



A bold step in the right direction: TIAA commits General Account to achieve net zero carbon by 2050

Last month, TIAA announced that the firm is taking a bold step with its General Account (GA) by committing it to achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2050. This makes TIAA the largest US-based insurer by AUM to make such a commitment, and puts the \$280 billion insurance investment account that supports the flagship TIAA Traditional product in a position to significantly reduce the carbon footprint of its investments and balance any remaining emissions with investments that remove carbon.

Explaining the decision, new TIAA President and CEO Thasunda Brown Duckett said, “We believe climate risk is an investment risk that we must manage over time, so this pledge is an affirmation of our responsibility to achieve the best possible investment outcomes for our clients. As an active manager of a diversified investment account, we will get to net zero over time through investment selection, portfolio repositioning and continued engagement with companies and carbon producers to reduce emissions around the world.”

The GA will increasingly seek out investments in climate solutions, such as holdings in renewable energy, energy-efficient real estate and other companies making the transition to a low-carbon economy. Nature-based solutions including afforestation, reforestation and sustainable farming will also contribute to achieving net zero carbon emissions.

Nuveen, which manages the GA, incorporates Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) factors into its investment processes across all asset classes, making it uniquely qualified to partner on this goal. This commitment by the GA gives Nuveen's Responsible Investing approach an unprecedented opportunity to showcase the research, due diligence, portfolio construction and ongoing monitoring that has made it a long-standing leader in this space, along with an opportunity to innovate as the space quickly evolves.

“We engage with the management teams of thousands of companies every year to advocate for managing climate risk and other ESG initiatives,” said Amy O’Brien, Nuveen’s Head of Responsible Investing. “Engagement will remain a critical tool that supports the General Account’s efforts as we continue to press carbon-intensive companies and individual assets to align with the goals of the Paris Agreement.”

In line with best practices in the industry, TIAA will implement five-year interim targets leading up to 2050, with the first target set for 2025. A climate report will be released later this year sharing more detail on how the GA anticipates achieving its net zero carbon commitment.

Click here to view the [press release](#).

The TIAA General Account is an insurance company account and is not available to investors as an investment. All guarantees are subject to TIAA's claims-paying ability.

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Responsible investing incorporates Environmental Social Governance (ESG) factors that may affect exposure to issuers, sectors, industries, limiting the type and number of investment opportunities available, which could result in excluding investments that perform well.

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