## Interim Management Report of Fund Performance

# AGF Global Sustainable Growth Equity ETF

March 31, 2024

# Management Discussion of Fund Performance

This management discussion of fund performance represents the portfolio management team's view of the significant factors and developments affecting the fund's performance and outlook.

#### **Results of Operations**

For the six months ended March 31, 2024, AGF Global Sustainable Growth Equity ETF (the "Fund") returned 14.5% (net of expenses) while the MSCI World Net Index returned 21.0%.

The Fund under-performed the MSCI World Net Index due to stock selection. The Information Technology sector was the main detractor from the Fund's performance owing to negative stock selection, as did the Consumer Discretionary sector. This was partially offset by the Energy sector, where an underweight allocation aided relative results. A favorable overweight allocation to the Industrials sector, which was partially offset by negative stock selection, also contributed. From a country perspective, the U.S. and Germany detracted the most due to adverse stock selection. France contributed the most owing to individual stock selection, which was partially offset by an unfavorable overweight allocation to the country. The UK also contributed to overall results due to positive stock selection and a favorable overweight allocation to the country.

During the reporting period, there were no material changes to the composition of the investment portfolio related to the Fund's environmental, social and governance ("ESG") related investment objectives and/or strategies.

The Fund had net redemptions of approximately \$2 million for the current period, as compared to net redemptions of approximately \$1 million in the prior period. The portfolio manager does not believe that redemption activity had a meaningful impact on the Fund's performance or the ability to implement its investment strategy.

#### **Recent Developments**

Global equities rallied strongly during the reporting period. The major central banks of the developed world stopped hiking rates as global inflation levels began slowly coming down from record highs. As the impact of higher interest rates were felt in the U.S. and Europe, the expectation of possible rate cuts and avoiding a recession in 2024 became a real possibility. Throughout 2023, the excitement around the advances in artificial intelligence ("AI") took the world by storm and gave impetus to the stellar performance of some of the biggest technology companies in the world, narrowing market leadership quite noticeably. However, towards the end of 2023, market leadership had widened as a surge in

energy prices due to production cuts brought energy companies back into the spotlight. During the last calendar quarter of 2023, a renewed conflict in the Middle East added concerns about a new disruption to global activity and return of sustained volatility in the market. Fortunately, the fallout did not have too much of an impact on global markets. China's economic revival continued to falter as the country's property sector dragged performance and stimulus packages from the government did little to improve the situation.

In the U.S., despite expectations of a potential recession for the better part of 2023, the U.S. economy ended the calendar year strongly, with a gross domestic product growth figure of 3.4% during the final guarter. As inflation continued to decline steadily through the reporting period, the U.S. Federal Reserve has been careful not to cut rates too fast. Unemployment in the country largely remained low throughout the reporting period, spiking suddenly in February 2024. Non-farm payrolls also added 200,000 jobs on average every month till February. The equity market continued to perform strongly through the reporting period, buoyed by expectations that interest rate cuts may be approaching. Till the end of March 2024, the S&P 500 Index recorded a new record level, forcing leading market analysts to reassess their 2024 target for the index. The Information Technology sector has been the focus of the market rally due to strong performance by several stocks named the 'Magnificent 7'. The demand around Al also led to a rise in demand for chips and semiconductors. The U.S. government's 10-year yield, having hit a peak of 5.0% in mid-October 2023, began a steep decline and ended the year at 3.9%.

Manufacturing facilities, mainly in midwestern and southern states, could find protection if Conservatives control multiple branches of government. 2023 witnessed record ESG and sustainability regulations as investors' interest in sustainable investing rises. Additionally, the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission's adoption of Climate-Related Disclosure Rules ("SEC climate rules") and China's new ESG guidelines had positive market responses. The political backlash and legal scrutiny in the U.S. due to the SEC climate rules should not change companies plans to report on climate risk due to the sheer number of companies aligning with the European Union ("EU") and California climate reporting requirements.

