanding reasonably healthy domestic economic data in the U.S., the market fully expected an interest rate cut there as trade frictions persist and the IMF lowered global growth forecasts. Ten year government bond yields fell on both sides of the Atlantic and in Germany, France and Sweden (and Japan) 10-year yields traded below zero later in the month. The Federal Reserve's rate cut did materialise on 31 July but it was more modest than many expected at 25bps. Benchmark 10-year government bond yields closed the month approximately unchanged in the U.S. and some 10-20 basis points lower in the UK and Continental Europe.
- The Company's NAV increased by 3.8% in July, ahead of the MSCI World Utilities and S&P Global Infrastructure indices. Gearing was held at approximately 7% and performance was generated for the most part in Continental Europe where RWE and Drax rose by 12.9% and 16.2%, respectively; Ferrovial, Suez and Engie also performed well (+4-5% each). The North American portfolio contributed to NAV growth mostly due to currency gains in July and there was quite a dispersion of returns amongst sub-sectors and portfolio names. While NextEra Energy, Algonquin and Terraform all made decent gains, Williams' share price was weaker notwithstanding a strong earnings report, Covanta dipped a few percent after strong share price gains year-to-date, and Exelon's share price suffered at month-end. E.ON was sold and the holding in National Grid, which we view as one of the cheapest US utilities, has been topped up.
- The end of July is always a busy period in term of earnings publications for our sectors. Overall, results have been encouraging, as have comments from management. Two of our top 10 positions, Iberdrola and RWE, reported better than expected results and decided to upgrade their full year guidance. We continue to avoid Centrica which has again disappointed the market with a 58% cut to its dividend as low natural gas prices, weak power demand and nuclear outages are putting pressure on the company's cash flow.

TICKER: EGL

SEDOL: BD3V464

ISIN: GB00BD3V4641

## Key risk factors

All financial investments involve an element of risk. The value of your investment and the income derived from it will vary and there can be no assurance that the investment manager will be able to invest the Company's assets on attractive terms, generate investment returns for investors or avoid investment losses.

The Company focusses on investments in two sectors, the utilities and infrastructure sectors, and accordingly an investment in the Company's shares may be regarded as representing a more concentrated risk than the investment in the shares of a broadly diversified, generalist investment trust or fund.

The Company may employ gearing. Whilst the use of gearing should enhance the NAV per share when the value of the Company's underlying assets is rising, it will have the opposite effect when the underlying asset values are falling.

The Company invests to a considerable extent in securities which are not denominated or quoted in Sterling, the Company's base currency. Movements in exchange rates will, therefore, have an effect, favourable or unfavourable, on the return on an investment in the Company's shares.

## Gearing

The Company may make use of gearing to enable the Company to earn a high level of dividend income and to offer Shareholders a geared return on their investment. The Directors believe that the use of gearing is justified given the nature of most of the companies in which the Company invests; that is, companies which provide essential services, operate in regulated markets and within stable regulatory frameworks, and pay dividends. Whilst the use of gearing should enhance the net asset value (NAV) per share when the value of EGL's underlying assets is rising, it will have the opposite effect when the value of its assets is falling. As a result, the volatility of the Company's NAV will increase when gearing is being used which may also increase the volatility of the Company's share price. The nature and term of any borrowings are the responsibility of the Directors, while the amount of any borrowings is at the discretion of the Investment manager.

EGL may borrow amounts equal to 25% of its net assets. Any borrowings will be flexible, short-term borrowings in major currencies at floating rates of interest under a Prime Brokerage facility with Citigroup which allows the Company to repay its borrowings at any time without penalty.

For more information, please see [www.tortoiseadvisors.co.uk](http://www.tortoiseadvisors.co.uk)

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## Company details

Portfolio manager:	Jean-Hugues de Lamaze
Date of admission:	26 September, 2016
Traded:	London Stock Exchange
Dealing currency:	Sterling
Issued share capital:	91,872,247 shares
Investment management fee:	1.0% p.a. of net assets

## Financial calendar

Year-end:	30 September
Results announced:	May (half-year); December (final)
AGM:	March
Dividends paid:	Last day of February, May, August & November

## NMPI status

The Company conducts its affairs so that its securities can be recommended by IFAs to ordinary retail investors in accordance with the FCA's rules in relation to non-mainstream pooled investment products, and intends to continue to do so. The Company's securities are excluded from the FCA's restrictions which apply to non-mainstream pooled investment products because they are shares in an investment trust.

## Individual Savings Account ("ISA")

The Company's shares are eligible to be held in an ISA account subject to HM Revenue & Customs limits.

Released: 5 August, 2019