

LION-OCBC SECURITIES

SINGAPORE LOW CARBON ETF

Do good. For your portfolio and our planet.

Quarterly Newsletter

Q4 2024





## INTRODUCTION

- The Lion-OCBC Securities Singapore Low Carbon ETF was listed on the Singapore stock market on 28 April 2022.
- This ETF is Singapore’s first low carbon ETF and pays semi-annual distributions<sup>1</sup>.
- Based on SGX ETF market highlights for Q4 2023 and Q4 2024, this ETF achieved the **top returns among Singapore equities ETFs on SGX in 2023, the second top returns among Singapore equities ETFs on SGX in 2024 and is the top dividend-paying Singapore equities ETF in 2024.**
- The ETF is passively managed to fully replicate the iEdge-OCBC Singapore Low Carbon Select 50 Capped Index.

## KEY FACTS

- Trading currencies: SGD and USD
- Total Assets Under Management (AUM): SGD 69.1 million as of 31 December 2024
- Management fee: 0.40% p.a.
- SGX tickers: ESG (SGD), ESU (USD)
- On 24 September 2024, we announced a special distribution of S\$0.03 per unit (with payment on 14 October 2024) to help investors lock in capital gains. This is on top of the semi-annual distributions<sup>1</sup>.

## KEY FEATURES



50 Largest Singapore Companies by Free-Float Market Capitalisation<sup>2</sup>

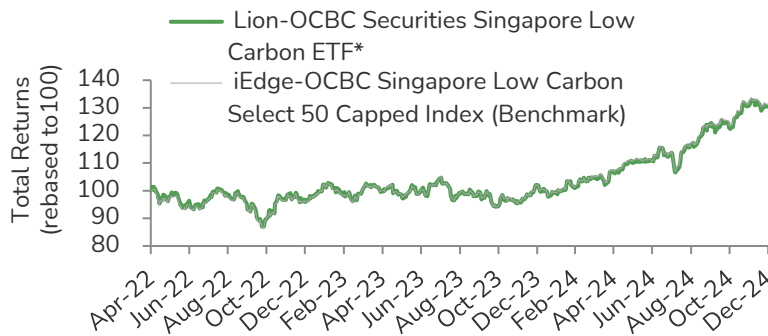


Capped at 7% if market capitalization <USD 200b & 10% if market capitalization ≥USD 200b during rebalancing<sup>3</sup>



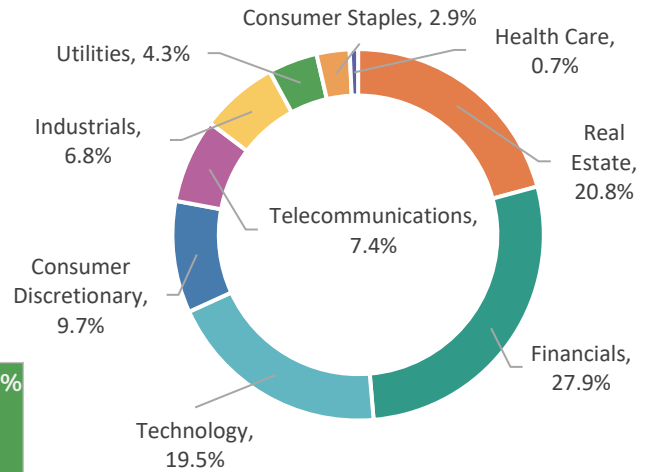
Rebalanced semi-annually (every March and September)

## Lion-OCBC Securities Singapore Low Carbon ETF Performance<sup>4</sup>



From Bloomberg as of 31 December 2024	2024 return	2023 return	Annualized % return since Fund's inception*
Lion-OCBC Securities Singapore Low Carbon ETF	27.8%	5.3%	10.4%
Benchmark Index	28.3%	6.0%	10.6%

## Sector Breakdown



Source: Lion Global Investors, 31 December 2024

\*Returns are based on NAV-NAV basis in SGD and assuming all dividends are reinvested net of all charges payable upon reinvestment. The Lion-OCBC Securities Singapore Low Carbon ETF was listed on 28 April 2022. Opinions and estimates constitute our judgment and along with other portfolio data, are subject to change without notice. Past performance, as well as any prediction, projection, or forecast are not necessarily indicative of future or likely performance.

