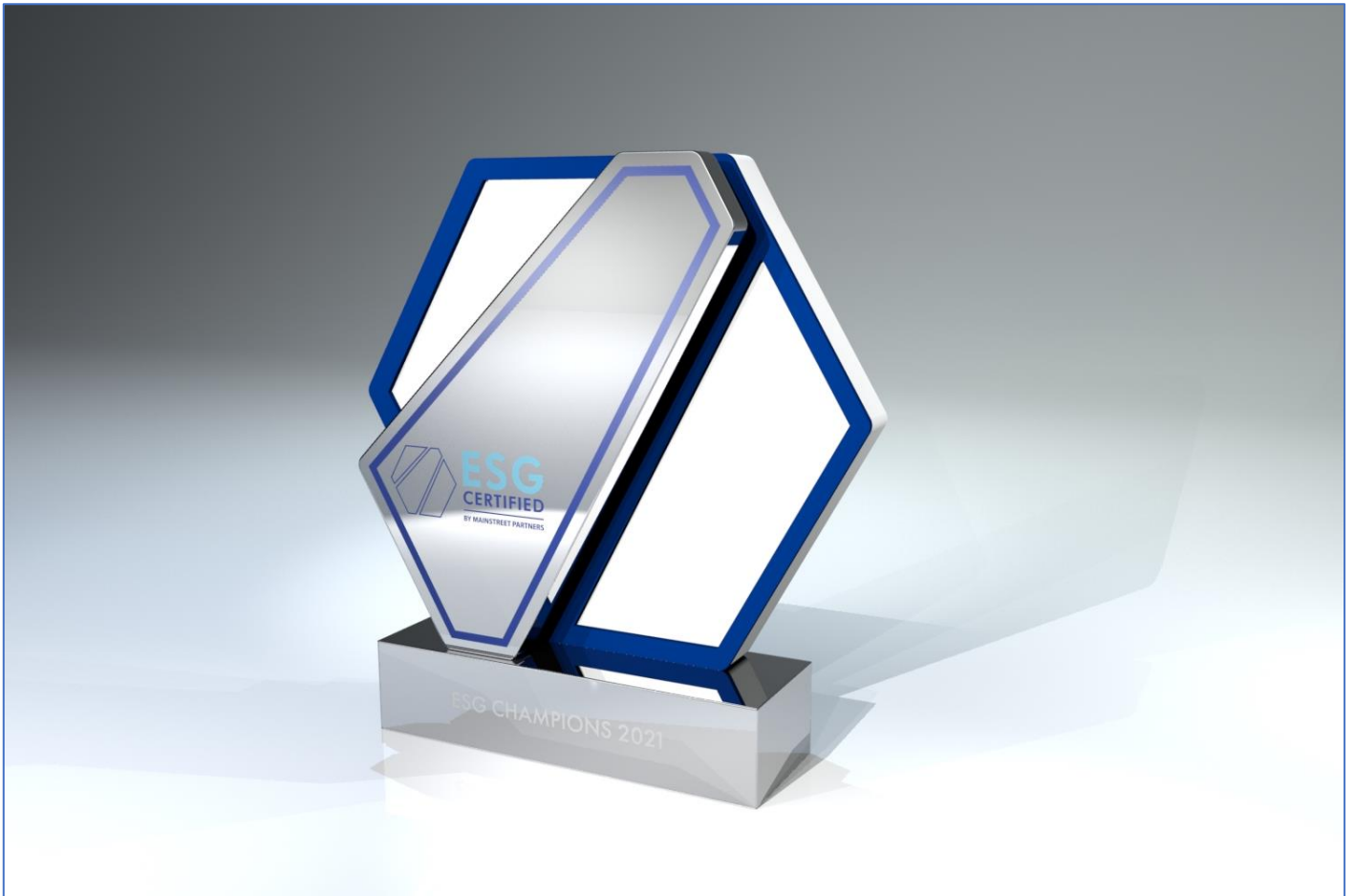


**MainStreet Partners announces the
“2021 ESG Champions”**



BNP Paribas AM and Sycomore AM scoop Best Asset Manager and Best Boutique respectively

London – 15 February 2021 - MainStreet Partners, the London-based ESG Advisory and Portfolio Analytics founded in 2008 and specialist in Sustainable, ESG and Impact Investments, has today announced the funds and asset managers which are the winners of its inaugural “ESG Champions” list.

