

Bloomberg MSCI US Corporate High Yield SRI Sustainable ex Fossil Fuel Index

The Bloomberg MSCI US Corporate High Yield SRI Sustainable ex Fossil Fuel Bond Index is a fixed-rate, high-yield corporate bond benchmark that follows the rules of the Bloomberg US Corporate High Yield Index, and applies additional screening criteria for liquidity and ESG filters. To be eligible for the index, bonds must have at least USD500mn outstanding. The index includes issuers with MSCI ESG Ratings of BB or higher and negatively screens issuers that are involved in business activities that are restricted because they are inconsistent with certain values-based business involvement criteria. The index additionally excludes issuers with any Fossil Fuel ties, and issuers with a "red" MSCI ESG Controversies Score are also excluded. The index has history backfilled to January 1, 2017.

Rules for Inclusion

Sector	Corporate (industrial, utility and financial institutions) issuers only.
Eligible Currencies	Principal and interest must be denominated in USD.
Quality	Securities must be rated high yield (Ba1/BB+/BB+ or below) using the middle rating of Moody's, S&P and Fitch; when a rating from only two agencies is available, the lower is used; when only one agency rates a bond, that rating is used. In cases where explicit bond level ratings may not be available, other sources may be used to classify securities by credit quality: - Expected ratings at issuance may be used to ensure timely index inclusion or to properly classify split-rated issuers. - Unrated securities may use an issuer rating for index classification purposes if available. Unrated subordinated securities are included if a subordinated issuer rating is available.
Amount Outstanding	USD500mn minimum par amount outstanding.
Coupon	- Fixed-rate coupon. - Pay-in-kind (PIK) bonds and toggle notes are eligible. Partial PIKs are excluded. - Callable fixed-to-floating rate and fixed-to-variable bonds are eligible during their fixed-rate term only. - Bonds with a step-up coupon that changes according to a predetermined schedule are eligible.
Maturity	- At least one year until final maturity, regardless of optionality. - Bonds that convert from fixed to floating rate, including fixed-to-float perpetual, will exit the index 1 year prior to conversion to floating-rate. Fixed-rate perpetual bonds are not included.
Market of Issue	- SEC-registered bonds and debt issued under Rule 3(a)(2), which is exempt from registration with SEC, are index eligible. - The 144A securities that do not also have a Reg-S tranche are excluded.

Seniority of Debt Senior and subordinated issues are included.

Security Types	Included	Excluded
	• Bullet, putable, sinkable/amortizing and callable bonds • Fixed-rate and fixed-to-floating capital securities	• Treasury, government related and securitized bonds • Floating-rate bonds, inflation-linked bonds • Private placements and retail bonds

Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) Rules

MSCI ESG Rating The following criteria apply starting April 2019:

- Securities must have an MSCI ESG Rating of BB or higher.
- Unrated issuers from sectors with ratings are excluded.
- Prior to April 8, 2021, MSCI ESG Ratings, Controversy Scores and Business Involvement data were applied at the ticker level, where every bond within the same ticker would have the same MSCI ESG Rating, with MSCI mapping ESG data from the entity with the largest debt outstanding (by market value) to all companies with the same Bloomberg ticker.
- From April 9, 2021, MSCI ESG data is applied at the bond level which may result in bonds with the same Bloomberg ticker having different MSCI ESG Ratings.
- MSCI ESG Ratings are generally updated annually, but may be reviewed more frequently as needed.

Business Involvement Screens Starting April 2019, the index excludes issuers involved in the following business lines/activities as per the standard Bloomberg MSCI SRI screen:

- Alcohol
- Tobacco
- Gambling
- Adult Entertainment
- Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO)
- Nuclear Power
- Civilian Firearms
- Conventional Weapons
- Nuclear Weapons
- Controversial Weapons
 - Landmine Manufacturing
 - Cluster Bomb Manufacturing
 - Depleted Uranium Weapons
 - Chemical and Biological Weapons Components
- Thermal Coal
- Fossil Fuels

Involvement is defined for each restricted activity and may be based on % of revenue, total revenue, or any tie regardless of revenue (see Figures 7-8 on pages 14-16 for standard screen threshold in [ESG Methodology](#)).

In addition, the index excludes issuers involved in the following business lines/ activities:

- Tobacco – companies with any tie to Tobacco are excluded
- Genetically Modified organisms (GMO) – companies with any ties to GMO are excluded
- Nuclear Power – companies with any tie to Nuclear Power are excluded
- Civilian Firearms – companies with any ties to Civilian Firearms are excluded
- Military Weapons – companies with any ties to Military Weapons are excluded, and also any ties to:
 - Landmine Manufacturing – all companies classified as Manufacturer of Landmines are excluded
 - Cluster Bomb Manufacturing – all companies classified as Manufacturer of Cluster Bombs are excluded

From September 2020, the index additionally excludes issuers involved in:

- Fossil Fuels – companies with any ties to Fossil Fuels are excluded.

MSCI ESG Controversies Score

Starting April 2019, excludes any issuer with a “Red” MSCI ESG Controversies score (equal to zero), which measures an issuer’s involvement in major ESG controversies and how well they adhere to international norms and principles.

