Operating Principles for Impact Management

BlackRock Disclosure Statement

March 2022
Introductory Statement

BlackRock (the “Signatory”) hereby affirms its status as a Signatory to the Operating Principles for Impact Management.

As of January 2022, this Disclosure Statement applies to the following Covered Assets that align with the Operating Principles for Impact Management:

- BlackRock Global Renewable Power strategy, within BlackRock’s Alternative Investments business
- BlackRock Global Impact strategy, within BlackRock’s Fundamental Active Equity business
- BlackRock Green Bond Index strategy, within BlackRock’s Fixed Income and iShares businesses
- BlackRock Impact Emerging Market Debt strategy, within BlackRock’s Fixed Income business
- BlackRock Alternative Solutions Group Impact Investments within BlackRock’s Alternative Investments business
- BlackRock Private Equity Partners Impact strategy, within BlackRock’s Alternative Investments business
- BlackRock China Impact strategy, within BlackRock’s Active Equity business
- BlackRock Impact MBS strategy, within BlackRock’s Fixed Income business

The total value of the Covered Assets in alignment with the Operating Principles for Impact Management is US$11.5 billion as of December 31st, 2021.¹

Paul Bodnar, Global Head of Sustainable Investing

March 2022

¹ Stated assets under management includes committed and invested capital as of December 31st, 2021.
Introduction

BlackRock’s purpose is to help more and more people experience financial well-being. We dedicate ourselves to looking after and growing the value of our clients’ assets over the long-term. This includes a focus on sustainability. We have a platform of dedicated sustainable investment solutions that seek to align capital with positive social and environmental outcomes. Across our impact investing solutions specifically, BlackRock is committed to ensuring that impact considerations are integrated throughout the investment lifecycle and aligned with the Operating Principles for Impact Management.

At BlackRock, our impact investing strategies span both the public and private markets. While the private markets have historically been the dominant asset class for impact investing globally, we believe impact investing across both private and public asset classes has the potential to offer much-needed solutions in a space with strong demand but inadequate supply. For developing markets alone, the world faces a shortfall of approximately US$2.5 trillion annually to meet the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (the “SDGs”) by 2030. We believe existing contributions from companies, governments and other organizations are not nearly enough to meet this need, which continues to increase in the wake of the COVID-19 global pandemic.

Given the magnitude of the need and the extraordinary opportunity, we must find ways for public and private markets to scale impact investing with integrity. By offering impact investing through public equities in addition to private markets, we believe a broad new cohort of investors can participate and provide much needed capital, democratizing access to impact investing.

There is much work and exciting innovation to be achieved to advance the impact investing ecosystem. The Operating Principles for Impact Management provide a helpful, unified approach to this practice. We strongly believe that for impact investing to help solve the great social and environmental problems that exist today and provide investment solutions that incorporate the risk around such problems, we must support impact investing as an interconnected ecosystem across asset classes, intermediaries, and end beneficiaries.

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Disclosure Statement

**PRINCIPLE 1: DEFINE STRATEGIC IMPACT OBJECTIVE(S), CONSISTENT WITH THE INVESTMENT STRATEGY**

The Manager shall define strategic impact objectives for the portfolio or fund to achieve positive and measurable social or environmental effects, which are aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), or other widely accepted goals. The impact intent does not need to be shared by the investee. The Manager shall seek to ensure that the impact objectives and investment strategy are consistent; that there is a credible basis for achieving the impact objectives through the investment strategy; and that the scale and/or intensity of the intended portfolio impact is proportionate to the size of the investment portfolio.

**BlackRock Global Renewable Power Team Approach:**

The BlackRock Global Renewable Power strategy seeks to invest capital in a diversified portfolio of renewable power projects and platforms as well as climate infrastructure assets which aim to deliver positive and measurable environmental and social impacts, in addition to financial returns. The BlackRock Global Renewable Power Team applies the investment strategy at a portfolio level through capital deployment in the effort to achieve appropriate risk adjusted returns and impact objectives. Each potential investment is evaluated with reference to five predefined impacts including carbon dioxide (CO₂) savings, water savings, homes powered by clean energy, job creation and community benefits.

These impacts are assessed during the investment process in collaboration with the BlackRock Sustainable Investing team and positive environmental and social impact outcomes are reported back to clients via quarterly investor reports. We believe the positive and measurable environmental and social impacts that the strategy seeks are aligned with a subset of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as currently set forth by the United Nations.

**BlackRock Global Impact Team Approach:**

The BlackRock Global Impact Team invests only in companies whose core products and/or services address some of the world’s major social and environmental challenges and advance the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Targets. These include improving access to affordable housing, clean water, healthcare, education, and financial services, as well preventing climate change and reversing environmental degradation.

To target a high standard of impact, our impact criteria requires for each company: materiality (that a majority of revenues or business activity advances one or more of the SDGs; additionality (that a company’s offerings address a specific need that is unlikely to be met by other agents), thereby creating impact; and measurability (that the impact a company is achieving over time can by quantified). An active management approach is key in finding companies with impact at their core as it requires forward-looking insight to identify companies that can bring differentiated and scalable impact.

In addition to our impact goals, our investment objective seeks to maximize long-term total returns through active investment in companies whose goods and services we believe help solve some of the world’s great social and environmental problems.
BlackRock Green Bond Index Team Approach:

The BlackRock Green Bond Index strategy seeks to invest capital in qualifying green bonds selected for inclusion in the Bloomberg Barclays MSCI Green Bond Index.

Green Bond Definition: A green bond is a type of fixed income instrument that specifically and solely dedicates its proceeds to financing new or existing projects that advance environmental objectives. Issuers set the qualifying criteria for these green projects and have used the bonds to finance initiatives in fields such as renewable energy, green buildings, wastewater management, energy efficiency and public transportation.

Unlike a debt offering from a company that presents its overall operations as environmentally friendly, green bond proceeds are ring-fenced on the issuer’s balance sheet, set aside for the exclusive purpose of financing one or more projects deemed environmentally beneficial. A green bond’s return, however, is backed by the credit of the issuer as a whole.

For the indices currently tracked by our green bond index strategies, securities are independently evaluated by MSCI ESG Research LLC along four dimensions to determine whether a fixed-income security should be classified as a green bond. These eligibility criteria reflect themes articulated in the Green Bond Principles and require clarity about a bond’s:

1. stated use of proceeds; Use of proceeds and project bonds are considered eligible if the use of proceeds falls within at least one of six eligible environmental categories defined by MSCI ESG Research (alternative energy, energy efficiency, pollution prevention and control, sustainable water, green building, climate adaption)\(^3\)
2. process for green project evaluation and selection;
3. process for management of proceeds; and
4. commitment to ongoing reporting of the environmental performance of the use of proceeds.

BlackRock Emerging Market Impact Bond Team Approach:

The BlackRock Emerging Market Impact Bond strategy combines an EM credit research process and specialised Responsible Investment framework to create a concentrated portfolio that has the potential to produce attractive long-term returns whilst also being consistent with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (“SDGs”).

The strategy seeks to generate positive, measurable social and/or environmental impact alongside financial return by investing at least 80% of its total assets in “Green, Social and Sustainability” (GSS) bonds issued by EM governments and companies. The investment universe of GSS bonds is internally created, screening bonds using BlackRock’s proprietary taxonomy. Assessment of the GSS bonds is part of the investment process, including qualitative assessment at issuance, annual engagement with each issuer and deep dive by the credit research team. Additionally, our aim is to contribute to the development of the EM GSS bond market by encouraging new issues of GSS bonds and helping to provide the capital needed to drive sustainable growth.

BlackRock Alternative Solutions Group Impact Approach:

\(^3\) In cases where project categories do not overlap entirely, MSCI ESG Research will consider bonds eligible if at least 90% of the projected use of proceeds falls within eligible categories.
BlackRock Alternative Solutions Group (ASG) impact investments are currently focused on opportunities that accelerate positive economic outcomes for historically undercapitalized racial and ethnic groups in the United States (Black, Latinx and Native American).

The group’s return-seeking strategy includes a focused impact objective to accelerate the economic outcomes of undercapitalized racial and ethnic communities in the U.S. by providing capital to companies or projects that are either (i) led, owned, operated or managed by one or more members of the U.S. Black, Latinx, or Native American minority groups or (ii) located in or serve one or more communities the majority of whose population are members of one or more Target Minority Groups. Impact will be assessed in line with the Impact Management Project’s Five Dimensions of Impact (the “IMP Framework”) and key performance indicators will be taken from The Global Impact Investing Network’s (“GIIN”) IRIS+ catalogue of metrics (the “GIIN Metrics”).

Core Impact Investment Eligibility Criteria:
As noted above, the strategy’s Impact Objective is to accelerate the economic outcomes of undercapitalized racial and ethnic communities in the U.S.

Investments must meet one of the following two criteria:
(i) **Investments in businesses or projects that are led by Target Minority Groups:** Investment is led, owned, operated or managed by one or more members of the Target Minority Groups, which may include, but is not limited to: businesses or projects where the founder or CEO self-identifies as a member of a Target Minority Group; or businesses or projects that are majority owned, majority controlled or majority managed by self-identified members of a Target Minority Group; or

(ii) **Investments in businesses or projects that are located in or serve Target Minority Group communities:** Investment is located in or serves one or more communities the majority of whose population are members of one or more Target Minority Groups, which may include, but is not limited to: businesses headquartered or projects located in areas with greater than 50% Target Minority Group populations; or businesses or projects that provide services to Target Minority Groups.

Meeting at least one of the Core Impact Investment Eligibility Criteria is necessary for an investment to be considered an Investment but is not alone sufficient to satisfy the Impact Objective. Beyond this we have constructed an integrated impact framework to identify, diligence and document how each potential investment achieves the Investment Objective and Impact Objective.

**BlackRock Private Equity Partners (PEP) Impact Strategy Team Approach:**

The BlackRock Private Equity Partners (PEP) impact strategy seeks to generate positive contributions toward the environment and society alongside private equity financial returns. Targeting the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), PEP’s impact strategic intent is to provide diversified exposure across the following five impact investment themes: Good Health & Wellbeing, Climate, Resources, Education and Financial Inclusion. PEP aims to provide tangible contributions toward the UN SDGs in a manner that is intentional, material, additional and measurable:

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4 [https://impactmanagementproject.com/](https://impactmanagementproject.com/)
• Intentional: Proven purpose of having an impact through ex-ante definition of expected outcomes over holding period
• Material: The company’s driver of financial return must be the driver of sustainable outcome supporting advancement of one or more of the UN SDGs
• Additional: The company will benefit from BlackRock’s capital, network, expertise and brand as strategic investor
• Measurable: Robust measurement of progress in the selected KPIs against the defined target over holding period

BlackRock China Impact Strategy Team Approach:
The BlackRock China Impact Strategy team invests only in the equity securities of companies domiciled in, or exercising the predominant part of their activity in, or from, the People’s Republic of China (PRC) and whose core products and/or services advance positive social and environmental outcomes in the PRC and abroad. These include improving access to affordable housing, clean water, healthcare, education, and financial services. The team also targets areas that are well supported by current structural reforms and policies in China, which aim to improve economic resiliency, livelihoods, and public health, as well as address climate change and reversing environmental degradation. The strategy’s investment themes align discretely with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which seek to deliver measurable impact outcomes.