Neill Blanks, Research Director, commented: *“For many years MainStreet Partners has implemented a structured process using a robust proprietary methodology to evaluate a fund’s ESG and Sustainability level. This holistic methodology was created to help investors identify real sustainable investments across asset classes and to avoid greenwashing.*

In 2021 we have decided to give special recognition to a select number of funds that have excelled in their own category among a total of 350 funds managed by over 60 asset managers which are rated by our team. Given the development and increasing depth of ESG fund offerings we have named nine broad categories across Equities, Fixed Income, Multi-Asset and Thematic investing together with the best overall Asset Manager as well as the best Boutique. Our investment analysts have based their decisions on MainStreet Partners proprietary models and have selected a winner for each of the categories”.

This year’s winners are as follows:

Category	ESG Champions
<i>Best Global Equity Fund</i>	Candriam Sustainable Equity World
<i>Best European Equity Fund</i>	Echiquier Major SRI Growth Europe
<i>Best Global Fixed Income Fund</i>	RobecoSAM Global SDG Credits
<i>Best European Fixed Income Fund</i>	DNCA Invest Beyond European Bond Opportunities
<i>Best Green Bond Fund</i>	NN Green Bond
<i>Best Multi-Asset Fund</i>	Mirova Europe Sustainable Economy
<i>Best Multi-Thematic Fund</i>	Federated Hermes Impact Opportunities Equity
<i>Best Environmental Thematic Fund</i>	Pictet Clean Energy
<i>Best Social Thematic Fund</i>	BNP Smart Food
<i>Best Asset Manager</i>	BNP Paribas AM
<i>Best Boutique</i>	Sycomore AM

On the methodology, **Neill Blanks**, said: *“The new EU regulation requires the identification and disclosure of Sustainability risks which, in our opinion, are beyond the simple average rating of portfolio holdings because they involve the asset manager’s approach to Sustainability, its commitment, its disclosures, how Sustainability principles are incorporated in the investment process and how those may affect financial results. These aspects are crucially influenced by the actions, policies and procedures that the asset managers have to put in place to make informed decisions and*

construct portfolios. Furthermore, when looking at the portfolio, controversies also need to be taken into consideration since company ratings often do not incorporate them in a timely manner.

Our approach overcomes these issues by severally considering the asset manager, team and strategy in addition to the portfolio holdings which means the Sustainability rating is more stable and holistic.”

Methodology:

MainStreet Partners methodology has been used for several years and involves a 3-pillar holistic assessment which considers:

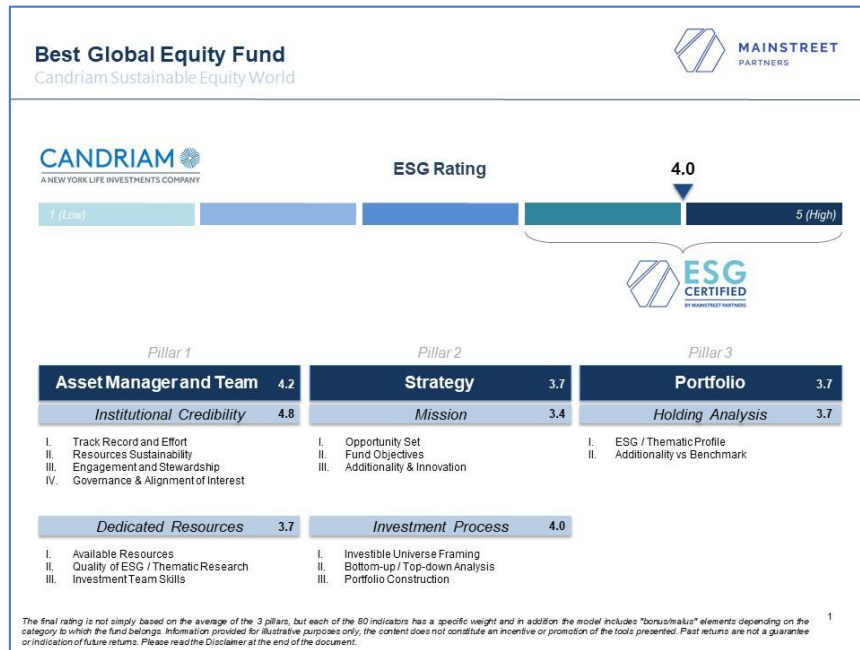
- I. The overall asset management firm;
- II. The fund's strategy;
- III. The individual holdings in the fund.

