

# INTERIM MANAGEMENT REPORT OF FUND PERFORMANCE

## **Harvest Clean Energy ETF**

June 30, 2021



The Fund's proxy voting policies and procedures, proxy voting disclosure record, or quarterly portfolio disclosure, can be obtained at your request, and at no cost, by calling us at 1-866-998-8298; by writing to us at Harvest Portfolios Group Inc., 610 Chartwell Road, Suite 204, Oakville, Ontario, L6J 4A5; by visiting our website at www.harvestportfolios.com; or on SEDAR at www.sedar.com.

#### **CORPORATE OVERVIEW**

Harvest Portfolios Group Inc. ("Harvest" or the "Manager") is a Canadian Investment Manager founded in 2009. Harvest is focused on developing investment products that follow three investment criteria.

We (i) endeavor to develop investment products that are clear in their mandate and easy for investors to understand, (ii) strive to be transparent so that our investors can review their financial reports and know exactly what they own and (iii) seek to provide investors with consistent monthly or quarterly income by investing the fund portfolios in well managed companies that have a steady cash flow and dividend-paying history.

#### **INVESTMENT PRODUCT**

The Harvest Clean Energy ETF (the "Fund") invests in an equally weighted portfolio of Equity Securities<sup>1</sup> of 40 Clean Energy Issuers<sup>1</sup> chosen from the Clean Energy Investable Universe<sup>1</sup> that, immediately following each semi-annual reconstitution, rank in the top 40 issuers as measured by market capitalization on an equally weighted basis (in Canadian dollars based on the most recent month end value).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> As defined in the Fund's prospectus dated January 7, 2021.



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#### MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION OF FUND PERFORMANCE

The interim management report of fund performance contains financial highlights but does not contain the complete interim financial statements of the Fund. For your reference, the interim financial statements of the Fund are attached to the interim management report of fund performance. You may obtain additional copies of these documents at your request, and at no cost, by calling toll free at 1(866) 998-8298; by writing to us at Harvest Portfolios Group Inc., 610 Chartwell Road, Suite 204, Oakville, Ontario, L6J 4A5; or by visiting our website at www.harvestportfolios.com; or on SEDAR at www.sedar.com.

Unitholders may also contact us using one of these methods to request a copy of the Fund's proxy voting policies and procedures, proxy voting disclosure record, or quarterly portfolio disclosure.

#### **INVESTMENT OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGY**

The Fund's investment objective is to provide unitholders with the opportunity for capital appreciation. The Fund primarily invests in issuers that are engaged in clean energy related businesses that are listed on a regulated stock exchange in select North American, Asian or European countries.

In order to achieve its investment objectives, the Fund will invest in an equally weighted portfolio of Equity Securities of 40 Clean Energy Issuers chosen from the Clean Energy Investable Universe that, immediately following each semi-annual reconstitution, rank in the top 40 issuers as measured by market capitalization on an equally weighted basis (in Canadian dollars based on the most recent month end value) and in the determination of the Manager, have sufficient liquidity to meet the Fund's investment objectives. If, in the opinion of the Manager, there are not 40 Clean Energy Issuers that meet the investment criteria of the Fund, the Manager may invest in fewer than 40 Clean Energy Issuers.

#### **RISK**

The risks associated with investing in the Fund are as described in the prospectus. There were no material changes to the Fund over the period that affected the overall level of risk of the Fund.

#### **RESULTS OF OPERATIONS**

The Fund began trading following the listing of its units on January 14, 2021 consisting of 50,000 units of Class A units at \$20.00 for proceeds of \$1,000,000. Performance information is not available for periods less than one year.

Clean energy stocks were performing very strongly throughout 2020, as global leaders around the world continued to push toward carbon emission reductions and increased renewable targets. The change in leadership in the US also ushered in a new era of focus on climate change policies with the nomination of Joe Biden to the Presidency bringing along his agenda of Green initiatives and a re-entrance to the Paris Climate Agreement.

However, during the first half of 2021, clean energy stocks encountered a sizeable pullback from the gains witnessed in the year prior. Much of this surrounded a shift in sentiment from growth and momentum focused stocks to value focused stocks, as economic growth assumptions improved, and interest rates started to move higher. Additionally, there seemed to be a pause and some readjustment of aggressive growth expectations as earnings reports were delivered. The Renewable Equipment & Services sub-category was the bigger source of volatility since the launch of the Fund. Areas where assumptions are very sensitive to longer duration growth modelling changes, such as Hydrogen-related stocks, and where Pandemic-related supply chain issues caused short-term concerns, such as in Solar Panel and other Equipment manufacturers, were the concentrated sources of underperformance during the period.

Harvest believes that the changing landscape for renewable energy production and investment represents a long-term structural change and is an environment that the Clean Energy sub-sectors are well positioned to benefit from over the long term, despite the shorter-term volatility.