To target a high standard of impact, each company is required to have: materiality (a majority of revenues or business activity advances one or more of the SDGs); additionality (a company’s offerings address a specific need that is unlikely to be met by other agents), thereby creating impact; and measurability (the impact a company is achieving over time can by quantified). The team believes an active management approach is key in finding companies with impact at their core as it requires forward-looking insight to identify companies that can bring differentiated and scalable impact. In addition to our impact goals, our investment objective seeks to maximize long-term total returns through active investment in the universe outlined above.

BlackRock Impact MBS Team Approach:
BlackRock’s Impact Mortgage-backed securities (MBS) strategy seeks to achieve a positive social impact through supporting affordable homeownership to underserved populations. The strategy seeks to advance the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals such as (#10) Reduced Inequality, (#11) Sustainable Cities and Communities, (#9) Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure. Housing touches more aspects of our lives than just where we live - housing affordability can be a major driver of segregation, inequality, and racial and generational wealth gaps. The strategy aims to meet the objective of achieving positive social impact through seeking to provide equal access to affordable housing, homeownership opportunities to historically underserved populations, thereby enabling them the opportunity to create multigenerational wealth. The strategy seeks to achieve this by targeting affordable loan programs breaking down barriers to credit through growing housing supply though

5 Revenue % is the most important factor to determine the appropriate geographic bucket for the security, but we do take other factors into consideration provided there is an adequate supporting narrative
providing more affordable and/or sustainable property types, and through focusing on affordable mortgage lending within underserved communities.

BlackRock's Impact MBS strategy consists of U.S. Agency mortgages that are backed by loans originated through new or existing housing affordability programs offered through government agencies, as well as pools with certain collateral characteristics BlackRock has deemed to be supportive of increased housing affordability in the US (programs including, but not limited to HomeReady, MH Advantage, and Rural Housing Services).

- HomeReady – a Fannie Mae affordable loan program that extends mortgage credit to borrowers with limited means for cash down payments. Borrower income must be <= 80% of area median income
- MH Advantage – a Fannie Mae loan program for qualifying manufactured homes (a sustainable and environmentally friendly property type)
- Rural Housing services – A Ginnie Mae program for residents of designated rural areas, and an area median income

Impact MBS pools are assessed during the investment process in collaboration with BlackRock’s Sustainable Investing team.
PRINCIPLE 2 – MANAGE STRATEGIC IMPACT ON A PORTFOLIO BASIS

The Manager shall have a process to manage impact achievement on a portfolio basis. The objective of the process is to establish and monitor impact performance for the whole portfolio, while recognizing that impact may vary across individual investments in the portfolio. As part of the process, the Manager shall consider aligning staff incentive systems with the achievement of impact, as well as with financial performance.

BlackRock has a clear and well-defined pay for performance philosophy and compensation program which considers multiple factors including, but not limited to, financial, operational (e.g. business/ESG/organizational strength), and risk-adjusted performance. Within our impact strategies, we strive to adhere to industry best practices and will consider aligning incentives with achievement of impact where appropriate.

**BlackRock Global Renewable Power Team Approach:**

The BlackRock Global Renewable Power strategy applies impact screening criteria across all portfolio investments. Each investment is evaluated on five predefined impacts including carbon dioxide (CO₂) savings, water savings, homes powered through clean energy generated, job creation and community benefits. The BlackRock Global Renewable Power Team monitors achievement of impact, alongside environmental, social and governance (ESG) performance, as a key part of the ongoing management of its portfolio of investments.

The impact management process begins during the early stages of the due diligence process. Each prospective investment’s impact objectives, including contribution to the SDGs and management of ESG considerations alongside the project’s potential to generate commercial returns, serve as key criteria for further due diligence.

In the second stage of diligence, the Investment Team evaluates multiple dimensions of impact by considering the expected positive impacts and impact risks associated with the project.

During the team’s Investment Committee approval process, the key impact metrics are established to be monitored over the holding period. Performance against expectations is evaluated by the Global Renewable Power Management Committee on a quarterly basis and key impact metrics at the portfolio level are communicated to investors via the Quarterly Investor Report.

**BlackRock Global Impact Team Approach:**

The BlackRock Global Impact Team monitors impact over time, including formally reporting impact metrics to clients on an annual basis for companies held in the portfolio. Additionally, the Team anchors our impact management and measurement (IMM) approach to what we believe reflects best practices.

First, we seek to ensure that our IMM process is transparent, repeatable, and auditable. We see many benefits to this approach, including having a mechanism to hold ourselves accountable, a feedback loop to our impact thesis and theory of change, and a path for improving our practice over time. Second, we integrate impact analysis throughout the investment process, including the identification of preliminary impact indicators before investing. Third, our aim is to adopt industry-leading frameworks as much as possible, using what is relevant to, and consistent with, our investment process. We believe this approach increases the comparability of impact measures across investments over time and helps avoid the proliferation of disparate methodologies in the industry.
Reflecting these views, we have combined the following four leading, third-party industry frameworks to help enable us to provide clients with a robust and multifaceted practice to establish and manage impact on a portfolio basis.

1. The Impact Management Project’s Five Dimensions of Impact
2. The Global Impact Investing Network IRIS+ System and Taxonomy
3. The UN Sustainable Development Goals and Targets
4. The Operating Principles for Impact Management

We also require the companies in which we invest meet the following criteria for materiality and additionality. Failing to meet either of these criteria will result in removal from the portfolio, which is the responsibility of our Global Impact portfolio management team.

1. To meet the materiality criterion, generally a company must have greater than 50% of its revenues from products and services helping to solve a major social or environmental problem, as represented by our impact themes and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and underlying targets. Our minimum requirement of more than 50% of revenues helps ensure that we are investing only in companies that create impact from the core of their business.

2. To meet the additionality criterion, a company’s products or services must address a need that is unlikely to be fulfilled by others (such as competitors or governments). The primary sources of company additionality are the application of innovative technologies or innovative business models, as well as the delivery of a company’s products to underserved populations. By requiring additionality for impact companies, we seek to invest in disruptive innovation helping to meet essential needs where there is strong demand but inadequate supply. Notably, the assessment of additionality requires significant fundamental research.

BlackRock Green Bond Index Team Approach:

Our process for establishing and monitoring impact performance in the portfolio begins with our efforts to ensure the investible universe consists of best-in-class bonds from an impact perspective. In this regard, the BlackRock Green Bond Index portfolio management team encourages better green bond issuance in the market by engaging with participants in the green bonds ecosystem and by engaging with index provider on the ongoing construction of the Green Bond Index.

For instance, we serve on the Executive Committee of the Green Bond Principles and we engage with MSCI on specific issuers’ impact qualifications. On an ongoing basis, we are actively engaged in a feedback loop on the evolution of the MSCI Green Bond Index. Specifically, we engage directly with MSCI when we disagree that an issuer should not have been included in the index; we share our views on whether new and innovative themes in the broader market should be captured in the green bond index; and we engage directly with issuers if we feel disclosure is not sufficient. Issuers that lose their green bond status are rejected from the index on a monthly basis.

Our investment strategy acts as a catalyst to maintaining robust impact integrity in both the investible universe and our index strategy.

BlackRock Emerging Market Impact Bond Team Approach:

The BlackRock Global Fixed Income (GFI) ESG Investment team monitors achievement of impact of GSS bonds, which is a crucial part of the ongoing investment management of the portfolio. First, the investment team analyses how issuers use the proceeds of capital raised, as well as how the issuers align with the Green Bond Principles (GBP), Social Bond Principles (SBP), and Sustainability Bond Guidelines (SBG) of the International Capital Markets Association to determine suitability within the
As a result, we omit GSS bonds that lack transparency, or if we are not convinced that the projects financed will lead to genuine environmental or social benefits, and we do not consider GSS bonds with built-in conditionality in the GSS portfolio due to the uncertainty embedded. Our GSS process excludes approximately 20% of the universe\(^6\). The second stage of diligence is annual engagement with each issuer BlackRock holds, which incorporates the assessment on whether use of proceeds is being adhered to as well as collecting quantifiable impact metrics on the projects funded.

All green and social bonds must report the environmental and social metrics of the projects funded by their proceeds on an annual basis. Historically, it has been challenging to capture the aggregated impact from multiple green bond holdings, as reporting is not standardized, and projects may fund improvements across multiple metrics. BlackRock has created a portfolio level impact reporting for green bonds, helping investors to track and understand the tangible impact of an investment. GFI ESG Investment Team reaches out to each issuer held in the strategy directly to help ensure that we have a comprehensive picture of impact reporting provided for the investment included in the strategy. That data is collected, cleaned, categorized, and stored in our BlackRock Aladdin\(^7\) system, enabling us to correctly assign the appropriate impact for any certain holding size in the fund. The metrics include but are not limited to carbon emissions avoided, renewable capacity installed and energy savings.

On social and sustainability bonds, as these are nascent markets, we are seeing the first wave of impact reports from social and sustainability bonds. We are helping shape the quality of the impact reports we see from issuers as we are among those directly involved in the market such as issuers, investors, and asset managers to work towards harmonized GSS bond reporting practices, such as the Green Asset Wallet and the Nasdaq Sustainable Bond Network. We are also represented on the Impact Reporting working group at the ICMA Green Bond Principles.

For all holdings in the portfolio, we assess the alignment with the UN Sustainable Development Goals. We also apply the Impact Management Project’s Five Dimensions framework and evaluate each dimension: What, Who, How Much, Contribution, and Risk. External industry frameworks help enable us to provide clients with a robust and transparent approach to managing impact on a portfolio basis.

**BlackRock Alternative Solutions Group Impact Approach:**

The ASG impact strategy applies the above stated Core Impact Investment Eligibility Criteria and Impact Diligence Framework across all portfolio investments. This strategy’s impact framework has been designed on the basis of the IMP Framework\(^7\) to evaluate whether and how each proposed investment advances the Impact Objective.

