Baillie Gifford[®]

Baillie Gifford China Growth Trust plc

Climate Report for the year ending 31 December 2024

Prepared in accordance with UK rules for product-level Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) reporting.



Introduction

Baillie Gifford China Growth Trust plc ('China Growth Trust') has a portfolio of 40-80 exciting growth companies and aims to produce long term capital growth by investing predominantly in shares of, or depositary receipts representing the shares of, Chinese companies. It targets businesses with sustainable competitive advantages and significant earnings growth potential, seeking companies capable of doubling returns over a five-year period. More information about China Growth Trust can be found on the relevant fund pages of the Baillie Gifford website.

This report explains the portfolio managers' approach to addressing climate-related risks and opportunities and describes a current view of how they may impact the portfolio. It also includes metrics to provide useful additional information. They expect the content, format and data to evolve in future versions.

Governance and management of climate-related risks and opportunities

Details of Baillie Gifford's approach to governing and managing climate-related risks and opportunities across the firm can be found in the entity level <u>Climate Report</u> on the Baillie Gifford website. This includes descriptions of the roles and responsibilities of relevant Boards and Committees and integration into overall risk management.

For China Growth Trust, management of climate-related risks and opportunities is the responsibility of the investment team. They undertake research and engagement with specific holdings where they feel that climate-related risks and opportunities could be particularly material to investment outcomes. Examples of such engagement over the course of 2024 include our discussions with Contemporary Amperex Technology Co., Limited (CATL) and Ping An Insurance.

In the case of CATL, China's leading EV battery and energy storage solutions manufacturer, we used an annual meeting with CATL's ESG specialist to deepen our understanding of their climate efforts. This had a particular focus on their intent to achieve carbon neutrality in core operations by 2025, and across the value chain by 2035, with a focus on enhanced green power utilisation. We sought increased disclosure on a more concrete carbon-neutral pathway in promoting net zero factories and radiating to the value chain. We are pleased to see a higher level of transparency in their latest available reports.

In the case of Ping An Insurance, an engagement with the ESG Manager walked us through notable sustainable practices at the Group level, including robust climate efforts on both mitigation and adaptation, such as supporting carbon capture projects with responsible banking and offsetting physical climate risks leveraging its self-developed disaster risk system. We appreciated the climate consideration into the design of its various financial products.

They also aim to assess all holdings at least annually using the Baillie Gifford 'Climate Assessment' process. The results of this are reported in the metrics section of this report and further detail on the process can be found in Baillie Gifford's entity level <u>Climate Report</u>. The assessments help to inform their analysis of potential investment materiality and any subsequent decisions about portfolio engagement priorities.

Implications of climate change for strategy

Climate change and the world's response to it pose potential 'physical' and 'transitional' risks and opportunities for holdings in the portfolio. Physical factors can come from changes to the climate and weather patterns, while transitional factors can come from things like changing policies, technologies or consumer behaviours.

Assessing the potential influence of these risks and opportunities on investment returns is part of the portfolio managers' long-term investment style. However, this is a complex task and they expect their views to continue to change over time. To help them, they think through different versions of the future using a technique called qualitative scenario analysis. At present, they believe this is more useful than quantitative scenario analysis (which is dependent on numerical data and modelling) because it allows them to explore the complexities and knock-on effects of future pathways.

Baillie Gifford has developed three qualitative climate scenarios in partnership with two external organisations: The Deep Transitions project (a collaboration between the universities of Utrecht and Sussex) and Independent Economics (a macroeconomics consultancy). The scenarios are based on NGFS (Network for Greening the Financial System) 'orderly', 'disorderly' and 'hothouse' world scenarios. More detail has been added in areas of interest, including human behaviour, technology adoption and societal change. This is explained further in resources on the **Baillie Gifford website**. The qualitative scenarios describe three different versions of the future:

	Smooth, orderly transition	Volatile, disorderly transition	'Hothouse' world
	(1.5C by 2100)	(<2C by 2100)	(>2.5C by 2100)
Climate	Significant but managed	Worsening impacts	Major challenge to resilience;
	change; resilience retained		regional collapses in
			food/water systems
Politics	Coordination and trade	Initially divided, then more	Fractured; protectionism rises
	supports transition	united	
Policies	Well-signalled and proactive;	Initially diverse, then higher-	Fragmented; supporting
	early action	cost and sometimes	incumbents then biased to
		disruptive	adaptation
Society	Rapid shifts in behaviour;	Uneven development; self-	Individualistic; higher levels
	circular and 'just transition'	reliance; inequality	of inequality, migration and
			conflict
Energy technologies	Technology tipping points	Fragmented energy system	Fossil fuel dependency
	reached early, influencing	limits cost reductions;	extended, costs higher, late-
	many sectors	innovation comes later	stage radical solutions
Adaptation	Varied and successful;	Unequal; significant fiscal	Critical: agriculture, water,
responses	managed across the global	drain in some countries	healthcare, climate defences
	economy		
Finance	Multi-lateral financial reform	Contradictory investments;	Greater variability; insurance
	supports investment flows to	market shocks from abrupt	contracts; adaptation costs
	transition	policy change	pull investment from
			elsewhere

The portfolio managers are able to use these scenarios to explore possible implications for holdings in the portfolio over the short, medium and long term, which are described below. These timeframes have been chosen because they are relevant to the portfolio's investment timeframes, though it is recognise that changes to the climate happen over much longer timeframes.

Short-term risks and opportunities (0-3 years)

Trends in technology, policy and markets are likely to have more of an impact on the portfolio over the next three years than physical impacts. However, climate change is already making weather events more severe and could be immediately significant for some companies.

Under orderly transition scenarios, there may be significant opportunities for holdings that are directly helping to drive the decarbonisation of the economy. Battery-making companies like CATL and BYD and copper miners like Zijin Mining should benefit as they meet demand for metals essential to electrification. Companies showing other forms of strategic leadership such as Midea may also benefit from expanding markets.

Though these opportunities will still be present in the disorderly scenario, they are likely to be more volatile and unpredictable across different regions and timeframes. Under disorderly transition scenarios, benefits may accrue to companies best able to manage the volatility, whether through a strong balance sheet, geographical diversification, or portfolio flexibility.

Both orderly and disorderly scenarios are likely to increase transition risks for companies with more highly carbon intensive products, processes or supply chains. Although the timing will vary in different markets, such companies may face higher costs or risk customer loss as emissions regulations tighten and social perspectives shift.

In a hothouse world scenario, there is risk for companies who have built their business models on pro-climate policy landscapes. Our exposure to companies driving decarbonisation is typified by businesses that are able to be competitive and resilient in their own right. In contrast, high emitters may find financial advantage in delaying plans to reduce emissions or diversify business models.

Medium-term risks and opportunities (3-10 years)

Over the medium term, the impacts of orderly and disorderly transitions may begin to diverge. Under an orderly transition, there are likely to be significant opportunities at a global scale for companies providing climate solutions. There will also be increased pressure on high-emitting industries to deliver decarbonisation. High-emission companies able to transition with speed and efficiency will see market-expansion opportunities. They see such ambition from a diverse range of companies, from ENN Energy to Tencent and Alibaba, and actively engage when we deem ambition to be lacking.

Under a disorderly transition, the most significant risk to portfolio holdings is an abrupt and dislocating shift to the policy and regulatory landscape. Companies reliant on legacy practices or unpriced externalities may struggle to adapt to rapid change. The portfolio's exposure to the semiconductor industry, for example, including Advanced Micro-Fabrication and NAURA Technology, is reliant on significant quantities of energy and water. Both companies show high awareness of climate change and water resources management to align with the national goals.

Meanwhile, the physical impacts of climate change are expected to become more widespread, especially under the hothouse world scenario. For the portfolio as a whole, the geographical and sectorial mix of holdings may help to provide some resilience.

Long-term risks and opportunities (10+ years)

Assessing risks and opportunities to the portfolio over the long term is challenging due to the uncertainties involved. However, under a hothouse world, and to some extent a disorderly scenario, it is anticipated that physical climate impacts become the main climate-related risk to returns. Impacts on people and economic activity are likely to affect most holdings in the portfolio. There may, however, be some opportunities for companies whose products and services assist with climate adaptation.

