

# PROFILE | THIRD QUARTER 2021 ENHANCED CORE BOND ESG STRATEGY

# **ENHANCED CORE BOND ESG**

Style: Multi-Sector Bond

Approach: Active; Top Down/Bottom Up

Benchmark: Bloomberg Aggregate Bond

Index

Inception: 7/1/2019

Strategy Assets: \$57 MM

#### **INVESTMENT PHILOSOPHY**

We believe that our multi-sector approach takes advantage of the relative valuations among distinct bond sectors, provides greater opportunities to generate income and capital appreciation, while helping to manage risk in changing economic environments. We aim to enhance riskadjusted performance by seeking what we believe are the best investments among Treasuries, Agencies, Mortgage-Backed Securities and Corporate Bonds and by investing in high yield bonds. We also believe that companies with positive ESG characteristics are more likely to reduce external costs and promote better long-term outcomes for all stakeholders.

# ABOUT OUR FIRM

GW&K is a dynamic investment management firm that offers active equity and fixed income investment solutions to meet the needs of a diverse client base. At our core is an entrepreneurial spirit of innovation, a desire to help educate our clients and a level of service that is hard to come by. Our founding principles of applying rigorous fundamental research, focusing on quality and maintaining a long-term view still guide our investment process today.

- Founded in 1974
- ■\$55 Billion Under Management
- Individually Managed Accounts
- Serving Individuals and Institutions

All data as of September 30, 2021

### STRATEGY HIGHLIGHTS

**ACTIVE MANAGEMENT** 

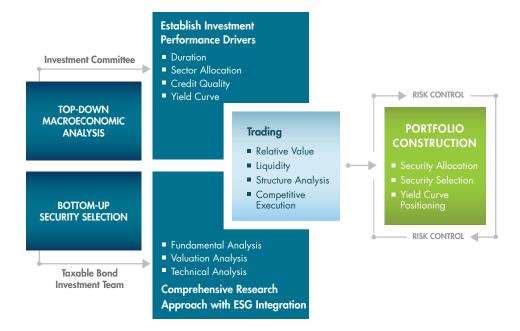
Modest shifts in duration and among sectors to maximize opportunities in changing economic and interest rate environments

SECTOR DIVERSIFICATION Opportunistically invest in high yield bonds as an important diversifying component

COMPREHENSIVE RESEARCH

Integration of ESG factors into issuer analysis helps to add value to the investment process and mitigate risk

# **INVESTMENT PROCESS**



# **TOP-DOWN ANALYSIS**

- Analysis of business cycle, valuation trends and market technicals
- Analysis guides outlook on market, sector allocation

#### **BOTTOM-UP SELECTION**

- Quantitative and qualitative research techniques with emphasis on ESG factors
- Search for companies with solid business models and the ability to generate cash

#### PORTFOLIO CONSTRUCTION

- Managers construct fully diversified portfolios that reflect their economic views
- Credit research with careful adherence to risk control, including assessment of ESG factors

# **RECOGNITION OF OPPORTUNITY**

- We seek companies with above average and/or improving ESG profiles
- We seek companies that maintain sustainable competitive advantages and may benefit from emerging cyclical or secular drivers
- We seek to identify companies that are undervalued due to temporary or discrete events
- We seek AAA mortgage pass throughs that offer high total return potential and minimized risk



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### **INVESTMENT TEAM**

#### MARY F. KANE, CFA

Partner Portfolio Manager Investment Professional Since 1982 Joined GW&K 2005 AB, Wheaton College MBA, Boston University

#### STEPHEN J. REPOFF, CFA

Principal Portfolio Manager Investment Professional Since 2004 Joined GW&K 2013 BA/BS, Boston University MSF, Boston College

#### **NANCY G. ANGELL, CFA**

Partner Co-Director, Fixed Income Investment Professional Since 1984 Joined GW&K 1984 AB, Duke University MBA, Boston University

#### **JOHN B. FOX, CFA**

Partner Co-Director, Fixed Income Investment Professional Since 1990 Joined GW&K 1990 BA, Boston College MBA, Boston University

15 Taxable Bond Investment Professionals Averaging 18 Years Experience

# A DISCIPLINED APPROACH TO PORTFOLIO CONSTRUCTION & RISK MANAGEMENT

**RISK MANAGEMENT** 

- Monitor portfolio's duration, credit quality, sector over/underweightings relative to benchmark
- Monitor credits for changes in fundamentals, valuation, technicals, and ESG profile

SECTOR ALLOCATION
GUIDELINES



TYPICAL AVERAGE CREDIT
QUALITY

OIT A

**DURATION GUIDELINES** 

+ / - 20% of the Bloomberg Aggregate Bond Index

AVERAGE # OF HOLDINGS

50 - 90

### COMPREHENSIVE RESEARCH WITH AN EMPHASIS ON ESG FACTORS

Comprehensive research by our seasoned team is central to our investment process and risk management approach. While researching new securities our team focuses on fundamental, valuation, technical and ESG analysis.



# **ENVIRONMENTAL**

Pursue policies and programs that promote usage of water, carbon, and toxic materials that is responsible and sustainable over the long term.

- Carbon emissions
- Hazardous waste and emissions
- Water stress
- Chemical safety
- Natural resources
- Sustainable technologies

# SOCIAL

Pursue policies and programs that promote employee engagement and welfare, along with the health and safety of employees and the surrounding community.

- Human rights
- Labor relations
- Employee safety
- Product safety
- Data security and privacy
- Community relations



# GOVERNANCE

Well-structured board with governance practices that promote fair compensation and balance the needs of all stakeholders.

- Business ethics
- Board management and quality
- Board structure
- Compensation practices
- Financial reporting
- Stakeholder governance