Rebalancing Rules

Minimum ESG Exclusions

From 31 March 2023, the following criteria will be applied. On the last business day before month end, using the Forward Universe of the previous day, after applying the Non-ESG criteria rules for inclusion, defined above, and additionally removing any non-ESG rated bonds, the number of issuers for the eligible universe are defined.

If, after having additionally applied the ESG selection criteria above, less than 20% of the total number of issuers in the eligible universe are excluded, then the eligible issuers are ranked in the order below, according to the following criteria:

- MSCI ESG Rating score (higher Ticker ESG Rating score preferred to remain in the index)
- MSCI ESG Controversies score (higher Ticker Controversies score preferred to remain in the index)

Then based on this ranking, issuers will be excluded from the index, until the number of excluded issuers is higher than 20% of the eligible universe total number of issuers. If, more than one issuer has the same ESG Rating and Controversy score and is required to be removed to reach the 20% threshold, then all issuers with the same ESG Rating and Controversy score are removed.

Issuer Capping Methodology

Issuers that exceed 3% of the market value of the uncapped US Corporate High Yield SRI Sustainable ex Fossil Fuel Index are limited to 3%. The excess market value over the 3% cap is redistributed on a pro rata basis to all other issuers’ bonds in the index that are under the 3% cap. The process is repeated until no issuer exceeds the 3% limit. For example, an issuer that represents 4% of the uncapped index will have 1% of the index’s market value redistributed to each bond from all issuers under the 3% cap on a pro rata basis. The 3% issuer cap is applied each month as the index is rebalanced.

Frequency	For each index, Bloomberg maintains two universes of securities: the Returns (Backward) and the Projected (Forward) Universes. The composition of the Returns Universe is rebalanced at each month-end and represents the fixed set of bonds on which index returns are calculated for the next month. The Projected Universe is a forward-looking projection that changes daily to reflect issues dropping out of and entering the index but is not used for return calculations. On the last business day of the month (the rebalancing date), the composition of the latest Projected Universe becomes the Returns Universe for the following month.
Index Changes	During the month, indicative changes to securities (credit rating change, sector reclassification, amount outstanding changes, corporate actions, ticker changes, etc.) are reflected daily in both the Projected and Returns Universe of the index. These changes may cause bonds to enter or fall out of the Projected Universe of the index on a daily basis, but will affect the composition of the Returns Universe at month-end only, when the index is next rebalanced.
Reinvestment of Cash Flows	Intra-month cash flows from interest and principal payments contribute to monthly index returns but are not reinvested at a short-term reinvestment rate between rebalance dates. At each rebalancing, cash is effectively reinvested into the Returns Universe for the following month so that index results over two or more months reflect monthly compounding.
New Issues	Qualifying securities issued/announced, but not necessarily settled, on or before the month-end rebalancing date, qualify for inclusion in the following month's index if required security reference information and pricing are readily available.

Pricing and Related Issues

Sources & Frequency	All index-eligible bonds are priced on a daily basis by Bloomberg's evaluated pricing service, BVAL.
Pricing Quotes	Bonds are quoted as a percentage of par.
Timing	- From January 14, 2021 and onwards, bonds are priced at 4pm (New York time). On early market closes, prices are taken as of 1pm (New York time), unless otherwise noted. - Prior to January 14, 2021, bonds are priced at 3pm (New York time). On early market closes, prices are taken as of 1pm (New York time), unless otherwise noted. - If the last business day of the month is a public holiday, prices from the previous business day are used.
Bid or Offer Side	Bonds in the index are priced on the bid side. The initial price for new corporate issues entering the index is the offer side; after the first month, the bid price is used.
Settlement Assumptions	- T+1 calendar day settlement basis. - At month-end, settlement is assumed to be the first calendar day of the following month, even if the last business day is not the last day of the month, to allow for one full month of accrued interest to be calculated.
Verification	Daily price moves for each security are analyzed by the index pricing team. Index users may also challenge price levels, which are then reviewed and updated as needed.
Calendar	The US Corporate High Yield SRI Sustainable ex Fossil Fuel Index follows the US bond market holiday schedule.

Accessing Index Data

Bloomberg Terminal®	Bloomberg benchmarks are the global standard for capital markets investors. • INDE<GO> - The Bloomberg Indices dashboard page, which contains daily, monthly, and year-to-date index returns for key indices from each index family as well as a link to index publications. • IN<GO> - The Bloomberg Index Browser displays the latest performance results and statistics for the indices as well as history. IN presents the indices that make up Bloomberg's global, multi-asset class index families into a hierarchical view, facilitating navigation and comparisons. The "My Indices" tab allows a user to focus on a set of favorite indices. • DES<GO> - The index description page provides transparency into an individual index including membership information, aggregated characteristics and returns, and historical performance. • INP<GO> - The Bloomberg Indices Publications page, which includes methodologies, factsheets, monthly reports, announcements and technical notes. A user may also subscribe to index publications via the "Actions" button. • PORT<GO> - Bloomberg's Portfolio & Risk Analytics solution includes tools to analyze the risk, return, and current structure of indices. Analyze the performance of a portfolio versus a benchmark or use models for performance attribution, tracking error analysis, value-at-risk, scenario analysis, and optimization.
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Index Ticker	I37652US: Total Return USD Unhedged

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