This enhanced methodology distinguishes them from the major ESG providers which tend to focus only on the underlying holdings or the strategy label. The Sustainability rating ranges from a score of 1 (low) to 5 (high). The final rating is not simply based on the average of the 3 pillars, but each of the 80 indicators has a specific weight and in addition the model includes "bonus/malus" elements depending on the category to which the fund belongs.

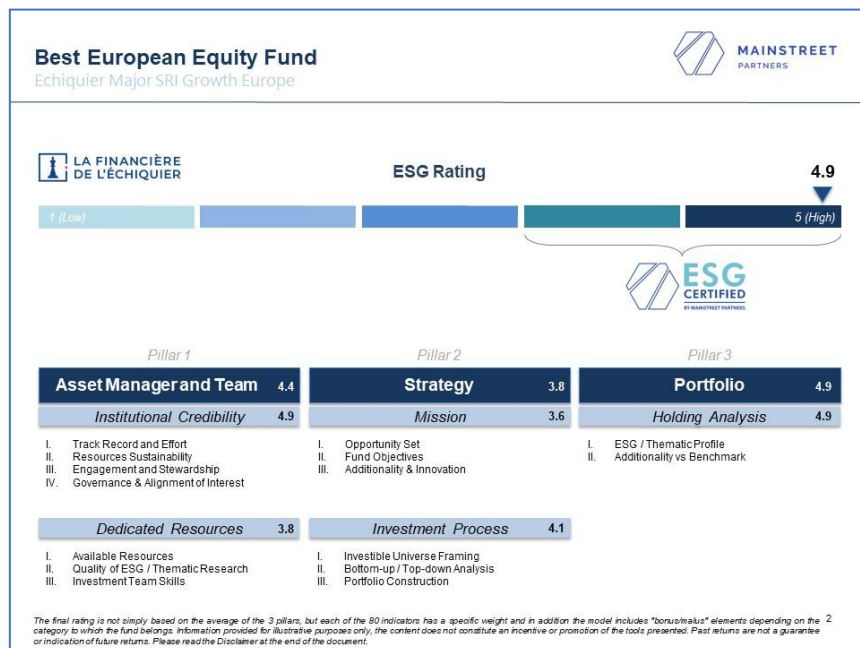


Scorecards:

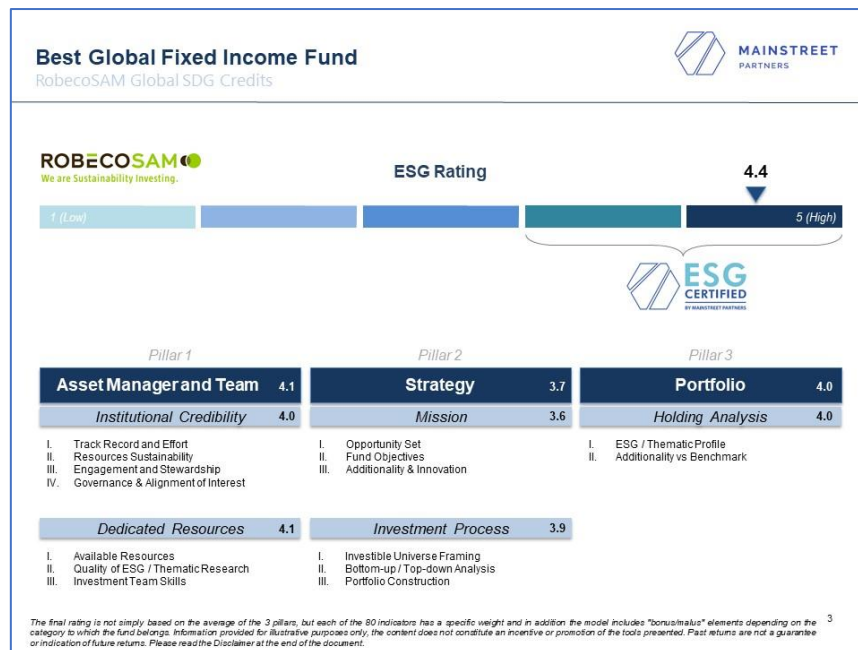
1. Best Global Equity Fund: Candriam Sustainable Equity World



