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Royal London Asset Management

Sustainable Fund Commentary

31 July 2026



Funds that have a Sustainability Focus Label investing mainly in assets that focus on sustainability for people or the planet. Excluding RL European Sustainable Credit Fund, RL Global Sustainable Credit Fund & RL Global Sustainable Equity Fund (IRL).



Fund Commentary

31 July 2026

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the Royal London Sustainable Funds. The report has been produced by Royal London Asset Management. All content within this report is at the report date unless otherwise stated.

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Sustainable

Royal London European Sustainable Credit Fund

The fund saw a negative return over the month in dollar terms, broadly in line with the benchmark index. The fund showed resilience in light of a spike in volatility that saw a flare up of US-Iran geopolitical tensions pushed the oil price back above \$90 per barrel and lifted the energy sector. These moves, in turn, pushed government bond yields higher leading to a weak performance for corporate bonds as higher energy prices stoked up inflation concerns.

Despite a slow down in primary markets in July, following typical seasonal effects, the fund remained active. We reduced AT1 bonds from Banque Federative du Credit Mutuel, Rabobank and BNP Paribas following strong performance, adding to a new issue from AT&T and buying bonds in the secondary market from Google owner Alphabet – adding yield and increasing diversification.

At a fundamental level, we still believe that credit spreads over-compensate investors for default risk, and that the all-in yield on credit remains attractive. While near-term absolute performance is likely to be heavily influenced by movements in the yields of underlying government bond markets, we believe that continued emphasis on income generation, will continue to support returns as has been the case through the present environment of volatile yields.

Royal London Global Sustainable Credit Fund

The fund saw a negative return over the month in dollar terms, broadly in line with the benchmark index. The fund showed resilience in light of a spike in volatility that saw a flare up of US-Iran geopolitical tensions pushed the oil price back above \$90 per barrel and lifted the energy sector. These moves, in turn, pushed government bond yields higher leading to a weak performance for corporate bonds as higher energy prices stoked up inflation concerns.

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Sustainable

Royal London Global Sustainable Equity Fund

The MSCI World index declined in sterling terms in July. Market performance was marked by a mid-month AI sell-off on concerns over capex sustainability, followed by a sharp rebound as hyperscaler earnings validated ongoing AI investment.

The fund underperformed in July. Negative contributors included ASML, a Dutch semiconductor equipment manufacturer, impacted by fears of Chinese competition and caught up in a broader AI sell-off, and TSMC, a leading manufacturer of semi-conductor chips, as higher capex guidance and weaker AI sentiment outweighed otherwise strong earnings beat. Positive contributors included BayCurrent, a Japanese consulting firm, as demand for AI and cybersecurity consulting remained strong.

The fund continued to build a position in Infineon, a power semiconductor supplier benefiting from AI and reindustrialisation trends.

Royal London Global Sustainable Equity Fund (IRL)

The MSCI World index declined in sterling terms in July. Market performance was marked by a mid-month AI sell-off on concerns over capex sustainability, followed by a sharp rebound as hyperscaler earnings validated ongoing AI investment.

The fund underperformed in July. Negative contributors included ASML, a Dutch semiconductor equipment manufacturer, impacted by fears of Chinese competition and caught up in a broader AI sell-off, and TSMC, a leading manufacturer of semi-conductor chips, as higher capex guidance and weaker AI sentiment outweighed otherwise strong earnings beat. Positive contributors included BayCurrent, a Japanese consulting firm, as demand for AI and cybersecurity consulting remained strong.

The fund continued to build a position in Infineon, a power semiconductor supplier benefiting from AI and reindustrialisation trends.

Royal London Sustainable Corporate Bond Trust

Bond markets were volatile over the month. Government bond yields generally moved higher as investors weighed a combination of a repricing of the inflationary implications of elevated energy prices on policy rates together with a rise in term premium driven by fiscal/supply concerns against signs of moderating economic growth. Against this negative return backdrop for government bonds, credit markets proved relatively resilient, supported by healthy corporate fundamentals and strong demand for new issuance.

The fund saw negative returns in July and underperformed its benchmark due to our long duration positioning. While this weighed on returns over the month as yields rose, we continue to expect yields to fall over time as market focus reverts from higher inflation to anaemic growth, supporting our duration positioning. This impact was partly offset by positive contributions from both sector allocation and stock selection, with particularly strong performance from financials and structured bonds.

We believe that the all-in yield available in the sterling credit market remains attractive and, despite tighter credit spreads, continues to provide adequate compensation for default risk. Driven by our longstanding credit philosophy, we remain confident in our ability to achieve an attractive yield premium in the portfolio while maintaining a high degree of diversification – across both sectors and issuers – alongside a bias towards secured debt that aims to provide additional downside protection.

Sustainable

Royal London Sustainable Diversified Trust

Global equities fell in sterling terms in July. Market performance was marked by a mid-month AI sell-off due to concerns over capex sustainability, followed by a sharp rebound as hyperscaler earnings validated ongoing AI investment. The sterling credit market fell in July, as gilt yields rose amid a volatile macro backdrop and UK fiscal uncertainty.