<sup>1</sup>Semi-annual distributions are paid at the discretion of the Fund Manager. Distributions are not guaranteed and may fluctuate. Past distributions are not necessarily indicative of future payments. Distribution payouts and its frequency might be changed at the Manager’s discretion and can be made out of income, capital or both. Any payment of distributions by the fund may result in an immediate reduction of the net asset value per share/unit. Please refer to LGI website for more information on the income disclosures..

<sup>2</sup> Based on the underlying Index Securities of the iEdge-OCBC Singapore Low Carbon Select 50 Capped Index.

<sup>3</sup> Weightage of individual stocks within the index will be reviewed and rebalanced semi-annually by the index provider (Singapore Exchange Limited). The weights of each Index Security might fluctuate above 7% and 10% respectively due to market movements in between the rebalancing period.

<sup>4</sup> Source: Bloomberg, Lion Global Investors, Singapore Exchange Limited, 31 December 2024

## WHY INVEST IN SINGAPORE NOW?

In a move widely anticipated by markets, the Federal Open Market Committee cut its overnight borrowing rate to a target range of 4.25%-4.5% in December 2024, returning to the level it was at in December 2022 when rates were on the rise. The Fed indicated that it would likely only lower rates twice more in 2025, according to the closely watched “dot plot” matrix of individual members’ future rate expectations. The two cuts indicated halve the committee’s intentions from the last update in September 2024.

The Singapore market is a leading performer among Asian markets this year, and we expect this trend to continue over the next 2-3 years. The ability of Singapore-listed companies to increase dividends above pre-pandemic levels places the Singapore equity market in a stronger position amidst global uncertainty, especially in light of the Fed rate cuts. The Singapore market's growth can be underpinned by improving fund flows into the banking system, the deepening of technology into industrial applications, and its relative performance as a safe haven within Asia.

We expect geopolitical tension and protectionism to characterize this decade, accelerating the need for energy and supply chain security. This would require higher levels of global capital expenditure. Industrial companies in Singapore, such as those in the aviation, marine, and utilities sectors, are well-positioned in the global supply chain to meet the demands of this increase in global capital expenditure, while Singapore's safe haven status can bear greater significance amidst geopolitical uncertainty.

**Figure 1: Valuation and consensus earnings forecast**

Market	12-month Forward P/E ratio			Earnings growth (%)	
	Current	10-year average	Premium	2023 Actual	2024F
US	22.4	18.3	22%	2.4	10.0
<b>Singapore</b>	<b>11.7</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>-6%</b>	<b>14.2</b>	<b>8.4</b>
China	10.3	11.5	-11%	11.6	16.7
Japan	13.9	13.9	0%	0.0	19.0

Source: Thomson Reuters, as of December 2024. The respective benchmark indices are S&P 500 (US), Straits Times Index (Singapore), MSCI China Index (China), and TOPIX (Japan).

Note: F – Consensus Forecast, ex – excluding, P/E – Price to Earnings  
All data are sourced from Lion Global Investors and Bloomberg as of 31 December 2024 unless otherwise stated

Greater volatility is expected to unfold in the coming months. Against the volatile macro backdrop, investors should stay defensive and diversified, while taking into consideration their risk appetite and time horizon.

The Lion-OCBC Securities Singapore Low Carbon ETF provides easy access to 50 leading Singapore companies with lower carbon footprint. It is suitable for investors who wish to stay defensive and diversified, while also supporting a lower carbon Singapore economy.

## HOW DOES THIS ETF COMPARE WITH OTHER SINGAPORE-FOCUSED ETFs?

The Lion-OCBC Securities Singapore Low Carbon ETF tracks the iEdge-OCBC Singapore Low Carbon Select 50 Capped Index (“the Index”), which aims to track performance of the top 50 companies by free-float market capitalisation that are representative of Singapore’s real and financial economy, with a focus on index decarbonisation through reduction of the Index’s Weighted Average Carbon Intensity (WACI). As shown in Figure 2, the Index has a much lower WACI compared with other Singapore benchmarks.

Between 28 April 2022 (ETF’s listing date) and 31 December 2024, the Lion-OCBC Securities Singapore Low Carbon ETF cumulatively outperformed<sup>5</sup> other Singapore-focused ETFs (Figure 3) such as the SPDR STI ETF, Nikko AM Singapore STI ETF and the Xtrackers MSCI Singapore UCITS ETF.