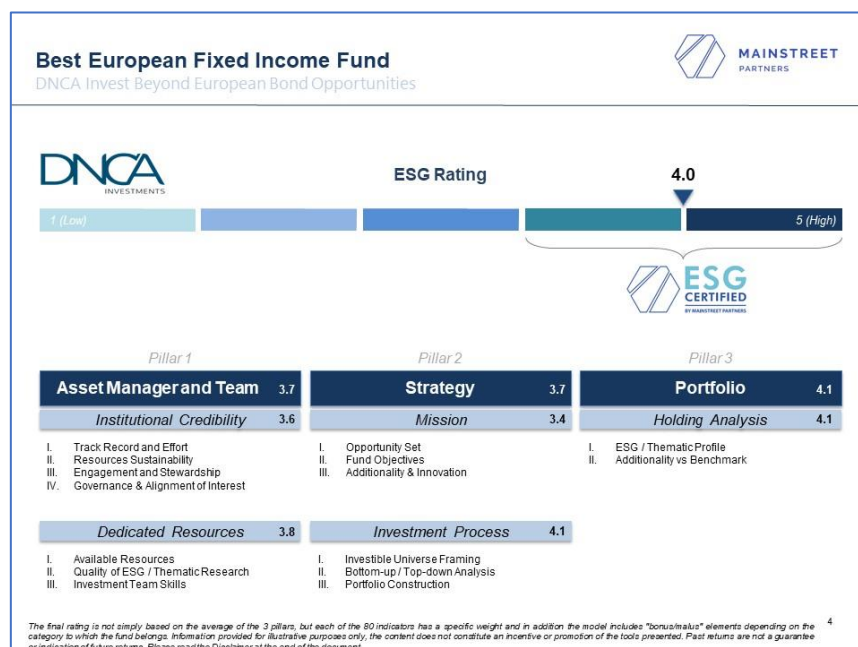
2. Best European Equity Fund: Echiquier Major SRI Growth Europe



3. Best Global Fixed Income Fund: RobecoSAM Global SDG Credits



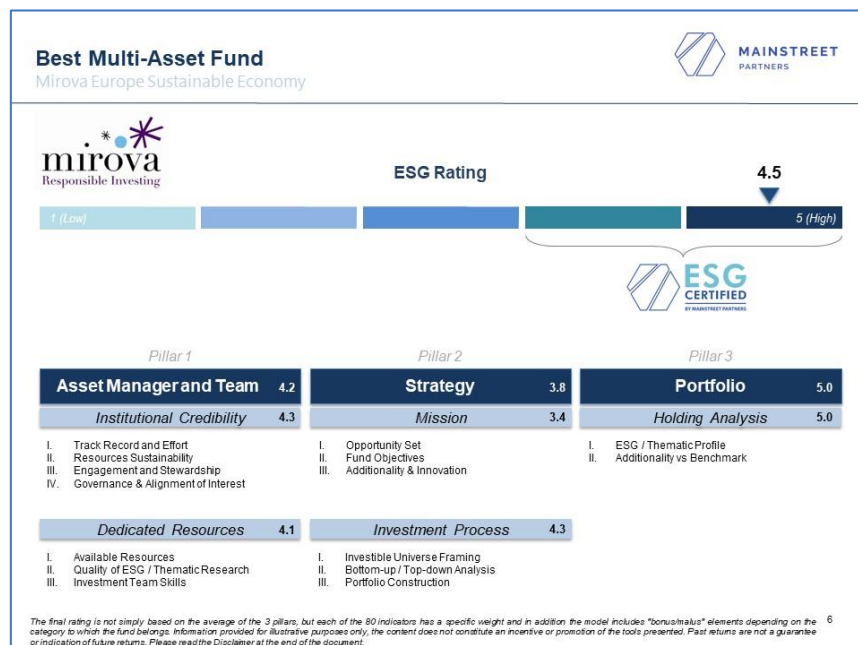
4. Best European Fixed Income Fund: DNCA Invest Beyond European Bond Opportunities