The Fund invests in a portfolio of the 40 largest Clean Energy Issuers selected from the Clean Energy Investable Universe. The universe includes Equity Securities that are listed on select North American, European and developed Asian stock exchanges that are categorized as renewable energy or renewable energy generation.

The portfolio is equally weighted and follows a systematic process in selecting the top 40 largest Clean Energy Issuers measured by market capitalization and is reconstituted and rebalanced semi-annually.



#### **RECENT DEVELOPMENTS**

The spread of the coronavirus ("COVID-19") has caused volatility in the global financial markets and a slowdown in the global economy. Uncertainty on the impact and the strength of the economic recovery continues with the spread of variants. Although financial markets have been strong over the past year, this uncertainty may have a continued adverse impact on the financial performance of the Fund's investments. If there is renewed spread of COVID-19, the duration and resulting government restrictions could continue to impact the overall economy for an extended period and the Fund's future investment results may be materially adversely affected.

#### **RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

There were no related party transactions during the reporting period, except for management fees and other expense reimbursements paid to Harvest, as noted below in Management and Other Fees.

#### MANAGEMENT AND OTHER FEES

Harvest Portfolios Group Inc. is the Manager of the Fund and is responsible for managing the Fund's overall business and operations and provides key management personnel to the Fund. The Fund pays the Manager an annual management fee of 0.40%, plus applicable taxes, based on a percentage of the average daily net asset value ("NAV") of the Fund.

#### Operating expenses

The Fund is responsible for operating expenses relating to the carrying on of its business, including custodial services, interest, taxes, legal, audit fees, transfer agency services relating to the issue and redemption of units, and the cost of financial and other reports, costs and expenses for the Fund's Independent Review Committee ("IRC"), including fees and expenses of the IRC members and compliance with applicable laws, regulations and policies. The Manager pays for such expenses on behalf of the Fund, except for certain expenses such as interest, and is then reimbursed by the Fund.

#### Other expenses

The Manager will be reimbursed by the Fund for all reasonable costs, expenses and liabilities incurred by the Manager for performance of services on behalf of the Fund in connection with the discharge by the Manager of its duties hereunder. Such costs and expenses may include, without limitation: mailing and printing expenses for reports to unitholders and other unitholder communications; a reasonable allocation of salaries and benefits; and other administrative expenses and costs incurred in connection with the Fund's continuous public offering and other obligations. These expenses are allocated by the Manager on a reasonable basis, across all the Harvest Portfolios Group Inc. Funds, and series of each applicable fund. These expenses were \$10,574 for the period ended June 30, 2021 and are included in the unitholder reporting costs on the Statement of Comprehensive Income (Loss) in the financial statements.

#### Waivers and absorptions

At its sole discretion, the Manager may waive management fees or absorb expenses of the Fund. There were no management fee waivers for the period ended June 30, 2021. The Manager absorbed \$14,537 of expenses of the Fund for the period ended June 30, 2021. The Manager may cease doing so at any time without notice to unitholders. The management expense ratios of the Fund with and without the waivers and absorptions are reported in the Ratios and Supplemental Data table below.

#### RECOMMENDATION OR REPORTS BY THE INDEPENDENT REVIEW COMMITTEE

The Independent Review Committee tabled no special reports and made no extraordinary material recommendations to management of the Fund during the period ended June 30, 2021.



#### **FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS**

The following tables present selected key financial information about the Fund and are intended to help you understand the Fund's financial performance for the period ended June 30, 2021. This information is derived from the Fund's interim financial statements.

THE FUND'S NET ASSETS PER UNIT	2021
Net assets - beginning of period <sup>2</sup>	\$ 20.00
Increase (decrease) from operations	
Total revenue	0.12
Total expenses	(0.06)
Realized gains (losses) for the period	(0.30)
Unrealized gains (losses) for the period	(3.67)
Total increase (decrease) from operations <sup>1</sup>	\$ (3.91)
Distributions <sup>3</sup>	 ,
From net investment income	-
Total annual distributions <sup>3</sup>	\$ -
Net assets - end of period <sup>1</sup>	\$ 15.20

RATIOS AND SUPPLEMENTAL	
DATA	2021
Total net asset value	\$ 66,126,228
Number of units outstanding	4,350,000
Management expense ratio <sup>4</sup>	0.68%
Management expense ratio before	
waivers or absorptions <sup>4</sup>	0.74%
Trading expense ratio <sup>5</sup>	0.54%
Portfolio turnover rate <sup>6</sup>	13.03%
Net asset value per unit	\$ 15.20
Closing market price (HCLN)	\$ 15.18