Under both orderly or disorderly transition scenarios, the risks and opportunities associated with new technologies and markets may become increasingly material to the portfolio as the 'winners' of the transition emerge, causing the old to fall away. Under a disorderly scenario, regions of the world that were delayed in their transition might need to catch up, offering new opportunities for transition-aligned companies. However, the rushed nature of this process may pose risks due to abrupt policy changes and technology shifts.

Key Metrics (as at end December 2024)

Emissions scopes and units

The global standard for measuring entities' greenhouse gas emissions is the Greenhouse Gas Protocol. It contains different 'scopes' of emissions, which are used in this report:

- Scope 1: Emissions produced directly by the entity, typically through the combustion of fossil fuels on site.
- Scope 2: Emissions that occur due to energy used by the entity, often through the off-site generation of
 electricity in a power station.
- Scope 3: Emissions that occur somewhere in the entity's 'value chain' as a result of its activities. There are
 15 different categories including those associated with the raw materials an entity uses and the use of its sold products. Emissions from transport, distribution and business travel are also included.

All emissions metrics use CO₂e as the unit of greenhouse gases. Carbon dioxide (CO₂) is the most prevalent greenhouse gas but there are others such as methane which have different levels of warming impact per tonne of emissions. Because of this, it is common for CO₂e to be used as a common unit to refer to all greenhouse gases emitted by an entity. Its value is equivalent to the total amount of CO₂ that would need to be emitted to achieve the same level of warming impact as the CO₂ plus other greenhouse gases emitted.

Core emissions metrics

The metrics in this section include the Total Emissions, Carbon Footprint and Weighted Average Carbon Intensity (WACI) of the portfolio as required by the UK Financial Conduct Authority's (FCA) product-level climate disclosure rules. More explanation of all the metrics used can be found in the tables themselves and footnotes. Any climate targets or objectives set by the portfolio are detailed in the earlier sections of this report.

Data availability

Data for some holdings is currently unavailable from data suppliers. The metrics presented in this section may therefore not relate to the entire portfolio, particularly where holdings are not listed on a stock exchange. Cash and derivatives are presently excluded. For emissions data, our provided on whether data is reported, estimated or unavailable in the 'Emissions data coverage' table. Disclosure of metrics associated with the portfolio managers' own assessments of holdings' targets and transition role is intended to help address gaps in data from external data suppliers, and Baillie Gifford will continue to explore additional solutions in future.

Additional metrics

Baillie Gifford has also included additional metrics that may be useful in assessing potential climate-related risks and opportunities to the portfolio. These include external data-points such as exposure to material sectors, fossil fuels and alignment with the Science Based Targets initiative.

FCA rules also require Baillie Gifford to determine if a portfolio has concentrated or high exposures to carbon intensive sectors and if so to include quantitative scenario analysis metrics. Such portfolio's are defined as those with either: 1) a WACI (on a Scope 1 & 2 basis) above that of its respective financial performance benchmark or the MSCI ACWI index, or 2) a higher level of exposure to holdings generating more than 5% revenues from fossil fuels than its respective financial performance benchmark index or the MSCI ACWI index.

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For such portfolios, they also include Climate Value-at-Risk metrics in this section, provided they can obtain data for more than 70% of the portfolio by AUM from the data suppliers. However, unless specifically required, Baillie Gifford has chosen not to provide Climate Value-at-Risk metrics for all portfolios as they believe data and methodology constraints mean they are not practicable for widespread use and potentially could be inaccurate or misleading. They also do not provide Implied Temperature Rise metrics for the same reasons. They continue to engage with data providers as these metrics evolve.

Year-on-year changes

In line with the requirements of the UK FCA, Baillie Gifford has have included values for previous years alongside the most recent values for most metrics. Where possible, they try and backdate any new metrics they include as the report evolves, but this is not always practicable. It is important to be aware that any changes in year-on-year metric values may happen for several different reasons including changes to the portfolio composition, data re-adjustments by the data suppliers, new data being available to the data suppliers, as well as underlying changes within the holdings themselves.

Benchmarks

Where applicable, Baillie Gifford has provided metrics for the financial benchmark used by the portfolio for comparison purposes. The benchmark used for this portfolio is the MSCI China All Shares.