The Trust delivered a negative absolute return in July. Negative contributors included ASML, a Dutch semiconductor equipment manufacturer, and Nextpower, a US company that manufactures solar infrastructure. Top contributors included Microsoft, after strong earnings showing continued growth in its cloud business.

We added to AI-infrastructure companies with strong fundamentals amid weakness during the month.

Royal London Sustainable Growth Fund

Global equities fell in sterling terms in July. Market performance was marked by a mid-month AI sell-off due to concerns over capex sustainability, followed by a sharp rebound as hyperscaler earnings validated ongoing AI investment. The sterling credit market fell in July, as gilt yields rose amid a volatile macro backdrop and UK fiscal uncertainty.

The Fund delivered a negative absolute return in July. Negative contributors included ASML, a Dutch semiconductor equipment manufacturer, and TSMC, a leading manufacturer of semi-conductor chips. Top contributors included Amazon, driven by stronger-than-expected earnings for its cloud services.

We initiated a position in Infineon, a power semiconductor supplier benefiting from AI and reindustrialisation trends.

Royal London Sustainable Leaders Trust

The FTSE All-Share Index recorded positive returns in July, driven by strong quarterly earnings across sectors, with energy stocks leading gains as oil prices remained elevated amid the absence of a US-Iran ceasefire.

The Trust underperformed the index during the month. Negative contributors included Rentokil, after the new CEO indicated that more work is needed to deliver the turnaround than previously expected. And ASML, a Dutch semiconductor equipment manufacturer, following a strong run year-to-date, impacted by fears of Chinese competition and caught up in a broader AI sell-off. Top contributors included Amazon, driven by stronger-than-expected earnings for its cloud services.

The Trust initiated positions in Metso, a mining equipment provider which is set to benefit from a multi-year mining investment cycle driven by electrification and AI, and Severn Trent, a UK water utility with defensive earnings and industry-leading operational performance.

Sustainable

Royal London Sustainable Managed Growth Trust

Bond markets were volatile over the month. Government bond yields generally moved higher as investors weighed a combination of a repricing of the inflationary implications of elevated energy prices on policy rates together with a rise in term premium driven by fiscal/supply concerns against signs of moderating economic growth. Against this negative return backdrop for government bonds, credit markets proved relatively resilient, supported by healthy corporate fundamentals and strong demand for new issuance.

The fund saw negative returns for July. The credit exposure outperformed the wider sterling investment grade credit market, driven by both sector allocation and stock selection. In equities, our exposure had a negative impact on returns, with positive contributions from Microsoft and Amazon offset by negative returns from holdings in ASML, Nextpower and Taiwan Semiconductor.

We believe that the all-in yield available in the sterling credit market remains attractive and, despite tighter credit spreads, continues to provide adequate compensation for default risk. Driven by our longstanding credit philosophy, we remain confident in our ability to achieve an attractive yield premium in the portfolio while maintaining a high degree of diversification – across both sectors and issuers – alongside a bias towards secured debt that aims to provide additional downside protection.

Royal London Sustainable Short Duration Corporate Bond Fund

Bond markets were volatile over the month. Government bond yields generally moved higher as investors weighed a combination of a repricing of the inflationary implications of elevated energy prices on policy rates together with a rise in term premium driven by fiscal/supply concerns against signs of moderating economic growth. Against this negative return backdrop for government bonds, credit markets proved relatively resilient, supported by healthy corporate fundamentals and strong demand for new issuance.

The fund saw negative returns in July and underperformed its benchmark due to our long duration positioning. While this weighed on returns over the month as yields rose, we continue to expect yields to fall over time as market focus reverts from higher inflation to anaemic growth, supporting our duration positioning. This impact was partly offset by positive contributions from both sector allocation and stock selection, with particularly strong performance from financials and structured bonds.

We believe that the all-in yield available in the sterling credit market remains attractive and, despite tighter credit spreads, continues to provide adequate compensation for default risk. Driven by our longstanding credit philosophy, we remain confident in our ability to achieve an attractive yield premium in the portfolio while maintaining a high degree of diversification – across both sectors and issuers – alongside a bias towards secured debt that aims to provide additional downside protection.

Royal London Sustainable World Trust

Global equities fell in sterling terms in July. Market performance was marked by a mid-month AI sell-off due to concerns over capex sustainability, followed by a sharp rebound as hyperscaler earnings validated ongoing AI investment. The sterling credit market fell in July, as gilt yields rose amid a volatile macro backdrop and UK fiscal uncertainty.

The Trust delivered a negative absolute return in April. Negative contributors included ASML, a Dutch semiconductor equipment manufacturer, impacted by fears of Chinese competition and caught up in a broader AI sell-off. And TSMC, a leading manufacturer of semi-conductor chips, as higher capex guidance and weaker AI sentiment outweighed otherwise strong earnings. Top contributors included Amazon, driven by stronger-than-expected cloud earnings.

The Trust initiated a position in Infineon, a power semiconductor supplier benefiting from AI and reindustrialisation trends.

Disclaimers

Important information

For professional investors only, not suitable for retail clients. This marketing communication is a financial promotion and is not investment advice.