#### **Explanatory Notes:**

- 1. Net assets and distributions are based on the actual number of units outstanding at the relevant time. The increase (decrease) from operations is based on the weighted average number of units outstanding over the reporting period. It is not intended that the Fund's net assets per unit table act as a continuity of opening and closing net assets per unit.
- 2. Net assets, at the commencement of operations on January 11, 2021 was \$20.00.
- 3. Distributions, if any, are paid in cash.
- 4. Management expense ratio ("MER") is based on total expenses (excluding commissions and other portfolio transaction costs) of the stated period and is expressed as an annualized percentage of the daily average net asset value during the period.
- 5. The trading expense ratio represents total commissions and other portfolio transaction costs expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average net asset value during the period.
- 6. The Fund's portfolio turnover rate indicates how actively the Fund's portfolio advisor manages its portfolio investments. A portfolio turnover of 100% is equivalent to the Fund buying and selling all of the securities in its portfolio once in the course of the period. The higher a Fund's portfolio turnover rate, the greater the trading costs payable by the Fund and the greater the chance of an investor receiving taxable capital gains. There is not necessarily a relationship between a high turnover rate and the performance of a Fund.



#### **Past Performance**

The performance information presented herein assumes all dividends of the Fund during the periods presented were reinvested in additional securities of the Fund. The performance information does not take into account sales, redemptions, or other charges that would have reduced returns or affected performance. Past performance of the Fund is not necessarily indicative of how it will perform in the future.

#### YEAR-BY-YEAR RETURNS

The Fund's performance is not shown as National Instument 81-106, the regulatory guideline for Continuous Disclosure, does not permit reporting of performance for any investment fund that has been in existence less than one year.

#### **SUMMARY OF INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO**

The major portfolio categories and top holdings of the Fund at the end of the period are indicated in the following tables. A detailed breakdown of the Fund's holdings is available in the "Schedule of Investments" section of the Fund's interim financial statements.

#### As at June 30, 2021

Top 25 Holdings	% of Net Asset Value
China Longyuan Power Group Corporation Limited, Class H	4.0
VARTA AG	3.5
EnerSys	3.5
Infratil Limited	3.3
VERBUND AG, Class A	3.2
TransAlta Renewables Inc.	3.1
SunPower Corporation	3.1
ERG S.p.A.	3.1
Enphase Energy, Inc.	3.0
Northland Power Inc.	3.0
Mercury NZ Limited	2.9
First Solar, Inc.	2.8
Xinyi Solar Holdings Limited	2.8
Vestas Wind Systems AS	2.8
Xinyi Energy Holdings Limited	2.8
Daqo New Energy Corp. ADR	2.7
Contact Energy Limited	2.7
EDP Renováveis S.A.	2.6
Atlantica Sustainable Infrastructure PLC	2.6
Siemens Gamesa Renewable Energy S.A.	2.5
SolarEdge Technologies, Inc.	2.5
Sunnova Energy International Inc.	2.4
ITM Power PLC	2.4
Orsted A/S	2.4
Innergex Renewable Energy Inc.	2.3
Total	72.0

This summary of investment portfolio may change due to the ongoing portfolio transactions of the Fund. Quarterly updates of the Fund's investment portfolio are available from Harvest Portfolios Group Inc. at <a href="https://www.harvestportfolios.com">www.harvestportfolios.com</a>.



## **SECTOR ALLOCATION**

Sector	% of Net Asset Value
Utilities	56.9
Industrials	24.5
Information Technology	18.0
Cash and other assets and liabilities	0.6
Total	100.0

#### **GEOGRAPHIC ALLOCATION**

Country of Risk	% of Net Asset Value
United States	27.8
China	13.4
Canada	12.4
New Zealand	11.0
Spain	9.5
Germany	5.6
Denmark	5.2
Norway	4.0
Austria	3.2
Italy	3.1
United Kingdom	2.4
France	1.8
Cash and other assets and liabilities	0.6
Total	100.0





## **Head Office**

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#### CAUTION REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This document may contain forward-looking statements relating to anticipated future events, results, circumstances, performance or expectations that are not historical facts but instead represent our beliefs regarding future events. By their nature, forward-looking statements require us to make assumptions and are subject to inherent risks and uncertainties. There is significant risk that predictions and other forward-looking statements will not prove to be accurate. We caution readers of this document not to place undue reliance on our forward-looking statements as a number of factors could cause actual future results, conditions, actions or events to differ materially from the targets, expectations, estimates or intentions expressed or implied in the forward-looking statements. Actual results may differ materially from management expectations as projected in such forward-looking statements for a variety of reasons, including but not limited to market and general economic conditions, interest rates, regulatory and statutory developments, the effects of competition in the geographic and business areas in which the Fund may invest and the risks detailed from time to time in the Fund's prospectus or offering memorandum. We caution that the foregoing list of factors is not exhaustive and that when relying on forward-looking statements to make decisions with respect to investing in the Fund, investors and others should carefully consider these factors, as well as other uncertainties and potential events, and the inherent uncertainty of forward-looking statements. Due to the potential impact of these factors, the Fund does not undertake, and specifically disclaims, any intention or obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, unless required by applicable law.

