



Bluefield Solar Income Fund

Biodiversity Policy

The Bluefield Solar Income Fund (“BSIF”) substantially contributes to the mitigation of climate change through decarbonisation of the energy sector. However, it is also well-positioned to help address the ecological crisis. Within the UK alone, it is estimated that over 50% of biodiversity has been lost since the Industrial Revolution. By enhancing biodiversity across its portfolio, BSIF can deliver wider environmental and societal benefits by helping to support the ecosystems across its assets, which will be further impacted by a changing climate.

This policy communicates BSIF’s ambition to enhance biodiversity across its portfolio and how this will be achieved. The commitments made within this policy will be delivered by BSIF’s key service providers, who work collectively to implement, manage, and monitor biodiversity initiatives across the asset lifecycle.

BSIF acknowledges that not all sites are equal in terms of their biodiversity potential and therefore focus will be given to land holdings where the greater potential exists, with an appreciation of each site’s unique characteristics and opportunities. As standard, BSIF will: safeguard protected species and habitats; identify, assess, and mitigate any potential negative impacts of its operations on the local environment; identify biodiversity-sensitive areas; and comply with its legal and planning commitments.

Working with its service providers, BSIF will demonstrate industry best practices for biodiversity management in relation to its construction projects and site operations, and also explore innovative land management practices and monitoring techniques. BSIF intends to deliver a measurable net gain for biodiversity across its new developments as well as its existing assets. For all new solar developments, BSIF will achieve a minimum average of 20% biodiversity net gain (BNG), with the ambition to exceed this target where possible. This commitment goes further than the requirements of the UK Environment Act, which aims for infrastructure projects to deliver a minimum 10% BNG.

To quantify the biodiversity already present, independent biodiversity assessments will be conducted across at least 10% of sites annually (relating to sites greater than 1MW in capacity). Using this information, biodiversity enhancement measures will be explored to establish a minimum level of biodiversity across the operational portfolio. Emerging biodiversity frameworks will also be considered, in alignment with BSIF’s strategy, as well as opportunities to support biodiversity research.

These commitments are reflected in BSIF’s ESG strategy and associated KPIs. These will be continually reviewed and performance against them monitored, to ensure a positive impact is being delivered.

Adopted by the Board: September 2022

Last reviewed on: 29 November 2022