

# Introduction

Solar Income & Growth ("the Company") owns and operates over 2,600 rooftop solar systems throughout the UK. The existing assets were installed between 2011 and 2018, and are all accredited under the Feed-in Tariff ("FiT") scheme. FiT solar systems receive **inflation proof** (RPI-linked), government-backed payments for the electricity generated. FiT contracts are valid for up to 25 years providing the Company with **lower risk**, long term, predictable cash flows. This enables the Company to provide **regular income** to shareholders via dividends.

# **Recent activity & outlook**

In Q4 2021, the Company returned £0.0125 by way of dividends, as anticipated. The share price rose from £1.06 to £1.12 as at 31 December 2021, reflecting higher inflation in the near-term. The Company will continue to seek new commercial rooftop solar opportunities to build and/or acquire. In addition, the Company is exploring opportunities in energy storage (battery) projects, both standalone and co-located with solar systems.

# **KEY FACTS**

#### AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2021

Gross Asset Value £42.3m

Income Share Price  $\pm 1.12$ 

**Growth Share Price** £1.12

**Target Total Return** 4-5% per annum

**Target Dividend** (Income Shares) 4% per annum

Fees 1.0% of NAV (per annum)

**Liquidity** Quarterly (subject to liquidity)

**Manager** Armstrong Capital Management ("Armstrong")

Valuers Amberside Valuations ("Amberside")

Auditors Lubbock Fine

**Commenced Trading** 2014

## RETURNS

Solar Income & Growth is a UK-focused solar energy generation company offering investors access to UK solar and other energy projects, with a target annual income of 4% and a target total annual return of 4-5%. Returns are not guaranteed. Capital at risk.

## ABOUT ARMSTRONG

Armstrong is an experienced London-based asset manager focused on the impact investment sector in the UK. Armstrong has funded and managed over 350MWp of UK solar since 2013.

## SOLAR INCOME & GROWTH CURRENT PORTFOLIO

ASSET TYPE	kWp	INSTALLATIONS
Commercial	5,298	77
Social Housing	2,222	700
Domestic	5,894	1,865



# The credibility of Solar Income & Growth is underpinned by the following factors...

#### INSTITUTIONAL BACKING

In 2015, Legal & General Investment Management ("LGIM") invested £29.5 million into the Company through the issuance of secured RPI-linked Ioan notes listed on the London Stock Exchange.

LGIM is one of the largest asset managers in the UK with over £1 trillion under management. The Company has a 100% record of meeting the covenants for the LGIM debt, indicative of the strong governance under Armstrong's management.

#### STRONG GOVERNANCE

The Company has external representation from independent directors with relevant expertise, such as Paul Beynon who was previously head of UK power trading at RWE, and Barry Green who was former CFO of Man Group and a partner at KPMG.

The board of the Company provides management oversight and is required to approve all material activities of the business, including acquisitions and disposals.

#### GOVERNMENT-BACKED INCOME STREAMS

The Company derives over 90% of its income from FiT payments. The FiT payments increase annually with RPI and are backed by the government.

The Company has very limited exposure to merchant power prices making its revenues highly predictable. This also means that the Company is less exposed to any volatility in global events.

# **APPROACH TO VALUATION**

- The Company is independently valued annually by Amberside Valuations. Amberside is a specialist valuer of infrastructure assets, such as solar and wind powered electricity generation assets.
- Amberside applies benchmarked discount rates against listed solar funds and comparable market transactions to evaluate the value of the Company's solar portfolio. In addition, Amberside reviews the assumptions used in the valuation model against standard industry practice.

<sup>66</sup> We believe solar assets to be significantly lower risk than general infrastructure assets as solar has lower operational risk and costs.<sup>99</sup>

Amberside Valuations

## **GROWING VALUE IN THE PORTFOLIO**

The assumptions used in the valuation modelling are conservative and do not factor in potential value uplifts in the existing portfolio. There is scope to enhance value, for example:

- Extending the planning permission and lease length of solar plants.
- Combining solar plants with battery technology and other flexible energy generation systems.
- Optimising performance over time through high quality asset management.
- Reducing costs, as the portfolio grows in scale, for example by renegotiating maintenance contracts.

These elements could represent achievable improvements in future value for shareholders in the Company and are being pursued by Armstrong.



The key investment considerations for investors are summarised below. The investor guide of Solar Income & Growth should be referred to for finer details of the investment including the relevant risks.

## **INHERITANCE TAX & CAPITAL GAINS TAX**

#### **Business Property Relief (BPR)**

• 100% Inheritance Tax (IHT) relief is given on transfers of the Company's shares which have been owned for at least two years.

#### **Capital Gains Tax (CGT)**

• Capital Gains within the annual allowance of £12,300 are tax free. Gains in excess of this are taxed at 10% for basic rate taxpayers. Any amount over the higher rate threshold will be taxed at 20%. CGT is not paid on death.

#### LIQUIDITY

It is the intention that the Company will offer shareholders regular liquidity to allow shareholders to redeem their investment in full or in part. The Company will seek to facilitate liquidity on a quarterly basis, subject to the availability of funds to do so.

#### FEES

- Investors in the Company will be charged a 4% initial fee. The initial fee will be added to the subscription price and will cover all administration costs of the capital raise and stamp duty, where applicable.
- Armstrong will charge an annual management fee equivalent to 1.0% of the aggregate value of the Company's underlying solar businesses.
- Further details on fees are outlined in the fees section of the detailed investor guide.

Since being established in 2014, shareholders have received returns in excess of the target return. The Company has returned a total of £1.55 (per £1.00 invested). The share price fell in previous quarters due to adverse changes in future tax rates, but has now rebounded due to higher near-term inflations forecasts.



The portfolio was revalued up to £1.11 in Dec 2019 due to material changes in valuation of comparable assets.

# **IMPORTANT NOTICE**

Your capital is at risk. Past performance and projected performance is not an indication of future performance. You may lose some, all or part of your original capital invested. Tax treatment depends on the individual circumstances of each investor and may be subject to change. The availability of tax reliefs depends on the company maintaining its qualifying status. Investments in smaller companies will normally involve greater risk or volatility than investments in larger, more established companies. Please refer to the Investor Guide and seek independent financial, legal and tax advice before investing.

This document is for information only and does not form part of a direct offer or invitation to purchase, subscribe for or dispose of securities, or to enter into any investment service, and no reliance should be placed on it. Investors should only subscribe on the basis of the relevant product literature only after taking appropriate advice from a suitably qualified financial, legal or tax adviser. Armstrong does not offer investment or tax advice or make recommendations regarding investments. Please see the relevant product literature for details of charges. Your attention is drawn to the risk factors contained therein. Armstrong is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (Firm Reference 826875). Armstrong is registered in England with company number 11472557. Registered office 141-145 Curtain Road, Floor 3, London, England, EC2A 3BX