6 “Universe” in this instance refers to the universe of GSS bonds; % excluded subject to change
7 https://impactmanagementproject.com/
**Key Performance Indicators**

This strategy’s impact framework requires identification of KPIs for each investment that corresponds to the Fund’s Impact Objective. KPIs will be further evaluated during diligence and monitored throughout the life of each investment and reported to Limited Partners on an annual basis.

**KPI Measurement (e.g., The Global Impact Investing Network’s IRIS+ Catalogue of Metrics)**

In selecting KPIs for each investment, we will consult with established measurement frameworks such as The Global Impact Investing Network’s (“GIIN”) IRIS+ catalogue of metrics (the “GIIN Metrics”).

**Asset Monitoring / Management**

Once approved by the investment committee, each investment will be monitored for adherence to the Investment Objective and Impact Objective. Investments will be reviewed on at least a quarterly basis by relevant investment committees. Quarterly reviews will include, among other things, investment performance review and impact KPI tracking. Additionally, the strategy will produce an Annual Impact Report, including portfolio level impact metrics as well as detailed impact KPIs for each investment that will be shared with investors.

**BlackRock Private Equity Partners (PEP) Impact Strategy Team Approach:**

PEP will seek to implement the impact investment strategies through a rigorous, repeatable, and scalable investment process. The investment process will screen potential portfolio companies and primary fund managers, with the aim of creating a diversified portfolio positioned to achieve positive and measurable impact outcomes and financial returns:

- **Direct Co-Investments:** PEP has developed proprietary direct co-investment impact scorecards to facilitate the identification of direct co-investments that meet the impact criteria (Intentionality, Materiality, Additionality and Measurability) and fit within the identified impact investment themes. Our approach is aligned with the Impact Management Project (IMP) 5 Dimensions, the Global Impact Investing Network (GIIN)’s Impact Reporting and Investment Standards (IRIS) metrics and the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment (UN PRI). For each of the chosen impact investment themes we use the described UN SDGs as a framework to determine the specific areas of impact outcome we target and to define KPIs based on each direct co-investment’s expected impact outcome contribution. These KPIs are based on the GIIN’s IRIS metrics and are comparable and relevant to the strategy and sector in which a direct co-investment operates. Based on the UN PRI Impact Investing Market Map, minimum materiality thresholds have been defined to ensure that the driver of financial return is the driver of impact outcomes.

- **Primaries:** PEP has developed a primaries impact scorecard based on the IMP 5 Dimensions (What, How much, Who, Contribution and Risk) that allows PEP to identify the intentionality in the investment thesis of an underlying manager and their ability to generate positive and measurable contributions in the past, as well as potential risks involved.

As part of the impact outcome tracking and reporting, impact metrics are considered throughout the investment process, from sourcing to exit and ongoing monitoring of investments is performed against PEP’s underwriting criteria for private equity (PE) returns and impact outcomes. Progress will be reported relative to both impact metrics and financial returns as part of the investor reporting.

**BlackRock China Impact Strategy Team Approach:**

The China Impact Strategy is managed through a strategic partnership between BlackRock’s Global Emerging Markets and Global Impact teams. This allows for a consistent impact approach to be applied to the alpha rich China equities market. From that lens, the BlackRock China Impact Team monitors impact over time, and aims to formally report impact metrics to clients on an annual basis for
companies held in the portfolio. Additionally, the Team anchors our impact management and measurement (IMM) approach to what we believe reflects best practices.

First, we seek to ensure that our IMM process is transparent, repeatable and auditable. We see many benefits to this approach, including having a mechanism to hold ourselves accountable, a feedback loop to our impact thesis and theory of change, and a path for improving our practice over time. Second, we integrate impact analysis throughout the investment process, including the identification of preliminary impact indicators before investing. Third, our aim is to adopt industry-leading frameworks as much as possible, using what is relevant to, and consistent with, our investment process. We believe this approach increases the comparability of impact measures across investments over time and helps avoid the proliferation of disparate methodologies in the industry.

Reflecting these views, we have combined the following four leading, third-party industry frameworks to help enable us to provide clients with a robust and multifaceted practice to establish and manage impact on a portfolio basis.

1. The Impact Management Project’s Five Dimensions of Impact
2. The Global Impact Investing Network IRIS+ System and Taxonomy
3. The UN Sustainable Development Goals and Targets
4. The Operating Principles for Impact Management

We also require the companies in which we invest to meet the following criteria for materiality and additionality. Failing to meet either of these criteria will result in removal from the portfolio, which is the responsibility of our China Impact portfolio management team.

1. To meet the materiality criterion, generally at least half of a company's activity must be derived from activities that advance one or more of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. For a typical company, that threshold is defined as earning more than 50% of revenues from such impact activities. In contrast, a company that is in an early stage of its business lifecycle will be deemed to be a qualifying impact if a majority of its products and/or services are geared toward advancing the SDGs. This threshold helps ensure that we are investing only in companies that create impact from the core of their business.

2. To meet the additionality criterion, a company's products or services must address a need that is unlikely to be fulfilled by others (such as competitors or governments). The primary sources of company additionality are the application of innovative technologies or innovative business models, as well as the delivery of a company’s products to underserved populations. By requiring additionality for impact companies, we seek to invest in disruptive innovation helping to meet essential needs where there is strong demand but inadequate supply. Notably, the assessment of additionality requires significant fundamental research.

**BlackRock Impact MBS Strategy Team Approach:**

The Agency MBS Team in partnership with the BlackRock Sustainable Investing (BSI) Team has identified a subset of the agency mortgage market that meets the threshold for achieving Impact. To be deemed an Impact MBS Story must meet one or more of the following criteria:

a. target a specific borrower population – such as cost burdened households, underserved populations, borrowers with targeted area median incomes, specific geographies or regions within the U.S. (such as Low to Moderate Income “LMI” areas)

b. break down barriers to credit – Not everyone in the U.S. has equal access to housing credit; barriers can be physical (such isolated rural regions - one or fewer physical bank branches), or financial, in ways tied to system discrimination (such as lack of generational wealth to draw
upon for large home purchase down payments often times disproportionately persons of color, or in the ways traditional of credit scoring models assess risk. The removal of these barriers is critical to closing the racial wealth gap and increasing the homeownership rate among those with the most to gain from the benefits of homeownership.

c. and/or be a sustainable property type – sustainable property types include forms of manufactured or modular housing, methods of building new single-family homes in a cost effective environmentally friendly method

Next, corresponding Impact metrics are established at the time of investment to ensure the investment meets one of the themes above and it can be quantified. The Agency MBS Team monitors the loan programs defined as delivering impact and will formally report impact metrics to clients on an annual basis.

The Agency MBS Team monitors and measures the achievement of social impact through a variety of metrics reporting, consisting of the following:

1. **Counting metrics** – “Supporting ## of low-income or moderate-income households within rural communities”
2. **Success metrics** – As a measure of success, report delinquency rates versus conventional borrowers
3. **% saved metrics** – “#### TONS of construction waste saved”
The Manager shall seek to establish and document a credible narrative on its contribution to the achievement of impact for each investment. Contributions can be made through one or more financial channels (e.g., improving cost of capital, specific financial structuring, offering innovative finance instruments) and/or non-financial channels (e.g., active shareholder engagement, assisting with resource mobilization, providing technical advice or capacity building, helping investees meet higher operational standards). The narrative should be stated in clear terms and supported, as much as possible, by evidence.

**BlackRock Global Renewable Power Team Approach:**

We believe the BlackRock Global Renewable Power strategy contributes to the achievement of impact through financial channels which include providing development and construction capital for projects as well as engagement and active asset management through the ownership period. Further, the reduction of risk at the investment and portfolio level has the potential to attract lower cost of capital. The Investment Team, together with the Global Renewable Power Technical and Operations Teams, which are comprised of professionals with in-depth knowledge of the technological aspects of a potential investment, are involved in leading some of the key deal contractual arrangements to help ensure that projects are built to standard, on time and on budget. Technical expertise and commercial experience are used to help drive additional value to each renewable power investment (e.g., potential repowering, which may result in greater generation capacity, and therefore greater potential impact). Each investment is evaluated on a “buy and hold” basis alongside the Fund hold base case to help ensure a long-term view of the viability and impact. Overall, we believe the team’s involvement in a project adds integrity and generates interest which may attract additional financial channels (e.g., lenders as debt financing partners) to help achieve the desired impact.

The BlackRock Global Renewable Power strategy further aims to achieve impact through non-financial channels by working closely with asset management teams to identify opportunities to contribute to and donate to local communities.

**BlackRock Global Impact Team Approach:**

Investor contribution is achieved through the collective execution of these five activities, which we have created as a set and believe are best practices in public equities:

1. Invest with a long-term, ownership mindset
2. Engage with companies to help enhance their lasting impact
3. Create a better marketplace for Impact companies seeking a responsible exit from private equity
4. Invest capital when an impact company needs to raise more capital
5. Bring much needed visibility to undervalued Impact companies

With these five tools in our strategy toolkit, we deploy any combination of these mechanisms to help drive impact. Our long-term, ownership mindset is critical in our constructive and strategic engagement efforts. Through engagement, we seek to help our invested impact companies deliver impact outcomes through their disruptive products and services. We believe our experience investing globally has afforded us valuable insights that we can, in turn, bring to the companies with which we engage. At the same time, we are keenly aware that the solutions to seemingly similar social and environmental issues often must be tailored to the company's regions, social norms, target demographics and policy contexts, among other considerations.
In addition to our long-term horizon and impact engagement strategy, we strive to create a better marketplace for impact companies seeking a responsible exit from private equity. We seek anchor investments in their initial public offerings (IPOs), and aim to provide patient capital and long-term investment partnerships.

We recognize that a company’s need for capital continues throughout its business lifecycle. A company can seek to raise more capital over time by issuing additional shares of public equity and bonds. We regularly engage with companies and have seen that their need for additional capital can easily come at inopportune times. As impact investors, we believe our willingness to participate in a capital raise aligns with the dual objective of achieving long-term impact and financial success. Moreover, capital raise transactions often take place in private institutional deals that are not available to individual investors; thus, our participation reflects our investor contributions as an institutional impact investor.

Lastly, we bring much needed visibility to impact companies. These enterprises are often overlooked and misunderstood by mainstream investors.

BlackRock Green Bond Index Team Approach:

We believe that the early launch of the BlackRock Green Bonds Index strategy, anchored on the ecosystem we have built, has drawn significant capital to green bond issuers that would not have occurred otherwise, and our end-to-end investment process and engagement strategy provides the feedback loop necessary to improve the integrity and continued growth of the green bonds market.