Based on SGX ETF market highlights Q4 2024, this ETF achieved the **second highest returns among SGX-listed Singapore equities ETFs in 2024** and is the **top dividend-paying ETF among SGX-listed Singapore equities ETFs in 2024**. Between 1 January 2023 and 31 December 2024, the ETF’s inclusion of US-listed constituents such as Sea Ltd and Flex Ltd helped boost its performance compared to Singapore-focused ETFs such as the SPDR STI ETF and Nikko AM Singapore STI ETF (Figure 4). Through greater geographical and sector diversification, the Lion-OCBC Securities Singapore Low Carbon ETF offers investors comparable performance but with a much lower carbon footprint. Do good. For your portfolio and our planet.

Figure 2: WACI comparisons among Singapore benchmarks<sup>6</sup>

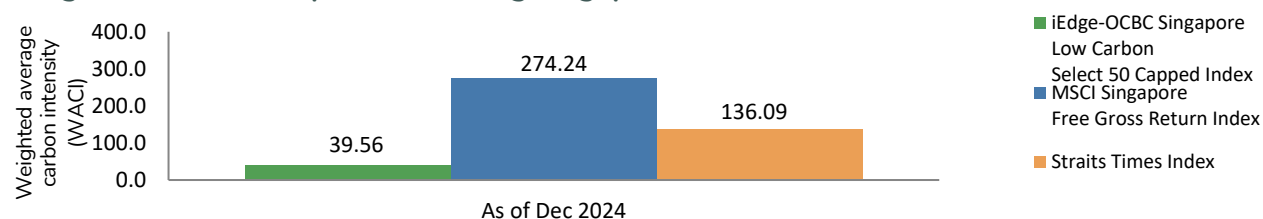
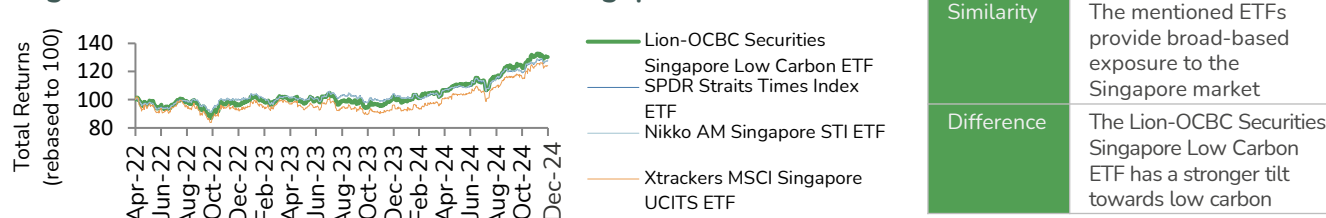


Figure 3: Performance relative to other Singapore-focused ETFs<sup>7</sup>



Similarity	The mentioned ETFs provide broad-based exposure to the Singapore market
Difference	The Lion-OCBC Securities Singapore Low Carbon ETF has a stronger tilt towards low carbon

From Bloomberg as of 31 December 2024	2024 return	2023 return	Annualized % return since Fund's inception*
Lion-OCBC Securities Singapore Low Carbon ETF	27.8%	5.3%	10.4%
SPDR Straits Times Index ETF	22.1%	4.4%	9.3%
Nikko AM STI ETF	23.0%	4.9%	9.8%
Xtrackers MSCI Singapore UCITS ETF	29.3%	3.5%	8.5%

Figure 4: Performance of the ETF's top constituents<sup>8</sup>

Constituent	In the Straits Times Index?	Country of listing	% weight in ETF portfolio	2024 return
Sea Ltd	No	US	8.9%	171.5%
DBS Group Holdings Ltd	Yes	Singapore	7.6%	52.6%
United Overseas Bank Ltd	Yes	Singapore	7.3%	35.2%
Oversea-Chinese Banking Corp Ltd	Yes	Singapore	7.2%	36.5%
Flex Ltd	No	US	7.2%	79.6%
Grab Holdings Ltd	No	US	6.4%	45.2%

<sup>5</sup> Source: Bloomberg, as of 31 December 2024.

<sup>6</sup> Source: SGX Index Edge, as of 31 December 2024.

<sup>7</sup> Source: Bloomberg, as of 31 December 2024. Securities referenced are not intended as recommendations to buy or sell securities.

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<sup>8</sup> Source: Bloomberg, as of 31 December 2024.

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# Disclaimer

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