Emissions metrics

Total carbon emissions from assets held by the portfolio

The total emissions of the portfolio represent the absolute greenhouse gas emissions from assets held, allocated on a proportional basis. This means a portfolio holding 1% of a company's enterprise value would be attributed 1% of the company's emissions. This metric will vary due to portfolio size and is therefore not recommended for direct comparison with other portfolios.

		Portfolio	
	2022	2023	2024
Total Scope 1&2 emissions (tCO₂e)	2,073	3,750	4,080
Total Scope 3 emissions (tCO₂e)	55,045	54,942	57,887
Total Scope 1,2 & 3 emissions (tCO₂e)	57,118	58,692	61,967

Source: Baillie Gifford, MSCI.

Carbon footprint of the portfolio

The carbon footprint of the portfolio represents the aggregated GHG emissions per million \pounds /\$ invested and allows for comparisons of the carbon intensity of different portfolios.

	Portfolio			Benchmark		
	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024
Scope 1&2 emissions (tCO ₂ e) per \$m invested	9	20	21	131	158	154
Scope 1,2&3 emissions (tCO₂e) per \$m invested	251	319	318	546	682	649

Source: Baillie Gifford, MSCI.

Weighted average carbon intensity (WACI) of the portfolio

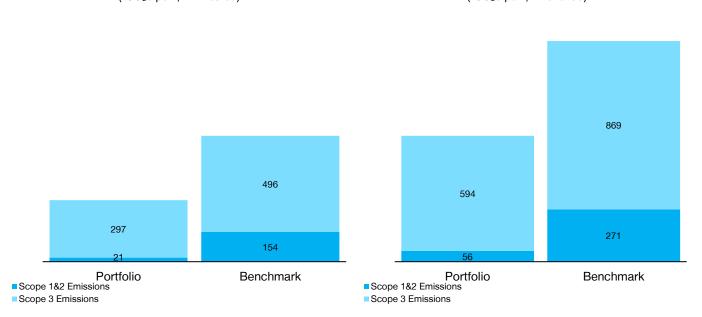
The WACI of the portfolio represents the aggregated carbon intensities per \$m revenue of the companies in a portfolio, scaled by size of holding. The WACI metric therefore helps measure a portfolio's exposure to high carbon intensity companies and can be used for comparisons with other portfolios.

_	Portfolio			Benchmark		
	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024
Scope 1&2 emissions (tCO₂e) per \$m revenue	35	58	56	250	261	271
Scope 1,2&3 emissions (tCO₂e) per \$m revenue	658	675	650	1,110	1,156	1,139

Source: Baillie Gifford, MSCI.

Carbon Footprint of the portfolio (tCO₂e per \$m invested)

Weighted Average Carbon Intensity (WACI) of the portfolio (tCO₂e per \$m revenue)



All figures are rounded, so any totals may not sum.

Emissions data coverage for the portfolio

These metrics are intended to provide a guide to the level of data coverage for portfolio emissions metrics. For reasons of consistency, Baillie Gifford sources all emissions data from its data provider. The metrics show the level of reported vs. estimated vs. unavailable data for different emissions scopes for the portfolio.

It is important to note that the data used for Scope 3 emissions is all estimated. This is because whilst some holdings do report Scope 3 emissions, this typically does not cover all emissions categories within Scope 3, meaning that reported data is not consistent across companies. Estimated Scope 3 data covers all relevant Scope 3 categories and is therefore more consistent.

For additional context, Baillie Gifford includes the percentage of total AUM invested in holdings who disclose to the CDP which is the world's foremost voluntary climate disclosure platform.

	Portfolio			Benchmark		
	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024
% of total AUM for which reported Scope 1&2 emissions data from the data provider is used	58	63	72	58	69	81
% of total AUM for which estimated Scope 1&2 emissions data from the data provider is used	28	23	12	42	30	19
% of total AUM for which Scope 1&2 emissions data is not available from the data provider	13	14	16	0	1	0
% of total AUM for which estimated Scope 3 emissions data from the data provider is used	87	84	84	99	99	100
% of total AUM for which Scope 3 emissions data is not available from the data provider	13	16	16	1	1	0
% of total AUM invested in holdings disclosing to CDP annually	35	44	45	34	36	39

Source: Baillie Gifford, MSCI, CDP.