BlackRock has played a leadership role in the early development and continued growth of the green bonds market. As a founding member of the Green Bond Principles and as a member of its Executive Committee since its inception, we meet regularly with issuers, underwriters, and public regulators to support the standards, integrity, and growth of green bonds as an asset category.

In addition to our standard setting work, we collaborated with MSCI on the criteria for green bonds in the development of the Bloomberg Barclays MSCI Green Bond Index. MSCI independently finalized the index methodology, and we intentionally selected this specific index to launch our Green Bonds Index strategy because MSCI’s Green Bonds assessment framework leverages the Green Bond Principles, which principally aligns with BlackRock’s views on green bonds.

On an ongoing basis, we are actively engaged in a feedback loop on the evolution of the Bloomberg Barclays MSCI Green Bond Index. Specifically, we engage directly with MSCI/Bloomberg when we disagree that an issuer should not have been included in the index; we share our views on whether new and innovative themes in the broader market should be captured in the green bond index; and we engage directly with issuers if we feel disclosure is not sufficient. Issuers that lose their green bond status are rejected from the index on a monthly basis.

To further support the integrity and growth in the green bonds market, we recognize the need for measurability and have developed a proprietary green bond taxonomy that shades each BlackRock-labelled green bond on a scale of Very Light Green to Dark Green, based on the bond’s intended use of proceeds, associated environmental benefits, and its issuers’ ongoing commitment to allocation and impact reporting. We have built and actively maintain a BlackRock labelled and shaded green bond universe and readily share our shading taxonomy with issuers and underwriters.

Our investor contribution work in the green bonds market reflects our understanding that for the green bond market to endure and thrive, green bonds must be supported by an ecosystem anchored on integrity, transparency, and active engagement that involves ongoing collaboration with issuers, underwriters, and public regulators.
**BlackRock Emerging Markets Impact Bond Team Approach:**

We believe that the launch of the Emerging Markets Impact Bond strategy, anchored on the ecosystem we have built, will draw significant capital to green and social bond issuers that would not have occurred otherwise, and our end-to-end investment process and engagement strategy provides the feedback loop necessary to improve the integrity and continued growth of the GSS bond market.

Investor contribution to the achievement of impact is accomplished through close collaboration with the GFI ESG Investment, Capital Markets and Stewardship teams though the following activities:

- Participation and leadership in GSS bond market
- Creation of BlackRock’s proprietary taxonomy for GSS bonds
- Engagement with issuers to share best-practices

BlackRock has played a leadership role in the early development and continued growth of GSS bond market. As a founding member of the Green Bond Principles and Social Bond Principles and as a member of its Executive Committee since its inception, we meet regularly with issuers, underwriters, and public regulators to support the standards, integrity, and growth of green and social bonds as an asset category.

To further support the integrity and growth in the green and social bonds market, we recognize the need for measurability and have developed a proprietary green and social bond taxonomies, based on the bond’s intended use of proceeds, associated environmental benefits, and its issuers’ ongoing commitment to allocation and impact reporting. We have built and actively maintain a BlackRock labelled and shaded green, social and sustainability bond universe and readily share our shading taxonomy with issuers and underwriters.

Lastly, we continuously engage directly with issuers if we feel disclosure is not sufficient – when issuers launch their green, social and sustainability bond frameworks, when issuers are actively marketing new green, social and sustainability bonds, and post-launch ongoing engagement on their flow-of-funds and allocation reporting.

**BlackRock Alternative Solutions Group Impact Approach:**

The strategy is focused on accelerating the wealth of minorities in the United States, with a focus on Black, Latinx and Native American groups. We intend to primarily contribute to this impact objective through financial channels (e.g., improving the cost of capital, special financial structuring, offering innovative finance instruments) but will also be looking to holistically partner with minority business/project owners and minority communities through non-financial channels (active engagement with company/project leadership, promotion of diversity within organizations, advancement of job quality, etc.).

**Financial Channels – Overview**

As outlined above, investments must meet one of the following two criteria:

(iii) **Investments in businesses or projects that are led by Target Minority Groups:** Investment is led, owned, operated or managed by one or more members of the Target Minority Groups, which may include, but is not limited to: businesses or projects where the founder or CEO self-identifies as a member of a Target Minority Group; or businesses or projects that are majority owned, majority controlled or majority managed by self-identified members of a Target Minority Group; or

(iv) **Investments in businesses or projects that are located in or serve Target Minority Group communities:** Investment is located in or serves one or more communities the majority of whose population are members of one or more Target Minority Groups, which may include, but is not
limited to: businesses headquartered or projects located in areas with greater than 50% Target Minority Group populations; or businesses or projects that provide services to Target Minority Groups.

Further, each portfolio investment must be explicitly tied to the Fund’s overarching impact objective of accelerating the wealth of minorities in the United States. To achieve this, we leverage the Impact Management Project’s Five Dimensions of Impact (What, Who, How Much, Contribution, Risk) to ensure each dollar that is invested explicitly ties back to this impact objective.

Non-Financial Channels - Overview

As mentioned above, the strategy will also seek to have impact through non-financial channels.

The strategy intends to help its portfolio companies advance racial diversity in senior management and board positions, specifically for US historically disadvantaged Black, Latinx, and Native American people. In addition, the strategy intends to help its portfolio companies advance job quality in areas like pay/benefits, predictable schedules, on-the-job training, security/safety, pathways to achievement, career growth, recognition, and employee engagement.

We recognize that accepted standards and norms of governance differ between asset classes and markets; however, there are sufficient common threads globally to identify an overarching set of principles (BlackRock Investment Stewardship Global Principles Link) which are anchored in transparency and accountability. At a minimum, we expect companies to observe the accepted corporate governance standards in their market or to explain why not doing so supports sustainable long-term value creation. In the execution of this, we will leverage our partners in BlackRock Investment Stewardship, for guidance on our approach at both a strategy as well as an investment level.

To monitor progress, we will look to facilitate regular data requests from our underlying investments. Expectations for this will be set up front and prior to any investment. In this process, we will identify data categories that we can legally ask for and collect in relevant geographies, ensure employees’ consent when collecting data (especially with regard to personal data), protect collected data in line with legal requirements (with transparency for all parties in how it will and won’t be used), and, where data allows, we will take an intersectional view to interpret progress.

With respect to helping portfolio companies advance diversity in senior management and board positions, we are looking to invest in businesses that are largely owned by Black, Latinx and Native American people and the approach also would be to ensure that surrounding Boards are also diverse. For private equity investments in portfolio companies, we expect to develop value-creation plans which integrate our strategies for operational improvements/business execution, diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI), Impact and ESG growth.

BlackRock Private Equity Partners (PEP) Impact Strategy Team Approach:

We believe that private capital can play a critical role in generating impact to improve the planet and society. In particular, private equity has the ability to support companies for which access to public markets might not be possible due to specific nature of investment stage or strategy (e.g., venture capital, growth, turnaround). BlackRock’s objective is to support the private equity industry in filling the financing gap towards the UN SDGs by supporting innovative companies and impact private equity managers with not only capital, but also visibility as well as access to our resources and network.

Throughout the underwriting and diligence process and using the impact scorecards, PEP assesses the contribution achieved and how BlackRock provides additionality to the companies and managers we invest in:
• Provision of strategic capital: Companies are expected to benefit from BlackRock’s capital, network, expertise and brand as strategic investor and as such we view our investment as strategic capital that supports the underlying company’s growth organically or inorganically, e.g., in view of an IPO.

• Increased company visibility: We believe that BlackRock’s brand and focus on sustainability can drive attention to invested companies and managers fostering additional investments by other market participants.

• Engagement on impact outcomes: Through investment ownership and board representations, BlackRock can engage with companies and managers on impact progress, providing access to sustainability resources and network.

**BlackRock China Impact Strategy Team Approach:**

Investor contribution is achieved through the collective execution of these five activities, which we have created as a set and believe are best practices in public equities:

1. Invest with a long-term, ownership mindset
2. Engage with companies to help enhance their lasting impact
3. Create a better marketplace for Impact companies seeking a responsible exit from private equity
4. Invest capital when an impact company needs to raise more capital
5. Bring much needed visibility to undervalued Impact companies

With these five tools in our strategy toolkit, we deploy any combination of these mechanisms to help drive impact. Our long-term, ownership mindset is critical in our constructive and strategic engagement efforts. Through engagement, we seek to help our invested impact companies deliver impact outcomes through their disruptive products and services. We believe our experience investing globally has afforded us valuable insights that we can, in turn, bring to the companies with which we engage. At the same time, we are keenly aware that the solutions to seemingly similar social and environmental issues often must be tailored to the company's regions, social norms, target demographics and policy contexts, among other considerations.

In addition to our long-term horizon and impact engagement strategy, we strive to create a better marketplace for impact companies seeking a responsible exit from private equity. We seek anchor investments in their initial public offerings (IPOs), and aim to provide patient capital and long-term investment partnerships.

We recognize that a company's need for capital continues throughout its business lifecycle. A company can seek to raise more capital over time by issuing additional shares of public equity and bonds. We regularly engage with companies and have seen that their need for additional capital can easily come at inopportune times. As impact investors, we believe our willingness to participate in a capital raise aligns with the dual objective of achieving long-term impact and financial success. Moreover, capital raise transactions often take place in private institutional deals that are not available to individual investors; thus, our participation reflects our investor contributions as an institutional impact investor.

Lastly, we bring much needed visibility to impact companies. In our view, these enterprises are often overlooked and misunderstood by mainstream investors.
BlackRock Impact MBS Strategy Team Approach:

We believe the BlackRock Impact MBS strategy contributes to the achievement of impact through financial channels, such as directing capital to the aforementioned affordability programs, and raising awareness and industry focus on affordable and sustainable homeownership.

As the largest asset manager in the world, BlackRock’s focus on affordable homeownership can contribute to shifting the mortgage industry’s focus. We believe that their strategy can contribute to the following:

- **Increase in affordable mortgage origination** – with sustained demand from the investment community, mortgage originators and lenders have the confidence needed to focus on often underserved populations and help keep the financing rates affordable. The increased supply of capital to these loan programs reduces the mortgage rate borrowers pay and gives lenders more comfort to increase the volume of loans originated.

- **Targeted MBS pooling practices** – BlackRock is able to work directly with third-party mortgage originators, as well as directly with Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, and Ginnie Mae to pool mortgages with specific borrower characteristics. This will create a real supply of impact mortgage pools which will likely increase in attention and highlight the entire market opportunity. Due to privacy concerns some geographic and borrower income data is not disclosed to the market, (such as census tracts or area median income levels) – pooling directly with the third-party mortgage originators and/or the Agencies allows the strategy to reach this segment of the borrower base while preserving borrower privacy.