The portfolio manager believes 2024 is poised to be a year of steady project implementations. Due to the long-term backing, the portfolio manager believes commitments from policymakers will fuel investments in sustainable technology and infrastructure for the next decade and beyond. The portfolio manager also believes that regardless of the outcome of the 2024 election, there is a low risk of major change to the tax credits and grants written into law in part

This interim management report of fund performance contains financial highlights, but does not contain either the interim or annual financial statements of the investment fund. You can get a copy of the interim or annual financial statements at your request, and at no cost, by calling 1800 387-2563, by writing to us at AGF Investments Inc., CIBC SQUARE, Tower One, 81 Bay Street, Suite 3900, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5J 0G1, or by visiting our website at www.AGF.com or SEDAR+ at www.sedarplus.ca.

Securityholders may also contact us using one of these methods to request a copy of the investment fund's proxy voting policies and procedures, proxy voting disclosure record, or quarterly portfolio disclosure.

due to the impact on the economy. The portfolio manager's view for equities is a constructive one and is anticipating the return to a more favourable environment for equity investors. Although inflation is cooling off, it may be sticky, suggesting that the decrease may take time, but it has been trending in the right direction. More corporate commitments have been made to leverage subsidies provided through government programs such as the Inflation Reduction Act ("IRA") and Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors Act, after the U.S. doubled the pace of cutting carbon emissions since the passing of the IRA.

The portfolio manager believes the EU Green Deal Industrial Plan and the EU's response to the IRA will likely provide more subsidies and relaxed regulations to push investments in clean energy and technology. China and the EU are competing with the U.S.' green subsidies. ESG and sustainable investing remain under high regulatory scrutiny. Possible momentum includes government subsidies, an increase in private spending and a decrease in cost (the cost of solar and wind have decreased sharply in the last decade). The Fund is well positioned to meet any changes to disclosure or reporting requirements that may result from proposals in the legislative or regulatory landscape. Policy momentum could provide long-term growth prospects for the Fund.

### **Related Party Transactions**

AGF Investments Inc. ("AGFI") is the manager ("Manager"), trustee and promoter of the Fund and is responsible for the day-to-day business of the Fund. AGFI also acts as the investment (portfolio) manager, managing the investment portfolio of the Fund. Under the Declaration of Trust, the Fund pays management fees, calculated based on the Net Asset Value of the Fund. Management fees of approximately \$48,000 were incurred by the Fund during the six months ended March 31, 2024.

AGFI is an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of AGF Management Limited.

#### **Caution Regarding Forward-looking Statements**

This report may contain forward-looking statements about the Fund, including its strategy, expected performance and condition. Forward looking statements include statements that are predictive in nature, that depend upon or refer to future events or conditions, or that include words such as "expects", "anticipates", "intends", "plans", "believes", "estimates" or negative versions thereof and similar expressions.

In addition, any statement that may be made concerning future performance, strategies or prospects, and possible future Fund action, is also a forward-looking statement. Forward-looking statements are based on current expectations and projections about future events and are inherently subject to, among other things, risks, uncertainties and assumptions about the Fund and economic factors.

The forward-looking statements are by their nature based on numerous assumptions, which include, amongst other things, that (i) the Fund can attract and maintain investors and has sufficient capital under management to effect its investment strategies, (ii) the investment strategies will produce the results intended by the portfolio manager, and (iii) the markets will react and perform in a manner consistent with the investment strategies. Although the forward-looking statements contained herein are based upon what the portfolio manager believes to be reasonable assumptions, the portfolio manager cannot assure that actual results will be consistent with these forward-looking statements.

Forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance, and actual events and results could differ materially from those expressed or implied in any forwardlooking statements made by the Fund. Any number of important factors could contribute to these digressions, including, but not limited to, general economic, political and market factors in North America and internationally, interest and foreign exchange rates, global equity and capital markets, business competition, taxation, changes in government regulations, unexpected judicial or regulatory proceedings, technological changes, cybersecurity, the possible effects of war or terrorist activities, outbreaks of disease or illness that affect local, national or international economies (such as COVID-19), natural disasters and disruptions to public infrastructure, such as transportation, communications, power or water supply or other catastrophic events.

