

In Touch



BNP Paribas Asset Management's Update for Journalists No. 308 - 10 December 2018

BNP PARIBAS ASSET MANAGEMENT'S AQUA STRATEGY CELEBRATES TENTH ANNIVERSARY



10 years on from launch, BNPP Asset Management's Aqua strategy continues to attract interest from those looking for meaningful thematic investments

AUM of more than €3.4 billion¹

With assets under management of over €3.4 billion¹, the Aqua strategy has seen strong interest from a range of European investors, including the BNPP network in Benelux, France and Italy.

Return of more than 250%¹ since inception

Since inception in December 2008, the strategy's main fund – BNP Paribas Aqua² – has returned +252.42%¹ (net of all fees), compared with +226.89%¹ for its benchmark, the MSCI World index.

Morningstar
☆☆☆☆☆
(Institutional share class)

The fund has a Morningstar rating of 5 stars for the Institutional share class and 4 stars for the Classic share class (as at 30 November 2018), as well as the LuxFlag ESG label.

YTD inflows of €640 million¹

Year to date inflows for the strategy have totalled €640 million¹ as at the end of October.

Aqua identifies and selects companies addressing global issues in the water sector. Experts believe that the water market will experience exceptional growth rates over the next 30 years because of four key trends:

- rising standards of living in emerging countries

- the renewal of water supply networks in developed countries
- the need to supply better quality water
- the obligation to adapt to climate change

BNPP AM's SRI OFFERING

BNPP AM launched its first SRI strategy in 2002 and now manages SRI assets totalling €35 billion (at 31 December 2017), making our range of SRI funds one of the largest.

The range includes equity, fixed income and money market funds, managed using both best-in-class and thematic approaches.

THE AQUA STRATEGY

Aqua invests in international equities issued by companies with a **minimum of 20% of their activities in the global water sector**, including:

- supply infrastructure (e.g. pumping stations, valves, pipes)
- drinking and waste water treatment
- utilities

Portfolio holdings must observe the **10 principles of the United National Global Compact**, a UN initiative to involve companies in sustainability issues by ensuring they respect universal principles on human rights, labour, the environment and corruption.

The investment strategy is managed by **Impax Asset Management**, BNPP AM's environmental investment specialist, which has won many awards for innovation and investment.

BNP Paribas Aqua is a mutual fund registered in France.

Investments in the funds are subject to market fluctuations and the risks inherent in investments in securities. The value of investments and the income they generate may go down as well as up and it is possible that investors will not recover their initial outlay, the fund described being in risk of capital loss.

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1 Source: BNP Paribas Asset Management at end November 2018 – Share type: Classic, Capitalisation Annual performance net of fees, in EUR, Classic share: 2017: 11.53% ; 2016: 12.04% ; 2015: 12.53%, 2014: 14.46%

2 BNP Paribas Aqua is only available to investors in France. UK investors are able to access the strategy through Parvest Aqua, which has been registered for sale in the UK since July 2015. Parvest Aqua is a sub-fund of the Parvest Luxembourg SICAV.

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