- **Support wealth creation** – Over the last 20 years home prices have appreciated significantly. The result of this, is that while many American households can afford the monthly cost of a mortgage (i.e., the household is paying a similar amount in monthly rental payments), many households lack the ability to accumulate enough cash for a 20% down payment. Programs targeted in this strategy help with down payment assistance either in the form of monetary assistance and/or in the reduction of additional fees and costs typically applied to borrowers with less than a 20% down payment. Breaking down barriers to credit

- **Build greater understanding and increased market size of affordable lending products and property types** – Bring a greater understanding and more visibility of affordable mortgage lending products and sustainable property types within the asset management community and client base. Sustainable property types, such as manufactured housing, and some borrower based affordable lending products can often times be misunderstood and overlooked.

The mechanism by which the strategy achieves social impact is by directing capital to specific affordable loan programs, underserved borrower’s and/or sustainable property types. Part of the additionality BlackRock seeks to achieve is to bring awareness to and grow the market share of these types of programs. Importantly, the Agency MBS Team engages in direct dialogue with Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac and Ginnie Mae, and/or other mortgage stakeholders to create and/or support affordable housing initiatives, programs and collateral types. Additionally, the Agency Mortgage market is unlike any other area of Fixed Income where existing third-party ratings and sustainability frameworks can be applied. The Agency MBS Team, in collaboration with the BSI Team worked to define the criteria for Impact MBS pools operating as a first mover and an industry leader in this space.

In addition, the Agency MBS Team closely follows ongoing affordable housing policy research from thought leaders in the space, (such as the Urban Institute, and the Harvard Joint Center for Housing Studies).

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8 As of 12/31/21, BlackRock manages $10.1tn in assets
PRINCIPLE 4 – ASSESS THE EXPECTED IMPACT OF EACH INVESTMENT, BASED ON A SYSTEMATIC APPROACH

For each investment the Manager shall assess, in advance and, where possible, quantify the concrete, positive impact potential deriving from the investment. The assessment should use a suitable results measurement framework that aims to answer these fundamental questions: (1) What is the intended impact? (2) Who experiences the intended impact? (3) How significant is the intended impact? The Manager shall also seek to assess the likelihood of achieving the investment’s expected impact. In assessing the likelihood, the Manager shall identify the significant risk factors that could result in the impact varying from ex-ante expectations. In assessing the impact potential, the Manager shall seek evidence to assess the relative size of the challenge addressed within the targeted geographical context. The Manager shall also consider opportunities to increase the impact of the investment. Where possible and relevant for the Manager’s strategic intent, the Manager may also consider indirect and systemic impacts. Indicators shall, to the extent possible, be aligned with industry standards and follow best practice.

**BlackRock Global Renewable Power Team Approach:**

During the due diligence process, the expected impact of the investment is assessed through a results measurement framework that includes the nature of expected impact, parameters for measurement, and the identification of risks to delivering impact with proposed mitigation strategies.

The Investment Team prepares impact projections that outline an investment’s expected impact over time and presents it to the Investment Committee. Moreover, the Investment Team outlines in the Investment Committee paper the plan to deliver the impact of the investment and identifies any risk factors to achieving the intended impact.

As part of the ongoing tracking of impact performance, the Renewable Power Portfolio Operations team is in regular dialogue with the projects’ asset management teams to identify potential risk mitigation strategies and to evaluate the likelihood of delivering on intended impacts. The team also considers opportunities identified by the asset managers for increasing the core impacts and for additional indirect impacts. The Renewable Power Operations Committee then monitors and reports on the activity at each investment during its meetings throughout the year.

**BlackRock Global Impact Team Approach:**

The Global Impact Team selects companies for inclusion in our portfolios by drawing upon holdings from a large and proprietary universe of companies globally whose core products or services address some of the world’s major social and environmental challenges. Our impact universe is not static, but rather consists of an open architecture for ideas that creates a continuous feedback loop to our team and provides fresh ideas for the universe. We require all impact companies to meet our criteria for additionality and materiality, as discussed under Principle 2. Failing to meet either criterion will result in removal from the universe and portfolio.

For all holdings in a Global Impact portfolio, we apply the Impact Management Project’s Five Dimensions framework and evaluate each dimension: Who, What, How Much, Contribution, and Risk. We based our impact metrics on the GIIN’s IRIS+ System and Taxonomy, and we tag our holdings to not only the UN Sustainable Goals, but also the underlying targets, where possible. Notably, the IRIS+ taxonomy and UN SDG targets cover most, but not all, relevant impact metrics that we have uncovered through our active management research; in the event where such standardized metrics fall short, we use proprietary metrics and indicate so for full transparency.

We integrate impact analysis throughout the investment process, including the identification of preliminary impact metrics before investing. In addition, we believe our adoption of frameworks by the
GIIN, Impact Management Project, and SDGs, increases the comparability of impact measures across investments over time and helps avoid the proliferation of disparate methodologies in the industry.

**BlackRock Green Bond Index Team Approach:**

The transparency afforded to green bond investors via impact reporting is a unique feature of the instrument. All green bonds must report the environmental metrics of the projects funded by their proceeds on an annual basis. Historically, it has been challenging to capture the aggregated impact from multiple green bond holdings, as reporting is not standardized, and projects may fund improvements across multiple metrics.

BlackRock is the first asset manager to offer portfolio level impact reporting for a co-mingled green bond product (iShares Green Bond Index strategy), helping investors to track and understand the tangible impact of an investment. The ESG team reaches out to each issuer held in the strategy directly to help ensure that we have a comprehensive picture of impact reporting provided for the investment included in the fund. That data is collected, cleaned, categorized, and stored in our BlackRock Aladdin® system, enabling us to correctly assign the appropriate impact for any certain holding size in the fund. We have provided the following publications on this very intensive process and the resulting impact report.

https://www.blackrock.com/us/individual/insights/how-green-is-your-bond


The BlackRock team is collaborating among those directly involved in the market such as issuers, investors, and asset managers to work towards harmonized green bond reporting practices, such as the Green Asset Wallet and the Nasdaq Sustainable Bond Network. We are also represented on the Impact Reporting working group at the ICMA Green Bond Principles.

**BlackRock Emerging Market Impact Bond Team Approach:**

The GFI ESG Investment Team evaluates all Green, Social and Sustainability bonds at issuance by implementing a due diligence on projects funded by the proceeds of bonds. To qualify as a green, social or sustainability bond eligible for investment by the strategy, the issuer must align with the BlackRock proprietary taxonomy. BlackRock has developed a shading system that scores green and social bonds according to the impact of the proceeds.

Our due diligence on GSS bonds happens at

(i) issuance, where we provide a write up on the bond and/or the green/social project,

(ii) on an annual basis, where we engage with each issuer BlackRock holds and evaluate the quantifiable impact metrics on the projects funded and

(iii) we closely monitor holdings that receive low ESG scores/controversy indicators, which involves a deep dive by our credit research team and engagement efforts.

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9 ESG scores and controversy indicators used are sourced from third parties and publicly available information
In addition to the above, external frameworks such as the IMP’s five dimensions and standards such as EU Taxonomy on Sustainable Finance help us assess the expected impact of each investment within the portfolio.

**BlackRock Alternative Solutions Group Impact Approach:**

**Systematic Approach to Impact**

On behalf of the BlackRock Alternative Solutions Group, impact investments are investments made with the intention to generate positive, measurable social and environmental impact alongside a financial return. Our belief is that impact investing is:

- **Intentional** - investing with the purpose of having an impact
  The strategy is designed to create positive impact by providing capital to businesses or projects that have been historically undercapitalized and to invest in businesses or projects that seek to provide services or products to historically undercapitalized. Examples of services could be, but is not limited to, infrastructure, affordable housing, financial services, education, and healthcare.

- **Material** - core products and services must advance impact goals
  The strategy will advance impact objectives by accelerating positive economic outcomes for underrepresented racial and ethnic groups, investing in projects or businesses that serve a geography with a majority-minority population who have been undercapitalized historically or that provides goods or services to the target minority demographic. Where appropriate, we will align investments to the UN Sustainable Development Goals though that is not the primary driver for identifying a possible investment.

- **Additional** - strategy must provide outcomes that are unlikely to have occurred otherwise
  The strategy primarily provides additionality by providing capital to capital-constrained minority-owned businesses, and/or providing capital to businesses driving change in these undercapitalized communities.

- **Measurable** - impact is quantifiable
  During the sourcing and diligence phase of investment, each proposed investment will run through the Impact Management Project’s 5 dimensions of impact (what, who, how much, contribution and risk) to identify preliminary primary and secondary orders of impact that tie back to the funds primary mission. The fund’s Investment Committee will approve each investment against both its financial merit as well as its contribution to impact. Each investment will have a set of impact KPIs identified leveraging the GIIN IRIS+ catalogue of metrics (or other relevant metrics) to measure impact. These KPI’s will be used for annual impact reporting.

During the due diligence process, the expected impact of the investment is assessed through a results measurement framework that includes the nature of expected impact, parameters for measurement, and the identification of risks to delivering impact with proposed mitigation strategies.

The investment team prepares impact projections that outline an investment’s expected impact over time and presents it to the Investment Committee. Moreover, the Investment Team outlines in the Investment Committee Memo the plan to deliver the impact of the investment and identifies any risk factors to achieving the intended impact. This analysis is completed in conjunction with a leading external consultant in the impact space to ensure alignment and measurability of impact.

As part of the ongoing tracking of impact performance, the team is in regular dialogue with the projects’ sponsor or asset management teams to identify potential risk mitigation strategies and to evaluate the likelihood of delivering on intended impacts. The team also considers opportunities identified by the asset managers for increasing the core impacts and for additional indirect impacts. The Team then monitors and reports on the activity at each investment during its meetings throughout the year.
The strategy will report on impact KPIs from the GIIN IRIS+ Library of Metrics for investors on an annual basis.

**BlackRock Private Equity Partners (PEP) Impact Strategy Team Approach:**

PEP’s due diligence approach is not a “check-the-box” process. Through the application of a disciplined approach to gathering data, PEP seeks knowledge and understanding of what does or does not create value in a potential investment, rather than simply confirming that all the proper pieces of information have been collected. We evaluate each of the five dimensions of impact in line with the IMP 5 Dimensions: What, How much, Who, Contribution and Risk.

For direct co-investments, PEP formulates target expectations for the development of the identified KPIs during the holding period. As part of the financial modelling at underwriting, PEP will formulate ex-ante expectations for the development of the defined KPIs. PEP employs the same process to measure the ongoing performance of each investment relative to KPIs and financial considerations.

