

Social Choice Low Carbon Equity Fund

Fund at a glance

Retail Class
TLWCX

Retirement Class
TEWCX

Premier Class
TPWCX

Institutional Class
TNWCX

Advisor Class
TCCHX

Inception Date
8/7/2015

Benchmark
Russell 3000 Index¹

The TIAA-CREF Social Choice Low Carbon Equity Fund is a U.S. equity fund that seeks to match the characteristics of the Russell 3000[®] Index while giving special consideration to companies' Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) records. The ESG evaluation process also includes an additional focus on criteria relating to companies' current and future carbon emissions.

Investment objective

The Fund seeks a favorable long-term total return that reflects the investment performance of the overall U.S. stock market while giving special consideration to certain ESG criteria, including criteria relating to current and future carbon emissions.

Investment philosophy

- Provides long-term performance similar to that of a broad U.S. equity benchmark, which allows it to serve as a core U.S. equity allocation in a model portfolio.
- Applies a "best-in-class" ESG performance approach, incorporating proprietary frameworks as well as independent, comprehensive third-party research.
- Assesses companies' ESG-related impacts, both positive and negative, on stakeholders (employees, communities, customers, suppliers and the environment) and monitors adherence to international norms and conventions.
- Maintains a portfolio with higher ESG performance quality than its benchmark.
- Evaluates companies based on current and future carbon emissions, with the objective of maintaining a portfolio with a significantly lower carbon footprint than its benchmark.

Key distinctions

- **Low carbon emphasis.** Climate change is at the forefront of today's environmental concerns. We take a comprehensive approach that combines rigorous environmental, social and governance (ESG) criteria with a thematic overlay to address investor interest in "low carbon" investment options.
- **Competitive return potential.** The Fund seeks returns consistent with a broad U.S. core equity benchmark,¹ and a portfolio that has higher ESG performance quality and a considerably lower carbon footprint relative to that benchmark.
- **ESG leadership focus.** The Fund leverages in-house expertise and independent third-party ESG research, applying industry-specific ESG criteria to identify best-in-class leaders within each sector.
- **A core equity portfolio allocation with lower fees than its peers.²** Our proprietary quantitative process, coupled with an industry-recognized risk model, allows us to capture the long-term performance of the benchmark—making the Fund suitable as a core equity holding for diversified, long-term investors. Its fees are among the lowest in the category.

1. The Russell 3000 Index measures the performance of the stocks of the 3,000 largest publicly traded U.S. companies, based on market capitalization. The index measures the performance of about 98% of the total market capitalization of the publicly traded U.S. equity market. You cannot invest directly in any index. Index returns do not reflect a deduction for fees or expenses.

2. The average and median expense ratio for the Morningstar Large Blend category was 1.03% and 1.00%, respectively as of June 30, 2016. The Fund's expense ratios were as follows as of July 31, 2016: Retail Class 0.71%; Retirement Class 0.57%; Premier Class 0.47%; Advisor Class 0.43% and Institutional Class 0.32%.

Investment process

The portfolio management team seeks to match the risk characteristics of the broad equity Russell 3000® Index using only those stocks that fulfill specific ESG criteria.

1 Establishing the eligible investment universe

TIAA's Responsible Investment team establishes and manages the ESG strategy for the Fund, including the development, continuous enhancement and board-level oversight of the ESG guidelines. The companies we consider for inclusion in the portfolio are those that are leaders in their respective sectors on a broad set of environmental, social and governance criteria. Environmental assessment categories include climate change, natural resources use, waste management and environmental opportunities. Social evaluation categories include human capital development, product quality and safety and social opportunities.

Governance assessment categories include corporate governance, business ethics and government and public policy. We also monitor companies' adherence to international norms and principles—some of which may relate to the environment, customers, human rights and community, labor rights and supply chain and governance. In addition to the overall ESG performance evaluation, the ESG evaluation process includes criteria to address companies' current and future carbon emissions.

TIAA partners with leading global ESG research providers to determine eligibility for TIAA-CREF's Social Choice Fund family based on our ESG criteria.

2 Constructing the portfolio

The portfolio management team uses industry standard optimization and risk models coupled with proprietary techniques to create a portfolio with risk characteristics similar to the benchmark.

Management team

Jim Campagna, CFA Senior Director

- Joined TIAA in 2005
- 24 years of investment experience

Lei Liao, CFA Director

- Joined TIAA in 2012
- 12 years of investment experience

About TIAA Global Asset Management

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[Learn more at TIAA.org](https://www.tiaa.org) or call 800-842-2252

The Fund is subject to certain risks, such as market and investment-style risks. Please consider all risks carefully prior to investing. Because its ESG criteria excludes some investments, the Fund may not be able to take advantage of the same opportunities or market trends as funds that do not use such criteria. Investments in small- to medium-sized corporations are more vulnerable to financial risks and other risks than larger corporations and may involve a higher degree of price volatility than investments in the general equity markets.

You should consider the investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses carefully before investing. Please call 800-842-2252 or go to [TIAA.org](https://www.tiaa.org) for a current prospectus that contains this and other information. Please read the prospectus carefully before investing.

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