

# QUARTERLY INVESTMENT REVIEW

## Climate Change Strategy

### Performance returns (USD)

ANNUALIZED RETURNS (QUARTER-END)	Quarter-End	YTD	1-Year	3-Year	5-Year	10-Year	Since Inception
Climate Change Strategy (net)	8.50	38.97	38.97	-1.17	-0.69	-	6.86
Climate Change Strategy (gross)	8.73	40.13	40.13	-0.35	0.12	-	7.73
MSCI ACWI	3.29	22.34	22.34	20.65	11.19	-	11.59
Value Add	+5.21	+16.63	+16.63	-21.82	-11.88	-	-4.72

### MAJOR PERFORMANCE DRIVERS

Over 2025, pessimism surrounding clean energy festered in the wake of Donald Trump's election, with widespread fear that the Inflation Reduction Act, President Biden's landmark energy legislation, would be repealed. We believed that the dismal sentiment had exacerbated substantial dislocations in some of the industries that we invest heavily in, and that the portfolio was poised to deliver strong returns. Valuations had fallen to such low levels that a sliver of good news likely would have driven a re-rating. As it turned out, good news arrived in quantities substantially larger than slivers. From a fundamental perspective, the companies we held generally reported very strong revenue and earnings growth over the course of the year. Areas of particular strength included solar, wind, geothermal, lithium, and automotive suppliers for the EV industry. The Climate Change portfolio was up for the fourth quarter and also for the year, significantly outperforming the MSCI ACWI Index over both time periods.

The market has started to recognize the burgeoning growth in energy demand and the challenges in meeting this demand. Data centers, industrial demand, EVs, heat pumps, and other factors are driving electricity demand growth at a pace not seen since the 1960s. With natural gas turbines sold out for the next few years, nuclear for an even longer timeframe, and new coal a non-starter in almost all countries, renewables are set to continue to dominate new power capacity additions. Renewables (primarily solar, wind, and storage) accounted for 94% of U.S. power capacity additions in 2024 and are expected to have registered a similar level for 2025. Renewables are cheap, clean, and rapidly deployable, an extremely competitive combination.

### RISKS

Risks associated with investing in the Strategy may include: (1) Focused Investment Risk: the Fund invests its assets in the securities of a limited number of issuers, and a decline in the market price of a particular security held by the Fund may affect the Fund's performance more than if the Fund invested in the securities of a larger number of issuers; (2) Market Risk - Equities: the market price of equities may decline due to factors affecting the issuer, its industries, or the economy and equity markets generally. Declines in stock market prices generally are likely to reduce the net asset value of the Fund's shares; and (3) Management and Operational Risk: the risk that GMO's investment techniques will fail to produce desired results, including annualized returns and annualized volatility. This is not a complete list of risks associated with investing in the Strategy. Please contact GMO for more information.

Composite Inception Date: 30-Apr-17

**Performance Returns:** Performance for the year of inception is less than a full calendar year. Returns shown for periods greater than one year are on an annualized basis. To obtain performance information to the most recent month-end, visit [www.gmo.com](http://www.gmo.com). **Performance data quoted represents past performance and is not predictive of future performance.** Net returns are presented after the deduction of a model advisory fee and incentive fee if applicable. These returns include transaction costs, commissions and withholding taxes on foreign income and capital gains and include the reinvestment of dividends and other income, as applicable. Fees paid by accounts within the composite may be higher or lower than the model fees used. Gross returns are presented gross of management fees and any incentive fees if applicable. These returns include transaction costs, commissions, withholding taxes on foreign income and capital gains and include the reinvestment of dividends and other income, as applicable. If management and incentive fees were deducted performance would be lower. For example, if, before fees, the strategy were to achieve a 10% annual rate of return above its hurdle rate each year for ten years, and an annual advisory fee of 1% and incentive fee of 20% of net returns above the hurdle rate were charged during that period, the resulting average annual net return (after the deduction of management and incentive fees) would be approximately 7.20%. **GMO LLC claims compliance with the Global Investment Performance Standards (GIPS®).** A **Global Investment Performance Standards (GIPS®) Composite Report is available at [www.gmo.com](http://www.gmo.com) by clicking the GIPS® Composite Report link in the documents section of the strategy page.** GIPS® is a registered trademark owned by CFA Institute. CFA Institute does not endorse or promote this organization, nor does it warrant the accuracy or quality of the content contained herein. Actual fees are disclosed in Part 2 of GMO's Form ADV and are also available in each strategy's Composite Report. The portfolio is actively-managed, is not managed relative to a benchmark and uses an index for performance comparison purposes only and, where applicable, to compute a performance fee.