**BlackRock China Impact Strategy Team Approach:**

The China Impact Strategy Team selects investments for inclusion in our portfolio by drawing upon a proprietary universe of companies domiciled in or exercising the predominant part of their activity in, or from, the People’s Republic of China (PRC), and advance positive social and environmental outcomes within the PRC and abroad. The team’s structured framework to identify, assess, qualify companies to the China Impact universe is fully consistent with the impact requirements demanded by other Impact products on BlackRock’s equities platform. Subsequently, the majority of companies that qualify for the China Impact universe are also investable by the platform’s Global Impact products. There are, however, some exceptions whereby the scope of a China-oriented idea may not be broad enough to be considered impact at a global scale. These exceptions are well documented within the universe construction process. Our impact universe is not static, but rather consists of an open architecture for ideas that creates a continuous feedback loop to our team and provides fresh ideas for the universe. We require all impact companies to meet our criteria for additionality and materiality, as discussed under Principle 2. Failing to meet these either criterion will result in removal from the universe and portfolio.

For all holdings in the China Impact portfolio, we apply the Impact Management Project’s Five Dimensions framework and evaluate each dimension: Who, What, How Much, Contribution, and Risk. We based our impact metrics on the GIIN’s IRIS+ System and Taxonomy, and we tag our holdings to not only the UN Sustainable Goals, but also the underlying targets, where possible. Notably, the IRIS+ taxonomy and UN SDG targets cover most, but not all, relevant impact metrics that we have uncovered through our active management research; in the event where such standardized metrics fall short, we use our bespoke metrics and indicate so for full transparency.

We integrate impact analysis throughout the investment process, including the identification of preliminary impact metrics before investing. In addition, we believe our adoption of frameworks by the GIIN, Impact Management Project, and SDGs, increases the comparability of impact measures across investments over time and helps avoid the proliferation of disparate methodologies in the industry.

**BlackRock Impact MBS Strategy Team Approach:**

The expected impact is assessed prior to a collateral type being deemed an Impact MBS Story. The intended impact is to increase affordable homeownership for those households that have the most to gain from the financial and non-financial benefits of homeownership.

Potential homeowners and borrowers that are considered to be part of an underserved population are intended to receive the impact the strategy seeks to achieve. Underserved populations include, but are
not limited to, potential homeowners facing barriers to credit, borrowers with targeted area median incomes, specific geographies or regions within the U.S. (such as Low to Moderate Income “LMI” areas). Homeownership has been the primary means of wealth creation for large segments of the population over the last three generations, however access to this opportunity has not been equally distributed. Advancing equal access to homeownership is one of the ways to close the racial wealth gap.

The quantification of potential impact is integrated throughout the investment process and is critical at the point in which an investment is deemed an Impact MBS Story.
For each investment the Manager shall seek, as part of a systematic and documented process, to identify and avoid, and if avoidance is not possible, mitigate and manage Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) risks. Where appropriate, the Manager shall engage with the investee to seek its commitment to take action to address potential gaps in current investee systems, processes, and standards, using an approach aligned with good international industry practice. As part of portfolio management, the Manager shall monitor investees’ ESG risk and performance, and where appropriate, engage with the investee to address gaps and unexpected events.

**BlackRock Global Renewable Power Team Approach:**

The BlackRock Global Renewable Power Team recognizes the environmental, social and governance impacts of our investments and is committed to managing these impacts in a responsible manner, ensuring compliance with applicable laws and regulations. Given the long term and physical nature of our renewable power investments, we consider effective ESG assessment and management to be a fundamental component of risk management.

During the due diligence phase, the Investment Team assesses the ESG risks of a prospective investment in the form of the Real Assets Investment ESG Questionnaire (“ESG Questionnaire”). The ESG Questionnaire provides a comprehensive framework to the Investment Teams across BlackRock’s Global Real Assets platform, to assist with identifying and collating information on potential ESG risks associated with all new investments.

The ESG Questionnaire is a list of questions on potential ESG risks and opportunities to support the wider due diligence being undertaken by the Investment Team. The findings of the questionnaire aim to identify any key risks associated with each investment and enable greater due diligence, and ultimately improve investment decision making. The completed questionnaire is included in the Investment Committee paper for each investment.

In the post-investment phase, the Investment Team works collaboratively with the project’s asset manager or management team to closely monitor ESG performance and to address any unexpected events. Highlighted ESG risks are monitored and reviewed by the Management Committee on a quarterly basis via the ESG Risk dashboard. The ESG Risk dashboard is also subject to review by the Chief Investment Officer (CIO) of the platform and BlackRock’s Risk and Quantitative Analysis team.

**BlackRock Global Impact Team Approach:**

In addition to documenting positive impact performance, our investment processes include the evaluation of negative externalities that matter deeply to us as impact investors. To evaluate “net impact,” we focus on the IMP’s risk dimension, which is one of the IMP’s five dimensions.

Here, we incorporate ESG analytics into our research, engage with companies based on our proprietary ESG research and insights, and seek a holistic view of a business’ net impact. In addition, as a matter of policy, we avoid investing in specific categories, including controversial weapons, tobacco producers, and all UN Global Compact violators.
BlackRock Green Bond Index Team Approach:

There are two areas that BlackRock focuses on when evaluating the negative impacts of investments in the green bond space. The first is around the “ringfenced use of proceeds”. BlackRock is keen that the use of proceeds from a green bond follows globally accepted norms around Do No Significant Harm (DNSH), whether that is environmental or social. As we rely and encourage adherence to the ICMA Green Bond Principles, we highlight language that is embedded in the 2021 Green Bond Principles under the second pillar “Process for Project Evaluation and Selection”:

The issuer of a Green Bond should clearly communicate to investors:

- Complementary information on processes by which the issuer identifies and manages perceived social and environmental risks associated with the relevant project(s).

Issuers are also encouraged to:

- Have a process in place to identify mitigants to known material risks of negative social and/or environmental impacts from the relevant project(s). Such mitigants may include clear and relevant trade-off analysis undertaken and monitoring required where the issuer assesses the potential risks to be meaningful.

Additionally, within the MSCI guidelines for Green Bond Index, bonds are excluded if they have negative potential environmental or social externalities for certain categories. For example,

- Due to their potential environmental and social externalities, large-scale hydroelectric projects are only eligible if they satisfy one of the following international sustainability best practices:
  - Hydropower Sustainability Protocol – published assessment report and score of 3 or above (i.e., in line with “Good Practices”) on all relevant pillars; or
  - International Finance Corporation (IFC) Performance Standards – publicly stated commitment to meet the requirements outlined by all eight IFC performance standards.

In addition to the monitoring of “Use of Proceeds”, BlackRock also engages with issuers holistically. As a significant manager of fixed income assets, we are careful to ensure that our impact in the broad fixed income market ecosystem is consistent with our sustainable objectives, driving positive change, maintaining, or promoting high standards and best practice. We have the largest global stewardship team in the industry with 70 people across 8 offices who have regional presence and local expertise across 71 voting markets. This globally coordinated team enables us to better understand the context within which a company is operating. We engage companies on such topics as climate and natural capital, human capital and human rights, and inclusion and diversity amongst others.

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11 Hydropower+Sustainability+Assessment+Protocol+07-05-20.pdf (squarespace.com)
12 https://www.ifc.org/wps/wcm/connect/Topics_Ext_Content/IFC_External_Corporate_Site/Sustainability-At-IFC/Policies-Standards/Performance-Standards
13 As of March 2022
**BlackRock Emerging Market Impact Bond Team Approach:**

The BlackRock Emerging Market Impact Bond strategy integrates the Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) considerations in the investment philosophy and process. The team has a rigorous and systematic approach to reviewing ESG risks at an industry, company and country level. Our global presence and on the ground research provide valuable information to further assess quantitative data provided by third parties.

Our investment process includes the evaluation of negative externalities, which is a vital consideration for the Impact Bond portfolio. We evaluate the negative impact through the IMP’s risk dimension where we incorporate ESG analytics of the credit issuers based on our proprietary ESG score card.

There are two areas that the Investment Manager and GFI ESG Investment Team focus on when evaluating the negative impacts of investments in the green, social and sustainability bond space. The first is around the “ringfenced use of proceeds”. BlackRock is keen that the use of proceeds from a green bond follows globally accepted norms around DNSH, whether that is environmental or social.

For the non-GSS portion, which can make up to 20% of the portfolio allocation, we apply stringent Do No Significant Harm (DNSH) criteria. Furthermore, the strategy has explicit exclusion criteria in categories, including controversial weapons, tobacco producers, oil & gas and UN Global Compact violators.

In addition to the monitoring of “Use of Proceeds”, BlackRock also engages with issuers holistically. As a significant manager of fixed income assets, we are careful to ensure that our impact in the broad fixed income market ecosystem is consistent with our sustainable objectives, driving positive change, maintaining or promoting high standards and best practice. We have the largest global stewardship team in the industry with 70 people across 8 offices who have regional presence and local expertise across 71 voting markets as of March 2022. This globally coordinated team enables us to better understand the context within which a company is operating. We engage companies on such topics as climate and natural capital, human capital and human rights, and inclusion and diversity amongst others. BlackRock’s infrastructure around engagement means that the Investment Manager and GFI ESG Investment Team can address/manage any potential negative impacts of each investment within the portfolio.

**BlackRock Alternative Solutions Group Impact Approach:**

The ASG impact strategy will structure the mitigation of key ESG risks with portfolio companies at the onset of the investment and will monitor these risks over time. Please see detail below on how we will seek to identify and mitigate ESG risk on behalf of the strategy:
E2SG is an integral part of every BlackRock private market investment

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Environment</th>
<th>Social</th>
<th>Governance</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Local environment</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Pollution risks</td>
<td>• Water use and supply</td>
<td>• Business integrity</td>
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<td>• Climate risks</td>
<td>• Waste management</td>
<td>• Regulation and compliance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Climate resilience</td>
<td>• Local livelihood</td>
<td>• Corporate governance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Local resilience</td>
<td>• Labor management</td>
<td>• Infrastructure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Local sustainability</td>
<td>• Health and safety</td>
<td>• Integration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Local well-being</td>
<td>• Local communities</td>
<td>• Operations and users</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Our approach to integrating ESG within our investment process is outlined below:

**Sourcing & screening**
- Initial ESG assessments are performed to identify any ESG “deal breakers” or issues requiring more extensive due diligence
- Analysis helps inform decisions on whether to progress the investment opportunity or not
- This may include activities such as desktop reviews of key project documentation, including planning permission conditions and environmental impact assessments

**Due diligence**
- ESG risk assessments are undertaken for all new investments. This may include the use of proprietary ESG questionnaires, reviews from external consultants and site visits
- We aim to identify and quantify the financial impacts of material ESG risks and integrate these into valuation models as appropriate
- This may include the identification of the counterparty to which we believe is best placed to manage the relevant ESG risks and due diligence on the lead sponsor’s management as appropriate

**Investment committee approval**
- Material ESG risks and opportunities are recorded throughout the investment process and, where appropriate, discussed with the relevant investment committee (IC)
- Recommendations will be made using a reasoned and considered professional judgment based on information and data available
- ESG will not invest if the relevant IC determines that any ESG risks cannot be sufficiently quantified or mitigated

**Measurement & monitoring**
- We establish, where appropriate, ESG key performance indicators to assist in ongoing risk management and help drive continual improvements in our ESG performance
- Where possible, we aim to measure and monitor the environmental impacts associated with our investments
- Where appropriate, we include ESG information in our client reporting

**BlackRock Private Equity Partners (PEP) Impact Strategy Team Approach:**

Negative externalities are addressed at due diligence and are integral part of the PEP impact scorecards.