The views expressed are those of Royal London Asset Management at the date of publication unless otherwise indicated, which are subject to change, and is not investment advice. Telephone calls may be recorded. For further information please see the privacy policy at www.rlam.com.

RL Sustainable Leaders Trust, RL Sustainable World Trust, RL Sustainable Diversified Trust, RL Sustainable Managed Growth Trust, RL Sustainable Corporate Bond Trust.

The Trusts are authorised unit Trust schemes. The Manager is RLUM Limited, authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority, with firm reference number 144032.

RL Global Sustainable Equity Fund, RL Sustainable Growth Fund

The Funds are sub-Funds of Royal London Equity Funds ICVC, an open-ended investment company with variable capital with segregated liability between sub-Funds, incorporated in England and Wales under registered number IC000807. The Authorised Corporate Director (ACD) is Royal London Unit Trust Managers Limited, authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority, with firm reference number 144037.

RL European Sustainable Credit, RL Global Sustainable Credit Fund, RL Global Sustainable Equity (IRL):

The Fund is a sub-Fund of Royal London Asset Management Funds plc, an open-ended investment company with variable capital (ICVC), with segregated liability between sub-Funds. Incorporated with limited liability under the laws of Ireland and authorised by the Central Bank of Ireland as a UCITS Fund. It is a recognised scheme under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000. The Management Company is Fund Rock Management Company SA, Registered office: Airport Center Building, 5 Heienhaff, L-1736 Senningerberg, Luxembourg and is authorised and regulated by the Commission de Surveillance du Secteur Financier (CSSF). The Investment Manager is Royal London Asset Management Limited.

The Prospectus and Key Investor Information Document (KIID) are available in English. A summary of investor rights is also available in English. RLAM may terminate the arrangements made for marketing of the Fund pursuant to Article 93a of Directive 2009/65/EC.

RL Sustainable Short Duration Corporate Bond Fund

The Fund is a sub-Fund of Royal London Bond Funds II ICVC, an open-ended investment company with variable capital with segregated liability between sub-Funds, incorporated in England and Wales under registered number IC001128. The Authorised Corporate Director (ACD) is Royal London Unit Trust Managers Limited, authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority, with firm reference number 144037.

For more information on the Fund or the risks of investing, please refer to the Prospectus or Key Investor Information Document (KIID), available via the relevant Fund Information page on www.rlam.com.

Notice for UK Investors:

The Fund is recognised in the UK under the Overseas Fund Regime (OFR) but is not a UK authorised Fund and is not authorised by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA). It is therefore not subject to the same regulatory oversight as UK authorised Funds and is not required to adhere to the UK sustainable investment labelling disclosure requirements. Most of the protections provided by the UK regulatory system, and the compensation under the Financial Services Compensation Scheme, will not be available. Investors are strongly encouraged to seek independent financial advice before making any investment decisions.

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Risk and Warnings

Investment risk

The value of investments and any income from them may go down as well as up and is not guaranteed. Investors may not get back the amount invested.

Concentration risk

The price of Funds that invest in a reduced number of holdings, sectors, or geographical areas may be more heavily affected by events that influence the stock market and therefore more volatile.

Credit risk

Should the issuer of a fixed income security become unable to make income or capital payments, or their rating is downgraded, the value of that investment will fall. Fixed income securities that have a lower credit rating can pay a higher level of income and have an increased risk of default.

Derivative risk

Derivatives are highly sensitive to changes in the value of the underlying asset which can increase both Fund losses and gains. The impact to the Fund can be greater where they are used in an extensive or complex manner, where the Fund could lose significantly more than the amount invested in derivatives.

Efficient portfolio management (EPM) techniques

The Fund may engage in EPM techniques including holdings of derivative instruments. Whilst intended to reduce risk, the use of these instruments may expose the Fund to increased price volatility.

Exchange Rate Risk

Investing in assets denominated in a currency other than the base currency of the Fund means the value of the investment can be affected by changes in exchange rates.

Interest rate risk

Fixed interest securities are particularly affected by trends in interest rates and inflation. If interest rates go up, the value of capital may fall, and vice versa. Inflation will also decrease the real value of capital.

Liquidity risk

In difficult market conditions the value of certain Fund investments may be difficult to value and harder to sell, or sell at a fair price, resulting in unpredictable falls in the value of your holding.

Counterparty risk

The insolvency of any institutions providing services such as safekeeping of assets or acting as counterparty to derivatives or other instruments, may expose the Fund to financial loss.

Emerging markets risk

Investing in Emerging Markets may provide the potential for greater rewards but carries greater risk due to the possibility of high volatility, low liquidity, currency fluctuations, the adverse effect of social, political and economic instability, weak supervisory structures and accounting standards.

Responsible investment style risk

The Fund can only invest in holdings that demonstrate compliance with certain sustainable indicators or ESG characteristics. This reduces the number securities in which the Fund can invest and there may as a result be occasions where it forgoes more strongly performing investment opportunities, potentially underperforming non-sustainable Funds.

Charges from capital risk

Charges are taken from the capital of the Fund. Whilst this increases the yield, it also has the effect of reducing the potential for capital growth.