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# Embracing ESG: The Challenge for Multi-Asset Managers

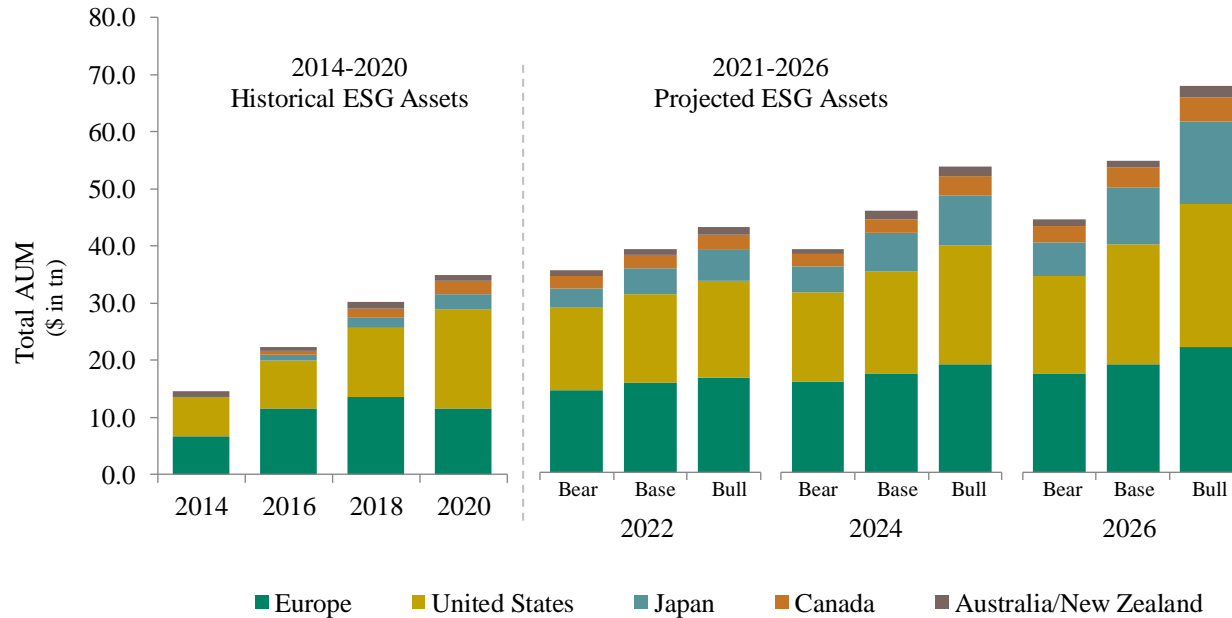
Jay Wintrob, CEO

October 27, 2021

# The Dramatic Rise of “ESG”

**Responsible investment has become an enormous focus for investment firms; yet ESG has proven more complex than many realized**

## ESG GLOBAL AUM BY COUNTRY



# The ESG Investing Spectrum

Responsible investing encompasses a wide range of practices

		Responsible Investing		Impact Investing			
		Traditional	Screening	ESG Integration	Themed	Impact-First	Philanthropy
		Competitive Returns				Targeted Social and/or Environmental Impact	
FOCUS	Limited or no focus on ESG factors of underlying investments.	Negative or exclusionary screening and positive or best-in-class screening based on criteria defined in a variety of ways (i.e. by product, activity, sector, international norms).	The use of qualitative and quantitative ESG information in investment processes, at both the investment- and portfolio-level.	The selection of assets that contribute to addressing sustainability challenges such as climate change or water scarcity.	Environmental or social issues which create investment opportunities with some financial trade-off.	Focus on one or a cluster of issues where social and environmental need requires 100% trade-off.	
EXAMPLES		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ethically-screened investment funds that exclude certain sectors or industries, such as coal, weapons or tobacco</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Credit funds that use ESG assessments to identify risks and opportunities throughout the investment lifecycle</li> <li>Engagement / outreach with portfolio companies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Climate resilience funds</li> <li>Emerging markets healthcare funds</li> <li>Microfinance structured debt funds</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funds designed to generate measurable social and environmental impact aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)</li> </ul>		