With regard to direct co-investments, the PEP impact scorecards seek to identify the risks and potential negative externalities associated with the investment, spanning from resources and components used in the production process, to potential undesired impact for a wide range of stakeholders (e.g., clients, workforce, society as a whole) associated with the products or services delivered by the company. For each risk identified, mitigating actions are formulated as part of the due diligence process on the company.

Concerning primaries opportunities, the PEP impact scorecard aims at addressing what are the risks involved and how significant they are. As part of the Risk dimension, the PEP team seeks to identify the risks involved with the project and the factors that may result in the contribution of the project to be different from that expected.

In addition to the considerations of potential investments based on their impact merits, PEP conducts a detailed ESG due diligence for all investments made across the PEP platform. For direct co-investments, we apply a core set of minimum exclusions, or baseline screens, establishing a limit for what PEP will not invest in based on ESG concerns. In addition, we conduct a detailed analysis of ESG considerations of the investment against best practices in the respective peer group. Where a risk or an issue is identified, PEP works with the manager and the portfolio companies to take mitigating action where feasible. We focus on obtaining a clear picture of how ESG related issues and opportunities may affect risk and performance of an investment.

**BlackRock China Impact Strategy Team Approach:**

In addition to documenting positive impact performance, our investment processes include the evaluation of negative externalities that matter deeply to us as impact investors. To evaluate “net
impact,” we focus on the IMP’s risk dimension, which is one of the IMP’s five dimensions. Here, we incorporate ESG analytics into our research, engage with companies based on our proprietary ESG research and insights, and seek a holistic view of a business’ net impact. In addition, as a matter of policy, we avoid investing in specific categories, including controversial weapons, tobacco producers, and all UN Global Compact violators.

**BlackRock Impact MBS Strategy Team Approach:**

In addition to documenting the positive impact the strategy is achieving, the investment process includes the evaluation of success metrics, such as monitoring the rate of delinquencies and foreclosures in comparison with comparable non-impact mortgage pools. The Agency MBS Team monitors affordability programs and lending practices to ensure that they are operating as intended.

Examples include:

- Capital is not provided to manufactured housing loans if the loans are not guaranteed by the government-sponsored enterprises (GSEs)
- The GSE’s offer borrowers a number of foreclosure prevention tools which private lenders do not
- Prior to being deemed an Impact MBS Story, delinquency rates are monitored relative to comparable mortgages. If an unexpected increase in delinquency’s arises, the cause is investigated, and additional purchases may be paused.

As previously stated, the Agency MBS Team tracks three types of metrics. Success metrics compare the loan performance of Impact pools relative to comparable non-impact pools.

- One of the biggest questions and misconceptions are that affordable mortgage lending, is synonymous with extending mortgage credit to those who are ‘not credit worthy’.
The Manager shall use the results framework (referenced in Principle 4) to monitor progress toward the achievement of positive impacts in comparison to the expected impact for each investment. Progress shall be monitored using a predefined process for sharing performance data with the investee. To the best extent possible, this shall outline how often data will be collected; the method for data collection; data sources; responsibilities for data collection; and how, and to whom, data will be reported. When monitoring indicates that the investment is no longer expected to achieve its intended impacts, the Manager shall seek to pursue appropriate action. The Manager shall also seek to use the results framework to capture investment outcomes (i.e., short-term and medium-term effects of an investment’s outputs, which are the products, capital goods, and services).

**BlackRock Global Renewable Power Team Approach:**

The BlackRock Global Renewable Power Team has developed reporting to monitor progress towards achieving impact performance. These dynamic reports track key performance indicators for each investment through data compiled from periodic reports provided by our asset managers. The key impact metrics are defined for all of our strategy’s investments to capture tangible outputs. When impact is significantly different from expectations, portfolio team members engage with the appointed third-party asset manager to determine the appropriate action to pursue.

The team has stringent governance processes in place to ensure effective communication between appointed third-party asset managers and the BlackRock Renewable Power Technical and Operations teams which enables performance updates to be delivered to the Team through monthly calls and via a monthly reporting framework.

**BlackRock Global Impact Team Approach:**

The Global Impact Team identifies preliminary impact indicators before investing in a company and evaluates the company’s impact over time. On an annual basis for our clients, we formally report impact metrics for companies’ calendar year or fiscal year period.

We evaluate impact along the IMP Five Dimensions and obtain data based on publicly available company documents, including company annual reports and regulatory filings, as well as through our research and engagement efforts with each company. We also monitor companies for its adherence to our criteria on materiality and additionality.

Our data sources are documented, auditable, and transparent, providing a feedback loop to our impact thesis and theory of change and a path for improving our practice over time.

If a company falls short of our expectations and impact criteria, we will engage with the company to better understand the shortcoming, to learn about any new directions of the business, and to help us build a better long-term picture of future impact. If the business no longer meets our material, additional, and measurable criteria for impact, we eliminate the company from both the portfolio and the universe of impact companies.

**BlackRock Green Bond Index Team Approach:**

We engage and follow-up with issuers on an annual basis when we follow up with updating the green bond strategy’s impact report to ensure that we as investors are comfortable with each green bond and green bond program’s use of proceeds. We chose the Bloomberg Barclays MSCI global green bond index as the green bond index because as a part of the index schema, for an issuance to be classified as a green bond, a security’s use of proceeds must fall within one of MSCI’s defined environmental
categories: alternative energy, energy efficiency, pollution prevention & control, sustainable water, green building, climate adaptation. At issuance, issuers must report on eligible projects or state its commitment to report within one year of issuance. Reporting will be monitored, and bonds can be removed if the issuer fails to report at least annually. An eligible green bond’s prospectus or supporting documentation (such as a green bond framework) must clearly identify the specific criteria and process for determining eligible projects or investments, and a formal process to ring-fence net proceeds must be disclosed. This ensures a dual tracking of allocation and impact reporting follow up.

BlackRock Emerging Market Impact Bond Team Approach:

GFI ESG Investment Team has a stringent due diligence process, which takes places from the point of issuance until maturity of the bond (outlined in Principle 4). At issuance, issuers must report on eligible projects or state its commitment to report within one year of issuance. Reporting will be monitored, and bonds can be removed if the issuer fails to report. An eligible GSS bond’s prospectus or supporting documentation (such as a green social and sustainability bond framework) must clearly identify the specific criteria and process for determining eligible projects or investments, and a formal process to ring-fence net proceeds must be disclosed. This ensures a dual tracking of allocation and impact reporting follow up.

The team evaluates impact by assessing projects that are being funded and whether the proceeds are in line with the Green/Social Bond Principles\(^{14}\). The due diligence process involves a detailed write up on the issue and the green/social project, which is being funded. Notes on GSS bond issues are stored in Aladdin® and maintained following the annual reviews. On the credit issuer side, our investment management team creates and maintains a credit and an ESG scorecard for each issuer the portfolio is invested in.

If the GSS bond issue no longer meets BlackRock’s internal taxonomy guidelines, the GFI ESG Investment Team will engage with the issuer to understand the changes and may advise the Investment Manager to disinvest from the issue as it is no longer eligible investment for the strategy.

BlackRock Alternative Solutions Group Impact Approach:

The Alternative Solutions Group Team has developed reporting to monitor progress towards achieving impact performance. These dynamic reports track key performance indicators for each investment through data compiled from periodic reports provided by our asset managers. The key impact metrics are defined for all of our strategy’s investments upfront to capture tangible outputs. These are also agreed upon upfront by our external sponsor or asset manager. When impact is significantly different from expectations, portfolio team members engage with the appointed third-party asset manager to determine the appropriate action to pursue.

The Alternative Solutions Group team defines key investment theses and how we will measure and monitor each at an investment level before investing in a company and evaluates the company’s impact over time. On an annual basis for our clients, we formally report impact metrics for companies’ calendar year or fiscal year period.

We evaluate impact along the IMP Five Dimensions of Impact and the originally established Key Performance Indicators. Our data sources are documented, auditable, and transparent, providing a feedback loop to our impact thesis and theory of change and a path for improving our practice over time.

If a company falls short of our expectations and impact criteria, we will engage with the company to better understand the shortcoming, to learn about any new directions of the business, and to help us build a better long-term picture of future impact. If the business no longer meets our material, additional, and measurable criteria for impact, we eliminate the company from both the portfolio and the universe of impact companies.

**BlackRock Private Equity Partners (PEP) Impact Strategy Team Approach:**

PEP employs the same process to measure the ongoing performance of each investment relative to impact KPIs as well as financial considerations when it comes to monitoring of investments. The investment team will monitor investments by (i) gathering and analyzing financial information (including annual and quarterly reports); (ii) attending annual meetings of PE sponsors from which deals are sourced and with managers; (iii) whenever possible, actively participating on the boards of directors and advisory boards of investments or having board observer status; and (iv) maintaining ongoing informal contacts with PE sponsors from which deals are sourced and managers.

Where progress is deemed to be behind plan, PEP takes action either through board seats or influence on company and other investors. Through investment ownership and board representations, PEP will continue to engage with companies and managers on impact progress. BlackRock intends to exercise the influence necessary to ensure investments are on track to achieve their underwritten financial and impact outcomes. BlackRock actively seeks to serve on an investment’s board of directors or as a board observer, and we intend that our board of director and board observer participations be both dynamic and interactive and will leverage these positions to prioritize impact outcomes alongside financial returns.