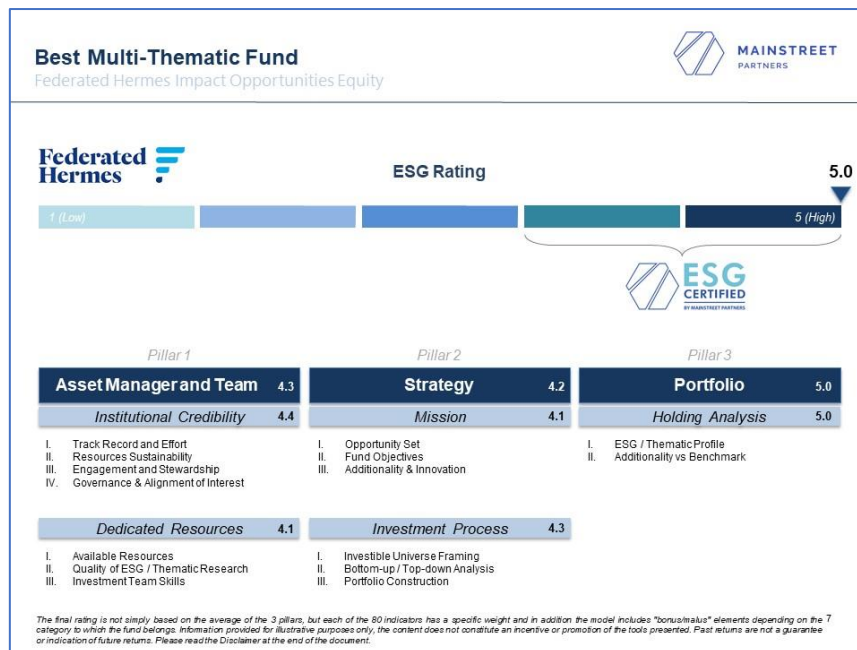
5. Best Green Bond Fund: NN Green Bond



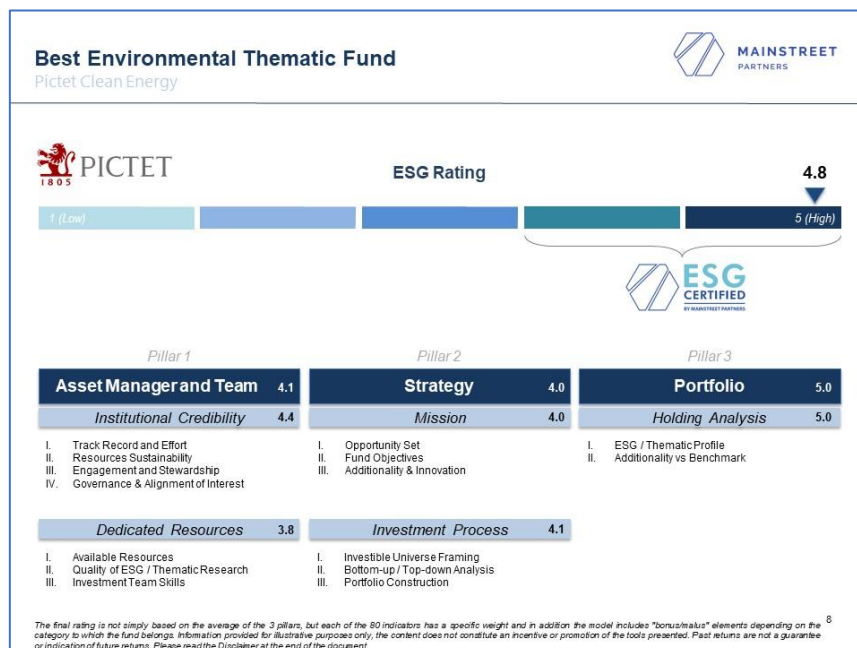
6. Best Multi-Asset Fund: Mirova Europe Sustainable Economy



7. Best Multi-Thematic Fund: Federated Hermes Impact Opportunities Equity



8. Best Environmental Thematic Fund: Pictet Clean Energy



9. Best Social Thematic Fund: BNP Paribas Smart Food



10. Best Asset Manager: BNP Paribas AM



11. Best Boutique: Sycomore AM



- ends -

About MainStreet Partners

<https://www.mspartners.org/>

MainStreet Partners is based in London and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. It consists of two main divisions:

- **ESG Investment Advisory** – offers bespoke investment solutions for creating ESG multi-asset and multi-manager models with mutual funds, single stocks and bonds. The company develops products with its partners which target United Nations Sustainable Development Goals or thematic investments;
- **Portfolio Analytics** – provides a holistic approach to ESG data analysis such as: transparent and detailed Fund Sustainability Ratings, assessment of clients' portfolios to enhance their ESG profile and align them with the "green" regulations.

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