Source: Examples adapted by Oaktree from UN PRI

# The Complexity of Responsible Investment

## The reality facing multi-asset managers

- ESG has become mainstream, but there is no one best practice
- There are many standard-setters for the same topic, resulting in a fragmented market
- The industry undeniably still has a long way to fully integrate responsible investment practices, and to track and measure outcomes
- Investors and regulators rightly have concerns around greenwashing
- Most industry participants remain “unclear how to define and measure impact outcomes,” feel there is a “lack of robust data on ESG factors for private equity companies” and that there are “perceptions of potential negative impact on overall returns” ([\*Pitchbook, Sustainable Investment Survey, 2020\*](#))
- Many firms will state they have a robust ESG process. However, multi-asset managers must adapt processes to work effectively in varied investment strategies and sectors

# Identifying Opportunities Through ESG Analysis and Action

## Embracing ESG across industries and sectors presents heightened levels of scale and complexity

	Environmental	Social	Governance
Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate change &amp; carbon emissions</li> <li>• Air and water pollution</li> <li>• Biodiversity &amp; deforestation</li> <li>• Energy efficiency</li> <li>• Waste management</li> <li>• Raw material sourcing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data protection &amp; privacy</li> <li>• Equity, diversity &amp; inclusion</li> <li>• Employee engagement &amp; community relations</li> <li>• Human rights &amp; labor standards</li> <li>• Chemical safety</li> <li>• Access to healthcare &amp; finance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Board composition</li> <li>• Audit committee structure</li> <li>• Bribery &amp; corruption</li> <li>• Executive compensation</li> <li>• Lobbying &amp; political contributions</li> <li>• Whistleblower protection</li> </ul>
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Reducing CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions and energy consumption through investment in greener production processes and energy efficiency technologies may improve business preparedness</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Actively tracking portfolio and supply chain affiliations can ensure the highest level of human rights standards</li> <li>✓ Reducing product safety issues and recalls may promote customer loyalty, brand and reputation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Strong internal controls and risk management may promote business durability</li> <li>✓ Adhering to best-in-class accounting and reporting standards may promote investor and stakeholder transparency</li> </ul>

# Nuances of ESG Integration (Public vs. Private)

## PUBLIC INVESTMENTS

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- Public companies are more likely to have:
  - Greater ESG disclosure
  - More coverage from third-party data providers
  - Resources that can be dedicated to sustainability
- Mitigants:
  - Companies may elect to disclose only favorable outcomes
  - Data quality may be mixed
  - An individual LP may be less influential in a larger capital structure

## PRIVATE INVESTMENTS

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- Public disclosure and third-party ESG coverage is likely to be limited, placing primary onus on the investor
- Given limited post-investment liquidity, comprehensive initial due diligence is critical
- Lenders can influence borrowers through bespoke loan documentation and negotiated covenants
- Though public disclosure may be limited, lenders can request private ESG disclosure

# Nuances of ESG Integration (Control vs. Non-Control)

## CONTROL

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- In control investments, investors have significant influence on company practice
- ESG can be an important part of value-add, through:
  - Active management
  - Board oversight
  - Strong understanding of the company's finances and operations

## NON-CONTROL

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- In non-control investments, strong diligence is critical, particularly where the investment can't be sold before maturity (e.g. private debt)
- Firms often have most leverage before the capital is invested, and may try to influence:
  - Specific use of proceeds
  - Covenants associated with the debt
  - Required disclosure practices

# Frontier Issues for Multi-Asset Managers



## ENGAGEMENT

Tailor our active management approach relative to our level of influence



## CREATING VALUE

Invest in good companies with room to improve while avoiding bad actors with illegal or irresponsible practices



## DEFINING BEST PRACTICES

Identify industry standards where they exist and create strong practices where they don't



# Integration Across the Investment Lifecycle

## ESG integration varies by firm and investment type



### DILIGENCE

Incorporating material ESG considerations during diligence and in the investment decision

*Available information and data quality varies widely by asset class*



### MONITORING

Ongoing monitoring of issues and opportunities

*Managers identify areas of improvement relevant to financial outcomes and track progress*