It should be stressed that the above-mentioned list of factors is not exhaustive. You are encouraged to consider these and other factors carefully before making any investment decisions and you are urged to avoid placing undue reliance on forward-looking statements. Further, you should be aware of the fact that the Fund has no specific intention of updating any forward-looking statements whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, prior to the release of the next Management Report of Fund Performance.

# Financial Highlights

The following tables show selected key financial information about the Fund and are intended to help you understand the Fund's financial performance for the six months ended March 31, 2024 and the past five years as applicable.

#### Net Assets per Unit(1)

Mar 31, 2024 (\$)	Sept 30, 2023 (\$)	Sept 30, 2022 (\$)	Sept 30, 2021 (\$)	Sept 30, 2020 (\$)	Sept 30, 2019 (\$)
25.20	24.09	30.27	25.00	25.00*	-
s:					
0.25	0.36	0.36	0.28	-	-
(0.12)	(0.24)	(0.24)	(0.30)	-	
(1.01)	(1.31)	(0.72)	0.29	-	
4.46	2.65	(5.85)	4.31	-	
3.58	1.46	(6.45)	4.58	_	_
-	-	-	-	-	-
(0.15)	(0.14)	(0.12)	(0.01)	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-
(0.15)	(0.14)	(0.12)	(0.01)	_	_
28.70	25.20	24.09	30.27	25.00	_
	2024 (\$)  25.20 ss:  0.25 (0.12) (1.01) 4.46  3.58  - (0.15) - (0.15)	25.20 24.09 s: 0.25 0.36 (0.12) (0.24) (1.01) (1.31) 4.46 2.65 3.58 1.46  (0.15) (0.14) (0.15) (0.14)	25.20 24.09 30.27    25.20 24.09 30.27   35:	2024 (\$) 2023 (\$) 2022 (\$) 2021 (\$)  25.20 24.09 30.27 25.00  S:  0.25 0.36 0.36 0.28 (0.12) (0.24) (0.30) (1.01) (1.31) (0.72) 0.29 4.46 2.65 (5.85) 4.31  3.58 1.46 (6.45) 4.58  (0.15) (0.14) (0.12) (0.01) (0.01) (0.15) (0.14) (0.12) (0.01)	2024 (\$) 2023 (\$) 2022 (\$) 2021 (\$) 2020 (\$)  25.20 24.09 30.27 25.00 25.00*  S:  0.25 0.36 0.36 0.28 - (0.12) (0.24) (0.24) (0.30) - (1.01) (1.31) (0.72) 0.29 - 4.46 2.65 (5.85) 4.31 -  3.58 1.46 (6.45) 4.58 -  (0.15) (0.14) (0.12) (0.01) - (0.15) (0.14) (0.12) (0.01) - (0.15) (0.14) (0.12) (0.01) -

### Ratios/Supplemental Data<sup>(1)</sup>

For the periods ended	Mar 31, 2024	Sept 30, 2023	Sept 30, 2022	Sept 30, 2021	Sept 30, 2020	Sept 30, 2019
Total Net Asset Value (\$000's)	18.653	18.271	18.064	16.648	1	
Number of units outstanding (000's)	650	725	750	550	1	_
Management expense ratio <sup>(5)</sup>	0.65%	0.65%	0.65%	0.65%	-	-
Management expense ratio before waivers or						
absorptions <sup>(6)</sup>	0.65%	0.65%	0.65%	0.65%	-	-
Trading expense ratio <sup>(7)</sup>	0.19%	0.14%	0.07%	0.26%	-	-
Portfolio turnover rate <sup>(8)</sup>	44.16%	60.90%	16.77%	25.24%	-	-
Net Asset Value per unit	28.70	25.20	24.09	30.27	25.00	-
Closing market price <sup>(9)</sup>	28.68	25.11	24.07	30.23	N/A	-

