

Press Release

Robeco and RobecoSAM launch Global SDG Credits strategy

Rotterdam, 24 May 2018 – Robeco and RobecoSAM announce the launch of the RobecoSAM Global SDG Credits strategy. This strategy aims to help achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to outperform the Bloomberg Barclays Global Aggregate Corporate Index. The fund leverages on Robeco and RobecoSAM's long history in Sustainability Investing (SI) and extensive in-house expertise.

The innovative fund uses RobecoSAM's newly developed and proprietary SDG framework and builds on Robeco's successful credit capability with its flagship global credit fund. The fund integrates financially material ESG information of the issuers in the fundamental analyses, applies an extensive values-based exclusion policy and will only invest in bonds of corporates which have a positive or at least neutral SDG rating. Besides traditional bonds, the fund will also invest in green bonds with an attractive performance potential. In addition, dedicated active ownership specialists engage with companies on the different SDG themes.

The proprietary SDG framework consists of a three-step approach: firstly, it determines at the extent to which companies' products and services contribute to the SDGs. Secondly, the analysts confirm that how the firm operates is compatible with the SDGs; and thirdly, a check is done to ensure whether the company has not been involved in controversies such as oil spills, fraud or bribery. The result of this three-step analysis is expressed as an SDG score. Robeco's credit analysts and RobecoSAM's SI analysts have done a mapping exercise of some 450 credits. 62% of the issuers have been assessed as making a positive contribution, and our research has proven that there are more than sufficient issuers to create a well-diversified global credit portfolio that has a positive impact on the SDGs.

The proprietary impact reporting provides a summary of the overall impact of the portfolio compared to the benchmark. The impact reporting is organized into five categories: basic needs, healthy planet, sustainable society, equality & opportunity, and robust institutions.

Jan Willem de Moor, Portfolio Manager RobecoSAM Global SDG Credits, said: *"SI and Credit Investing is at the heart of what we do. I firmly believe that it is possible to contribute towards achieving the SDGs while generating competitive returns. We already integrate ESG information into the fundamental analysis of the issuers for all of our credit strategies, so to combine SI and Credit investing with the SDG component is very exciting."*

Jacob Messina, CFA, Head of Sustainability Investing Research, RobecoSAM, said: *"The SDGs have given asset owners a new lens through which to view the impacts of their investments. RobecoSAM is at the forefront of this conversation, helping define impact in the context of publicly traded securities. Although SDG investing is different from traditional impact investing in many ways, it is an important addition to the product offerings available to sustainable investing clients, providing the scale and financial returns required by the world's largest investors."*

Robeco has a long history in global fixed income investing. As of the end of December 2017, Robeco manages EUR 41 billion in fixed income, of which EUR 28 billion in credits. A dedicated global team of over 30 investment professionals located in Rotterdam, London, New York, Singapore and Hong Kong manages European and global investment grade credit portfolios.

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RobecoSAM is the investment specialist that has focused exclusively on Sustainability Investing (SI) for over 22 years, with a Sustainability Investing Research team and a database covering 600 financially relevant ESG data points of over 4,500 companies. RobecoSAM Global SDG Credits is domiciled in Luxembourg and available to institutional and retail investors, and to wholesale distributors in key markets upon investors demand.

Media enquiries

Robeco

Corporate Communication
Office: +31 (0) 10 224 2241
Email: cc@robeco.nl

RobecoSAM

Corporate Communications
Office: +41 (0) 44 653 10 02
Email: com@robecosam.com
Follow us on [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#).

About Robeco

Robeco is a pure play international asset manager founded in 1929. It currently has offices in 15 countries around the world and is headquartered in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. Through its unique integration of fundamental, sustainable and quantitative research, Robeco is able to offer both institutional and private investors an extensive selection of active investment strategies, covering a broad range of asset classes. As at 31 December 2017, Robeco had EUR 161 billion in assets under management, 70% of which were institutional. Robeco is a subsidiary of ORIX Corporation Europe N.V. which had assets under management of EUR 293 billion as at 31 December 2017. More information is available at www.robeco.com.

About RobecoSAM

Founded in 1995, RobecoSAM is an investment specialist focused exclusively on Sustainability Investing. It offers asset management, indices, impact analysis and investing, sustainability assessments, and benchmarking services. The company's asset management capabilities cater to institutional asset owners and financial intermediaries and cover a range of ESG-integrated investments, featuring a strong track record in resource efficiency-themed strategies. Together with S&P Dow Jones Indices, RobecoSAM publishes the globally recognized Dow Jones Sustainability Indices (DJSI) as well as the S&P ESG Factor Weighted Index series, the first index family to treat ESG as a standalone performance factor using the RobecoSAM Smart ESG methodology. Based on its Corporate Sustainability Assessment (CSA), an annual ESG analysis of approximately 4,500 listed companies, RobecoSAM has compiled one of the world's most comprehensive databases of financially material sustainability information. The CSA data is also included in USD 104 billion of assets under management at Robeco.

RobecoSAM is a sister company of Robeco, the Dutch investment management firm founded in 1929. Both entities are subsidiaries of ORIX Corporation Europe N.V., the center of asset management expertise for ORIX Corporation. As a reflection of its own commitment to advancing sustainable investment practices, RobecoSAM is a signatory of the PRI, UN Global Compact and Climate Action 100+, a supporter of the Task force on Climate-related Financial Disclosure (TCFD), as well as a member of Eurosif, Swiss Sustainable Finance, Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP), and Portfolio Decarbonization Coalition (PDC). As of December 31, 2017, RobecoSAM had client assets under management, advice and/or license of approximately USD 20 billion.