We provide transparency through the reporting of performance of each investment as part of the financial reporting. The progress achieved by each co-investment toward the targeted impact KPI is reported back to investors on individual direct co-investment level on an annual basis as part of the standard investor reporting. For primary investment, investors receive detailed information on the investment strategy, impact focus and targeted UN SDGs for each manager as part of the annual impact reporting.

**BlackRock China Impact Strategy Team Approach:**

The China Impact Strategy Team identifies preliminary impact indicators before investing in a company and evaluates the company’s impact over time. On an annual basis for our clients, we formally report impact metrics for companies’ calendar year or fiscal year period. We evaluate impact along the IMP Five Dimensions and obtain data from publicly available company documents, including company annual reports and regulatory filings, as well as through our research and engagement efforts with each company. We also monitor companies for its adherence to our criteria on materiality and additionality. Our data sources are documented, auditable, and transparent, providing a feedback loop to our impact thesis and theory of change and a path for improving our practice over time. If a company falls short of our expectations and impact criteria, we will engage with the company to better understand the shortcoming, to learn about any new directions of the business, and to help us build a better long-term picture of future impact. If the business no longer meets our material, additional, and measurable criteria for impact, we eliminate the company from both the portfolio and the universe of impact companies.

**BlackRock Impact MBS Strategy Team Approach:**
The BlackRock Agency MBS Team has developed reporting to monitor progress towards achieving impact performance. The key impact metrics are defined for all Impact MBS Stories to capture the relevant tangible outputs. Examples included below:

- **Counting metrics** - “Supporting ## of low-income or moderate-income households within rural communities”
- **Success metrics** – As a measure of success, report delinquency rates versus conventional borrowers
- **% saved metrics** - “##### TONS of construction waste saved”

Data sources include disclosures directly available from the Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, and Ginnie Mae. This loan level data is processed and rendered by the investment team.
When conducting an exit, the Manager shall, in good faith and consistent with its fiduciary concerns, consider the effect which the timing, structure, and process of its exit will have on the sustainability of the impact.

BlackRock Global Renewable Power Team Approach:
We believe the BlackRock Global Renewable Power investment strategy is intrinsically impactful as renewable power projects have inherent positive impacts through clean energy generation. Moreover, the team continuously seeks to optimize the positive impact of each investment during its holding period which may enhance the likelihood that a future buyer of the renewable power project or platform will be able to procure an impactful investment. During the sale process, relevant impact and ESG documentation produced for the investment is clearly presented to the potential buyer to enable the impact objectives of the investment to be continued and further enhanced.

BlackRock Global Impact Team Approach:
We may need to trim or eliminate a company from the portfolio due to financial or risk management considerations. When exiting a position, we aim to continue our engagement with the company to help enhance its impact through our strategic, impact-outcomes oriented recommendations. Such companies remain in our impact universe for future consideration to re-enter the portfolio.

If a business no longer meets our material, additional, and measurable criteria for impact, we eliminate the company from both the portfolio and the universe.

BlackRock Green Bond Index Team Approach:
We may need to trim or eliminate an issuance from the portfolio due to financial or risk management considerations. As an asset manager, BlackRock is a fiduciary to our clients, and we want to be sure that the green bonds we invest in deliver their intended environmental benefits. Thus, we will also exit a position if a green bond ends up losing its green label either due to failure to report on use of proceeds in line with green bond principles or failure to disclose impact reporting metrics. When exiting a position, we aim to continue our engagement with the issuer to help enhance its impact through our strategic, impact-outcomes oriented recommendations. If an issuance no longer meets our material, additional, and measurable criteria for impact, we eliminate the issuance from the portfolio.

BlackRock Emerging Market Impact Bond Team Approach:
The Emerging Markets Impact Bond strategy generally applies a “buy and hold” approach, reflecting our commitment to make an impact over a long-term horizon. However, if the bond no longer meets the required criteria such as the BlackRock internal taxonomy for the GSS bonds or the criteria for the non-GSS bonds, the Investment Manager may be required to exit out of the position. When exiting a position, we aim to continue engagement in order to enhance its impact through our best practice recommendations and the issue/issuer may be considered to re-enter the universe if it becomes eligible.

BlackRock Alternative Solutions Group Impact Approach:
Exit decisions for impact investments will be guided by expectations / agreement set out at the time of investment / underwriting subject to review and approval by the Internal Investment Committee. Significant decisions (including disposition) with respect to any investment performing significantly below expectations will require Internal Investment Committee review. The strategy will exit investments with consideration to impact while also remaining committed, first and foremost, to maximizing return. Exits will be consummated consistent with the GP’s fiduciary duties, consider the effect the timing, structure, and process of its exit will have on the long-term sustainability of impact.
**BlackRock Private Equity Partners (PEP) Impact Strategy Team Approach:**

As a minority investor, PEP does not control the exit process, but given alignment with the sponsor we seek to maximize financial return and impact outcome measured by the performance against KPI targets defined at underwriting.

PEP has created an Impact Exit Committee meeting on a periodic basis to discuss viable exit options and assess exit scenarios, ensuring that we appropriately exit each of our investments. PEP recognizes the importance of exiting from investments in a manner consistent with impact objectives of the strategy and seeks to carefully consider what a buyer’s intentions are once the transaction is completed and how the transaction will affect the company, its stakeholders, and its future ability to generate positive contributions toward environment and society.

**BlackRock China Impact Strategy Team Approach:**

We may need to trim or eliminate a company from the portfolio due to financial or risk management considerations. When exiting a position, we aim to continue our engagement with the company to help enhance its impact through our strategic, impact-outcomes oriented recommendations. Such companies remain in our impact universe for future consideration to re-enter the portfolio. If a business no longer meets our material, additional, and measurable criteria for impact, we eliminate the company from both the portfolio and the universe.

**BlackRock Impact MBS Strategy Team Approach:**

It is the expectation of the BlackRock’s Agency MBS Team that once it purchases a mortgage pool it will continue to own that pool, the team seeks to be long term investors in these Impact MBS Stories. To the extent that an Impact MBS Stories has changed enough from the origin, to the point where it can no longer be deemed as achieving impact, no new exposure will be added.
The Manager shall review and document the impact performance of each investment, compare the expected and actual impact, and other positive and negative impacts, and use these findings to improve operational and strategic investment decisions, as well as management processes.

**BlackRock Global Renewable Power Team Approach:**

The BlackRock Global Renewable Power Team's investment strategy was established to invest in renewable power projects and platforms as well as climate infrastructure assets that seek to deliver positive and measurable environmental and social impacts, in addition to financial returns. A review of the impact performance of our investments is a critical aspect of how value is created for our investors.

The expected financial returns and impact metrics of each investment are documented in the Investment Committee papers as part of our due diligence process. This serves as a benchmark, relative to which impact performance is evaluated during the term of our investments.

Insights from the review process are used by management to adjust and / or enhance our investment strategy and operational due diligence as well as refine our investment priorities.

**BlackRock Global Impact Team Approach:**

Our Global Impact Team reviews our progress on impact outcomes in our daily, weekly and quarterly meetings and discussions. More formally, we conduct our deepest dive on impact achievements on an annual basis. In addition to our own internal review, we discuss our progress with an independent, external board of advisors, meeting on a semi-annual basis. This process allows us to reflect deeply on our processes, achievement of impact, and lessons learned, with the goal of improving over time.

**BlackRock Green Bond Index Team Approach:**

Our core portfolio management, product strategy and GFI ESG Investment teams review new issuances and updates on existing issuances daily, weekly, and quarterly meetings and discussions. We conduct a monthly rebalancing review that goes through issuance by issuance all of the current pending issuances for index inclusion, follow up with issuers to dig into allocations and project expenditures for raised bond proceeds, review all new included and excluded issuances, and feedback to the index our views and thoughts. We also conduct our deepest dive on each bond’s impact metrics on an annual basis. We also publish a monthly report to our clients that discusses updates to the index monthly. This process allows us to reflect deeply on our processes, achievement of impact, and lessons learned, with the goal of improving over time.

**BlackRock Emerging Market Impact Bond Team Approach:**

GFI ESG Investment Team reviews the strategy’s current and potential holdings in regular discussions with the Investment Manager. In addition, GFI ESG Investment Team completes an annual assessment of the review and reporting processes and adjusts the internal processes and reporting to further align with best practices and industry standards.

**BlackRock Alternative Solutions Group Impact Approach:**

The Alternative Solutions Group Team’s impact strategy was established to accelerate the wealth of minorities in the United States. A review of the impact performance of our investments is a critical aspect of how value is created for our investors.
The expected financial returns and impact metrics of each investment are documented in the Investment Committee Memos as part of our due diligence process. This serves as a benchmark, relative to which impact performance is evaluated during the term of our investments.

All investments in the strategy are subject to a quarterly Internal Investment Committee review, in which both investment performance and impact performance are assessed on a deal-by-deal basis. Insights from the review process are used by management to adjust and/or enhance our investment strategy and operational due diligence as well as refine our investment priorities.

**BlackRock Private Equity Partners (PEP) Impact Strategy Team Approach:**

The PEP team actively engages with the portfolio companies and managers by sharing ESG best practices, managing ESG risk and reviewing of lessons learned from past investments. As a key part of PEP’s monitoring process, the team holds internal portfolio reviews both at investment and portfolio level to review progress on impact outcomes and share lessons learned, with the goal of improving over time.

**BlackRock China Impact Strategy Team Approach:**

Our China Impact Strategy Team reviews our progress on impact outcomes in periodic meetings and discussions, including deep dive sessions with the Global Impact Team. More formally, we conduct our deepest dive on impact achievements for portfolio holdings on an annual basis. This process allows us to reflect deeply on our processes, achievement of impact, and lessons learned, with the goal of improving over time.

**BlackRock Impact MBS Strategy Team Approach:**

The Agency MBS Team hosts a formal Impact MBS meeting weekly, in which impact MBS Stories are discussed, operational and investment mechanics are worked through, as well as the Teams prepayment speed surveillance specific to Impact MBS stories. Impact MBS are completely engrained in the Team’s investment process and follow the same course of action as any trade expression.
The Manager shall publicly disclose, on an annual basis, the alignment of its impact management systems with the Principles and, at regular intervals, arrange for independent verification of this alignment. The conclusions of this verification report shall also be publicly disclosed. These disclosures are subject to fiduciary and regulatory concerns.

Robust impact management processes are an essential component of BlackRock’s impact investing strategies and we commit to annually disclosing on our alignment with the Operating Principles for Impact Management going forward. BlackRock will be completing external verification on a regular cadence and publishing the conclusion of the verifier’s assessment. The selection of an external verifier was completed in 2021, with the first verification to be published within the first half of 2022.