### **Explanatory Notes**

- (1) a) This information is derived from the Fund's audited annual financial statements and unaudited interim financial statements. Under International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRS"), investments that are traded in an active market are generally valued at closing price, which is determined to be within the bidask spread and most representative of fair value. As a result, there is no difference between the net assets per unit presented in the financial statements ("Net Assets") and the net asset value per unit calculated for fund pricing purposes ("Net Asset Value").
  - b) The Fund commenced operations in October 2020, which represents the date upon which securities were first made available for purchase by investors.
- (2) Net Assets and distributions are based on the actual number of units outstanding at the relevant time. The increase/decrease from operations is based on the weighted average number of units outstanding over the financial period.
- (3) Distributions were paid in cash/reinvested in additional units of the Fund, or both. The characterization of the distributions is based on management's estimate of the actual income for the year.
- (4) This is not a reconciliation of the beginning and ending Net Assets per unit.

- (5) The management expense ratio ("MER") is calculated in accordance with National Instrument 81-106, based on all the expenses of the Fund (including Harmonized Sales Tax, Goods and Services Tax and interest, but excluding foreign withholding taxes, commissions and other portfolio transaction costs) and the Fund's proportionate share of the MER, if applicable, of the underlying funds and exchange traded funds ("ETFs") in which the Fund has invested, expressed as an annualized percentage of average daily Net Asset Value during the period.
- (6) AGFI waived certain fees or absorbed certain expenses otherwise payable by the Fund. The amount of expenses waived or absorbed is determined annually at the discretion of AGFI and AGFI can terminate the waiver or absorption at any time.
- (7) The trading expense ratio represents total commissions and other portfolio transaction costs, including the Fund's proportionate share of the commissions, if applicable, of the underlying funds and ETFs in which the Fund has invested, expressed as an annualized percentage of average daily Net Asset Value during the period.
- (8) The Fund's portfolio turnover rate ("PTR") indicates how actively the Fund's portfolio advisor manages its portfolio investments. A PTR of 100% is equivalent to the Fund buying and selling all of the securities in its portfolio once in the course of the year. The higher a fund's PTR in a year, the greater the trading costs payable by the fund in the year, and the greater the chance of an investor receiving taxable capital gains in the year. There is not necessarily a relationship between a high turnover rate and the performance of a fund.
  - PTR is calculated based on the lesser of the cumulative cost of purchases or cumulative proceeds of sales divided by the average market value of the portfolio, excluding short-term investments.
- (9) Closing market price on the last trading day of the period, as applicable, as reported on Cboe Canada. Mid price is disclosed if no transaction took place on the last business day of the period.

## **Management Fees**

The Fund is managed by AGFI. AGFI is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Fund, which include providing investment and management services as well as other administrative services required by the Fund. As compensation for such services, AGFI receives a monthly management fee at the annual rate of 0.65%, which includes applicable taxes, based on the Net Asset Value of the Fund, calculated daily and payable monthly. AGFI bears all operating expenses of the Fund except for management fees, brokerage expenses and commissions, costs associated with the use of derivatives (if applicable), income and withholding taxes as well as all other applicable taxes, costs of complying with any new governmental or regulatory requirement

<sup>\*</sup> represents initial Net Assets (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), (8) and (9) see Explanatory Notes

introduced after the Fund was established, costs associated with the establishment and on-going operation of the Independent Review Committee, and extraordinary expenses.

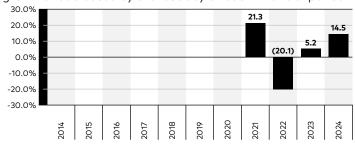
## Past Performance\*

The performance information shown assumes that all distributions made by the Fund in the periods shown were reinvested in additional securities of the Fund. Note that the performance information does not take into account sales, redemption, distribution or other optional charges that would have reduced returns or performance. How the Fund has performed in the past does not necessarily indicate how it will perform in the future.