Additional insight metrics

Exposure to 'climate material' sectors

This metric is intended to show the proportion of the portfolio invested in companies operating in sectors that are materially relevant to addressing climate change. The 2024 definition references IIGCC material and high-impact sector quidance that now include, amongst others, activities such as oil and gas, mining, heavy manufacturing, cement, semiconductors, banking, real estate and agriculture. These sectors have material sources of greenhouse gas emissions in their value chains with a likely greater exposure to transition risk, alongside the opportunity to decarbonise the wider economy. This definition is much broader than the TCFD 'carbon-related assets' definition previously used, which generally explains the higher exposures in 2024. Mapped by Baillie Gifford to GICS sub-industry.

	Portfolio			Benchmark			
	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024	
% of total AUM invested in companies in 'climate material' sectors	25	28	40	32	31	61	

Source: Baillie Gifford, MSCI, IIGCC.

¹ Prior to 2024 Baillie Gifford's definition used the TCFD 'carbon-related assets' definition, ie any company operating in the Energy, Transportation, Buildings and Materials, Agriculture, or Food and Forests sectors, mapped by GICS sub-industry.

Exposure to fossil fuels

These metrics show both the percentage of total AUM invested in fossil fuel companies (the first metric) and the percentage of total AUM invested in companies who generate at least 5% of their revenues from different kinds of fossil fuel activities (the second, third and fourth metrics). The latter metrics are included because some companies with fossil fuel revenue generation are not always classified as fossil fuel companies by international classification systems.

	Portfolio			Benchmark		
	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024
% of total AUM invested in companies classified as fossil fuel companies ²			0			3
% of total AUM invested in companies with > 5% revenues from oil and/or gas activities ³	2	1	2	2	3	3
% of total AUM invested in companies with > 5% revenues from thermal coal mining and sale ⁴	0	0	0	2	2	2
% of total AUM invested in companies with > 5% revenues from thermal coal power generation	0	0	0	2	2	2

Source: Baillie Gifford, MSCI.

Exposure to physical risk

This metric shows the exposure of the portfolio to companies classified by MSCI as having severe or significant exposure to direct physical risk such as extreme weather and coastal flooding. These metrics are in a relatively early stage of development and may not reflect actual risks to the portfolio. This is a new metric added in 2024, and as such no history is available.

	Portfolio			Benchmark			
	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024	
% of total AUM invested in companies classified as having severe or significant physical risk exposure			21			28	
% of total AUM for which data is not available from the data provider			20			3	

Source: Baillie Gifford, MSCI.

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² This metric shows the exposure of the portfolio to any companies classified as fossil fuel companies using the NACE classification system, ie companies whose main activity is classified as any of the following: mining of coal and lignite; extraction of crude petroleum and natural gas; support activities for petroleum and natural gas extraction; manufacture of coke and refined petroleum products. This is a new metric added in 2024.

³ Includes oil and/or gas extraction and production, distribution, retail, equipment and services, petrochemicals, pipelines and transportation and refining. Excludes biofuel production and sales, and trading activities.

⁴ Includes the mining of thermal coal (including lignite, bituminous, anthracite and steam coal) and its sale to external parties. Excludes metallurgical coal, coal mined for internal power generation, intra-company sales of mined thermal coal and revenue from coal trading.

Transition alignment metrics

Assessment of holdings' net zero targets through the 'Climate Assessment' process

These metrics provide insight into Baillie Gifford's own assessment of holdings' emissions reduction targets, strategy and progress towards achieving them. The metric is based on their 'Climate Assessment', which is explained in more detail in Baillie Gifford's entity level <u>TCFD Climate Report</u>.