### ACTIVE MANAGEMENT

Engaging with companies to enhance practices and create value

*Managers' ability to change sustainability outcomes will vary by level of influence*



### REPORTING

Reporting to clients on ESG efforts and outcomes

*Progress may be qualitative and/or quantitative*

# Example: The Road to Climate Neutrality

- Sustainable investment has grown significantly, with total assets growing over 50 percent last year to nearly \$1.7 trillion ([\*Morningstar, FT\*](#))
- Climate change is one of the most highly prioritized issues for sustainable investors
- The IEA estimates that decarbonization will require over \$4 trillion of investment in clean energy by 2030
- The size of the funding gap and urgency for stakeholders presents new opportunities for investors
- 73% of carbon emissions can be traced back to energy and power generation, making clean energy and global power market expertise critical to investing in the transition to net zero
- ~1,200 companies have committed to Paris-aligned emissions reduction targets but many lack access to capital, credible plans and the operational expertise to achieve them



AFFORDABLE AND  
CLEAN ENERGY



INDUSTRY,  
INNOVATION AND  
INFRASTRUCTURE



CLIMATE  
ACTION



CLEAN WATER  
AND SANITATION



SUSTAINABLE  
CITIES AND  
COMMUNITIES



RESPONSIBLE  
CONSUMPTION  
AND PRODUCTION

# Appendix



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# Oaktree's ESG Philosophy



Oaktree's mission is to deliver **superior investment results with risk under control** while conducting our business with the **highest integrity**.

We believe that Environmental, Social and Governance (“ESG”) considerations **directly and materially impact investment outcomes**.

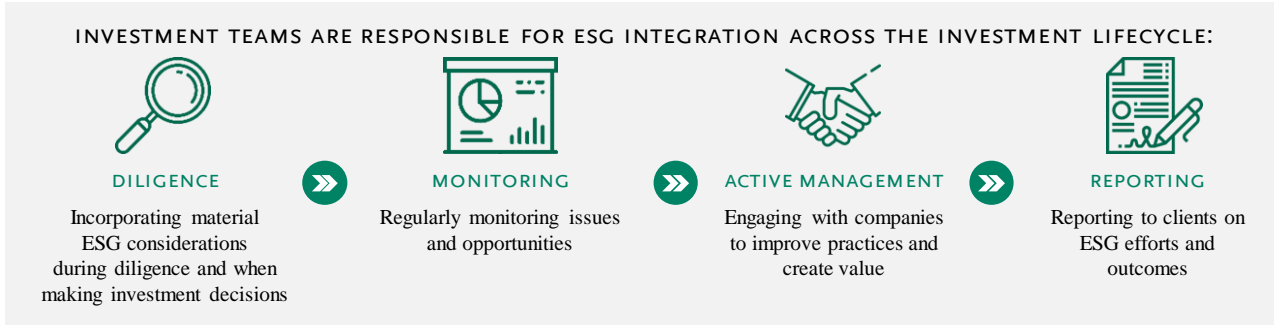
As long-term investors, we believe a consistent focus on ESG throughout the investment lifecycle allows us to **avoid undue risk and better identify valuable opportunities**.

Integrating ESG into our investment process helps ensure that we **are aligned with our clients, their beneficiaries and our collective long-term interests**. At the same time, ESG fits squarely with **our commitment to excellence** in bottom-up investment analysis.

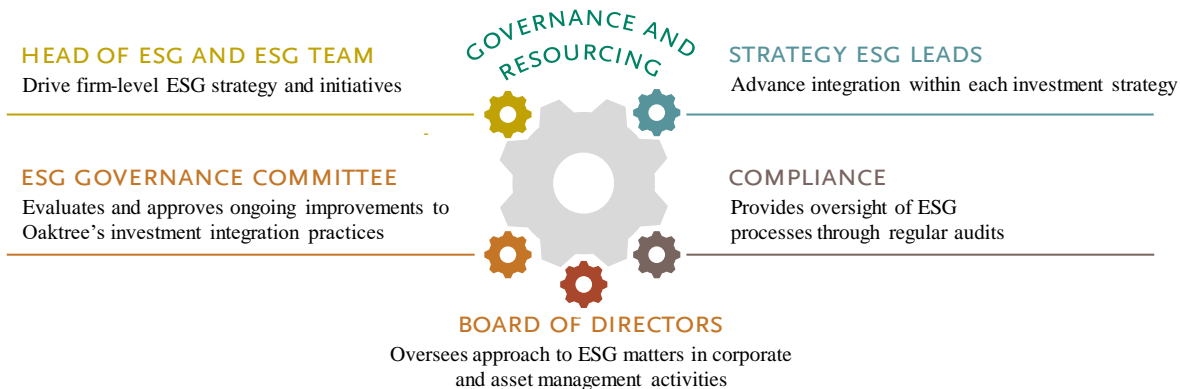
ALIGNED WITH LEADING  
RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT  
ORGANIZATIONS