All rates of return are calculated based on the Net Asset Value.

#### Year-By-Year Returns

The following bar chart shows the Fund's annual performance for each of the past 10 years to September 30, 2023 (interim performance for the six months ended March 31, 2024) as applicable, and illustrates how the Fund's performance has changed from year to year. The chart shows, in percentage terms, how much an investment made on the first day of each financial period would have grown or decreased by the last day of each financial period.



Performance for 2021 represents returns for the period from October 2, 2020 to September 30, 2021.

# **Summary of Investment Portfolio**

As at March 31, 2024

The major portfolio categories and top holdings (up to 25) of the Fund at the end of the period are indicated in the following tables. The Summary of Investment Portfolio may change due to ongoing portfolio transactions of the Fund and the next quarterly update will be in the Quarterly Portfolio Disclosure as at June 30, 2024.

Portfolio by Country	Percentage of Net Asset Value (%)
United States	47.5
France	11.3
Canada	7.4
Japan	6.7
Cash & Cash Equivalents	5.2
Sweden	3.4
Ireland	3.4
Italy	3.1
Denmark	3.0
United Kingdom	2.6
Switzerland	2.1
Finland	2.0
Germany	1.9
South Korea	0.2
Other Net Assets (Liabilities)	0.2

Portfolio by Sector	Percentage of Net Asset Value (%)
Industrials	39.5
Information Technology	21.3
Materials	11.1
Consumer Discretionary	8.1
Health Care	5.8
Cash & Cash Equivalents	5.2
Consumer Staples	2.7
Real Estate	2.5
Financials	1.7
Energy	1.0
Utilities	0.9
Other Net Assets (Liabilities)	0.2

Portfolio by Asset Mix	Percentage of Net Asset Value (%)
United States Equity	47.5
International Equity	39.7
Canadian Equity	7.4
Cash & Cash Equivalents	5.2
Other Net Assets (Liabilities)	0.2

<sup>\*</sup> The indicated rates of return shown here are the historical returns including changes in security value and reinvestment of all distributions and do not take into account sales, redemption, distribution or other optional charges by any securityholder that would have reduced returns or performance. ETFs are not guaranteed, their values change frequently and past performance may not be repeated.

Top Holdings	Percentage of Net Asset Value (%)
Cash & Cash Equivalents	5.2
Ecolab Inc.	4.6
Trex Company Inc.	3.9
Amphenol Corporation	3.6
Denso Corporation	3.4
Kingspan Group PLC	3.4
Garmin Limited	3.4
Tetra Tech Inc.	3.3
Keyence Corporation	3.3
Dassault Systemes SE	3.2
Prysmian SpA	3.1
Schneider Electric SE	3.1
Advanced Drainage Systems Inc.	2.9
Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc.	2.9
Compagnie de Saint-Gobain SA	2.8
Quanta Services Inc.	2.8
Stantec Inc.	2.6
Xylem Inc.	2.6
Vestas Wind Systems A/S	2.6
WSP Global Inc.	2.6
Halma PLC	2.6
Equinix Inc.	2.5
Ball Corporation	2.3
Danone SA	2.2
DSM-Firmenich AG	2.1
Total Net Asset Value (thousands of dollars)	\$ 18,653



For more information contact your investment advisor or:

## AGF Investments Inc.

CIBC SQUARE, Tower One 81 Bay Street, Suite 3900 Toronto, Ontario M5J 0G1 Toll Free: (800) 387-2563

Web: AGF.com

There is no guarantee that AGF ETFs will achieve their stated objectives and there is risk involved in investing in the ETFs. Before investing you should read the prospectus or relevant ETF Facts and carefully consider, among other things, each ETF's investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses. A copy of the prospectus and ETF Facts is available on AGF.com.