		Portfolio		
	2022	2023	2024	
% of total AUM with targets assessed as 'Leading' (ie holdings with targets, strategy and progress in line with an appropriate 1.5C-aligned pathway)	6	18	35	
% of total AUM with targets assessed as 'Preparing' (ie holdings preparing targets and strategy in line with an appropriate 1.5C-aligned pathway)	21	21	6	
% of total AUM with targets assessed as 'Lagging' ⁵ (ie holdings with little evidence of preparing targets and strategy in line with an appropriate 1.5C-aligned pathway)	71	60	59	
% of total AUM with targets not assessed	2	1	0	

Source: Assessed according to Baillie Gifford's internal assessment framework. All figures are rounded, so any totals may not sum.

Assessment of holdings' transition role through the 'Climate Assessment' process

These metrics provide insight into Baillie Gifford's own assessment of holdings' role in a successful transition to net zero. The metric is based on their 'Climate Assessment', which is explained in more detail in Baillie Gifford's entity level TCFD Climate Report.

		Portfolio	
	2022	2023	2024
% of total AUM assessed as 'Solutions Innovators' (ie holdings whose core business involves developing solutions to climate change)	5	5	9
% of total AUM assessed as 'Potential Accelerators' (ie holdings who have an opportunity to drive significant acceleration of the transition) ⁶			21
% of total AUM assessed as 'Potential Influencers' (ie holdings with relatively low emissions who are supporting the transition to net zero)	66	49	34
% of total AUM assessed as 'Potential Evolvers' (ie holdings with relatively high emissions who have potential to support the transition to net zero)	25	44	36
% of total AUM assessed as 'Materially Challenged' (ie holdings whose core business is likely to decline in a transition to net zero, with limited options to evolve)	0	0	0
% of total AUM not assessed	4	2	0

Source: Assessed according to Baillie Gifford's internal assessment framework. All figures are rounded, so any totals may not sum.

⁵ In some cases, portfolios with higher proportions of unlisted or smaller companies may contain more holdings assessed as 'lagging'. This may be due to the relative immaturity of these companies' disclosure and net zero alignment strategies, when compared to larger and more established companies.

⁶ This is a new category added to the framework during 2024, as such no history is available.

Science-Based Targets alignment among holdings

These metrics provide a view of portfolio holdings' net zero alignment targets, in addition to Baillie Gifford's own assessment in the tables above. The SBTi (Science Based Targets initiative) is the world's foremost certification body for corporate net zero targets. Companies with 'approved' targets are those whose net zero targets have been validated by the SBTi. Companies who have 'committed' are those who have submitted a commitment letter to SBTi and are in the process of setting targets or awaiting their validation.

	Portfolio			Benchmark			
	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024	
% of total AUM invested in companies with targets approved by Science-Based Targets initiative	0	7	13	1	9	13	
% of total AUM invested in companies who have committed to set targets approved by the Science-Based Targets initiative (ie those who are in the process of setting targets or awaiting their validation)	13	8	6	14	8	8	

Source: SBTi.

Low-carbon transition score

This metric shows the exposure of the portfolio to companies most positively aligned to an accelerating energy transition. The score provided by MSCI represents a multi-dimensional risk and opportunity assessment. The higher the score, the more positive the alignment. More details can be found on MSCI's Climate Data and Metrics webpages.

	Portfolio			Benchmark		
	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024
% of total AUM with a top quartile score (7.5-10)	5	5	9	7	6	6
% of total AUM with a bottom quartile score (0-2.5)	0	0	0	3	5	5

Source: MSCI.

Legal Notices

Baillie Gifford uses a combination of internal research and analysis and third-party data sources when preparing ESG-related disclosures.

Prior to using data sourced from a third-party provider, Baillie Gifford conducts appropriate due diligence on the third-party provider including validation of their methodology and assessment of their coverage and then carries out spot checks of the data periodically, escalating issues to the third-party provider where necessary.

However, Baillie Gifford cannot guarantee that such data is complete, up-to-date and/or accurate. Furthermore, information disclosed is based on data established at a specific time which may be liable to change. More generally, the coverage, standardisation, and comparability of ESG data continues to change and develop over time.

This disclosure is not intended to be used for marketing purposes and nor does it constitute investment advice or a recommendation to make (or refrain from making) any kind of investment decision and may not be relied on as such.

The figures in this report are aggregations and calculations which draw upon data from our external data providers, principally MSCI.

MSCI ESG Research

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