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## MAJOR PERFORMANCE DRIVERS CONT.

Beyond renewables, our portfolio stands to benefit from growing electricity demand in a variety of ways. Our grids will need to be expanded and updated to handle a far greater load. Energy storage will increasingly be relied upon to help balance electricity supply and demand and help iron out the intermittency of renewables. Electricity price spikes as demand grows create tailwinds for energy efficiency efforts. Our positions in grid equipment, energy storage, copper, lithium, and energy efficiency stand to benefit from this activity.

Despite the plentiful good news, valuations continue to be subdued, with many companies in our universe trading at significant discounts to the broad equity market despite superior growth prospects. From its February 2021 peak through its April 2025 trough, the WilderHill Clean Energy Index dropped an astounding 89%. While the WilderHill rallied to finish the year strong, the index still sat 75% below its 2021 peak. When major market dislocations form, they typically take years to develop and years to correct. We suspect that last year's strong performance was the beginning of a rebound that will take years to play out.

Heading into 2025, we had substantial positions in solar, biofuels, and energy storage. Despite a great run in 2025, we still see significant upside in our top solar positions. Biofuels and energy storage delivered strong performance last year, but we largely believe these investments have yet to play out. Hence, we continue to maintain substantial exposure to all three industries. We also see significant electric grid and energy efficiency opportunities.

As the world makes the transition to cleaner, renewable energy and economies grapple with electrification and climate change adaptation, we continue to believe this portfolio is well-positioned to benefit. The Climate Change portfolio continues to trade at a discount to broader global equities, indicating substantial upside to come for patient capital.

# QUARTERLY INVESTMENT REVIEW

## PRODUCT OVERVIEW

The GMO Climate Change Strategy seeks to deliver high total return by investing primarily in equities of companies GMO believes are positioned to benefit, directly or indirectly, from efforts to curb or mitigate the long-term effects of global climate change, to address the environmental challenges presented by global climate change, or to help the world adapt to climate change through improved efficiency of resource consumption. The Strategy invests globally across the capitalization spectrum, which allows GMO to pursue attractive investment opportunities wherever they may be.

The Focused Equity team believes exceptional opportunities for long-term investors abound in a world mobilizing to address climate change, and profitability associated with efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change is largely independent of the global economy. Climate change investors can benefit from this unique, diversifying source of return, historically available at attractive valuations given the secular tailwinds of change.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

**Comparator Index(es):** The MSCI ACWI (All Country World) Index (MSCI Standard Index Series, net of withholding tax) is an independently maintained and widely published index comprised of global developed and emerging markets. MSCI data may not be reproduced or used for any other purpose. MSCI provides no warranties, has not prepared or approved this report, and has no liability hereunder. Please visit <https://www.gmo.com/americas/benchmark-disclaimers/> to review the complete benchmark disclaimer notice.

The above information is based on a representative account in the Strategy selected because it has the fewest restrictions and best represents the implementation of the Strategy.

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## ABOUT GMO

Founded in 1977, GMO is a global asset manager committed to delivering superior performance and advice to our clients. We are privately owned, which allows us to singularly focus on our sole business – achieving outstanding long-term client investment outcomes. Offering multi-asset, equity, fixed income, and alternative strategies, we invest with a long-term, valuation-based philosophical approach.

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\*GMO's West Coast Hub is comprised of members of Investment, Global Client Relations, and other teams located in and around the Greater San Francisco area

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