# Oaktree's Approach to ESG Integration



CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT IN ESG INTEGRATION IS SUPPORTED BY:

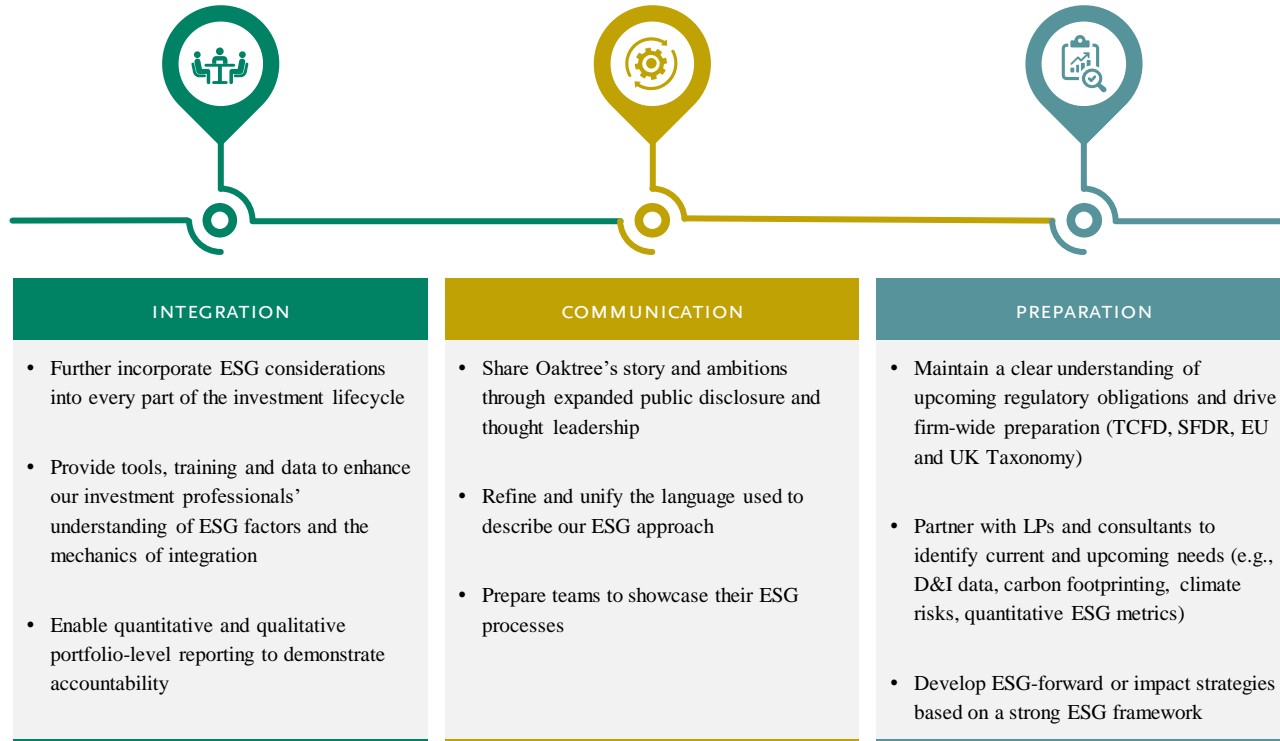


# Oaktree's ESG Journey



*We seek to further advance our sustainability efforts by identifying tools and datasets, providing training, and enhancing transparency*

# ESG Mission





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