# Using ESG Signals to Short

February 2023



#### Disclaimer



providers, as well as their directors, officers, shareholders, employees or agents (collectively: "Confluence Parties") do not guarantee the accuracy, completeness, adequacy or timeliness of any information, including ratings and rankings and are not responsible for errors and omissions or for the results obtained from the use of such information and Confluence Parties shall have no liability for any errors, omissions, or interruptions therein, regardless of the cause, or for the results obtained from the use of such information. CONFLUENCE PARTIES DISCLAIM ANY AND ALL EXPRESS OR IMPLIED WARRANTIES, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO ANY WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY, SUITABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE OR USE. In no event shall Confluence Parties be liable to any party for any direct, indirect, incidental, exemplary, compensatory, punitive, special or consequential damages, costs, expenses, legal fees, or losses (including, without limitation, lost income or lost profits and opportunity costs) in connection with any use of the information contained in this document even if advised of the possibility of such damages. Confluence ratings and rankings are statements of opinion as of the date they are expressed and not statements of fact or recommendations to purchase, hold, or sell any securities or to make any investment decisions. Confluence ratings and rankings should not be relied on when making any investment or other business decision. Confluence's opinions and analyses do not address the suitability of any security. Confluence does not act as a fiduciary or an investment advisor. While Confluence has obtained information from sources believed to be reliable, Confluence does not perform an audit or undertake any duty of due diligence or independent verification of any information it receives. Confluence keeps certain activities of its business units separate from each other in order to preserve the independence and objectivity of their respective activities. As a result, certain business units of Confluence may have information that is not available to other Confluence business units. Confluence has established policies and procedures to maintain the confidentiality of certain non-public information received in connection with each analytical process. Confluence may receive compensation for its ratings and certain analyses. Confluence reserves the right to disseminate its opinions and analyses. At times, Confluence's public ratings and analyses are made available on its website (www.ConfluenceAnalytics.com) and may be distributed through other means, including via Confluence-issued publications and third-party redistributors. This material is not intended as an offer or solicitation for the purchase or sale of any security or other financial instrument. Securities, financial instruments or strategies mentioned herein may not be suitable for all investors. Any opinions expressed herein are given in good faith, are subject to change without notice, and are only correct as of the stated date of their issue. Prices, values, or income from any securities or investments mentioned in this report may fall against the interests of the investor and the investor may get back less than the amount invested. Where an investment is described as being likely to yield income, please note that the amount of income that the investor will receive from such an investment may fluctuate. Where an investment or security is denominated in a different currency to the investor's currency of reference, changes in rates of exchange may have an adverse effect on the value, price or income of or from that investment to the investor. The information contained in this material does not constitute advice on the tax consequences of making any particular investment decision. This material does not take into account your particular investment objectives, financial situations or needs and is neither intended as a recommendation of particular securities, financial instruments or strategies to you nor is it considered to be investment advice. Before acting on any information in this material, you should consider whether it is suitable for your particular circumstances and seek professional advice.

DISCLAIMER: Any assumptions, opinions and estimates constitute our judgment as of the date of this material and are subject to change without notice. Confluence Capital Analytics Inc. ("Confluence") and its affiliates and any third-party

www.confluenceanalytics.com



#### Agenda

**Quick Review of Signal Process** 

**ESG Factors that Underperformed US Benchmark** 

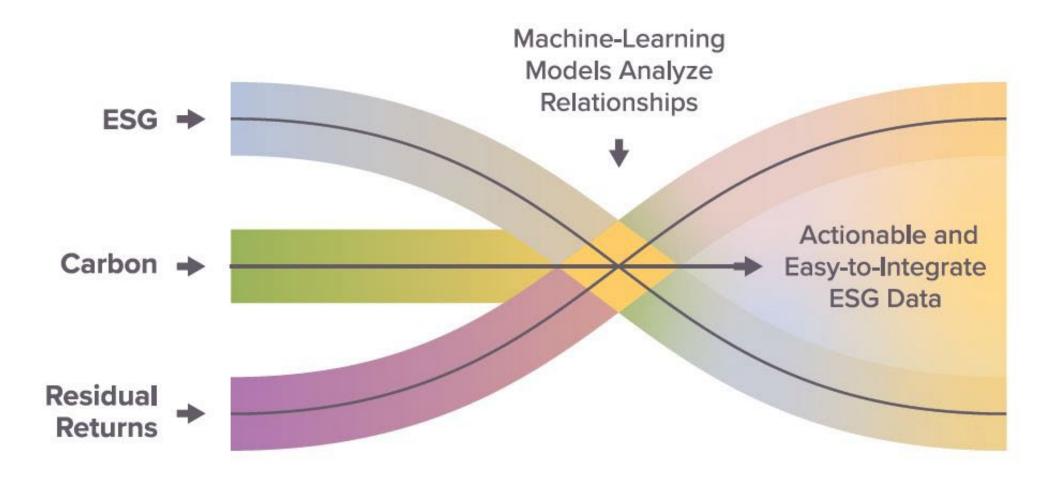
**US ESG Signals Short Model** 

**ESG Factors that Underperformed European Benchmark** 

**European ESG Signals Short Model** 



## **ESG & Carbon Signal Process**





### **Our Signals Lead to Better Outcomes**

#### **Aggregate Rankings**

An unbiased view of ESG and carbon rankings, at the individual stock and fund levels, derived from a comprehensive aggregation of numerous ESG datasets.

#### Performance Rankings

Performance-focused rankings of stocks and funds deduced by uncovering the ESG and carbon factors most correlated with positive historical returns.

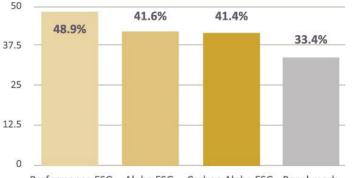
#### **Rankings Forecast**

12-month forecasts of our Aggregate Rankings, which include a top-level rank as well as rankings for each underlying E-S-G component.

#### Alpha Forecast

12-month forward alpha forecasts at both the stock and fund levels, based on key ESG and carbon factors shown to be able to predict alpha historically.

#### US Large Caps (Confluence Signals Since Inception)



Performance ESG Alpha ESG Carbon Alpha ESG Benchmark

www.confluenceanalytics.com



## **Defining Signals**

	Description	Use Cases
ESG Rank	Equal-weighted score of E, S, and G pillars	Risk Analysis Reporting
Performance ESG	Score based on Top 5 ESG KPIs positively correlated with residual returns	Risk Analysis Reporting Investment Signal
Alpha ESG Signal	Rank based on 12-month return model of residual returns, ESG data and deltas	Risk Analysis Investment Signal
Alpha ESG Carbon Signal	Rank based on 12-month return model of residual returns, Carbon metrics, ESG data and their deltas	Risk Analysis Investment Signal

# **US Large Cap Factors Underperforming 3yr**

Bottom performing ESG Factors and Signals from the Russell 1000 ETF (IWB) over 3 years

Two (Bottom/Short) ESG Signals show significant levels of alpha generation

We will construct a short portfolio using these factors and see how it performs

ESG Factor	<u>3yr Return</u>	Alpha	# of Companies	
IWB ESG Universe (EQW)	39.35	8.68	843	
Top E	39.01	8.33	190	
Top Sector Price Mo (LT)	36.82	6.14	67	
Bottom Price Mo (ST)	30.7	0.02	51	
IWB ETF	30.67			
Bottom Sector Price Mo (ST)	29.18	- <b>1.</b> 49	51	
Top Carbon Mkt Cap	24.52	-6.15	110	
Bottom ESG	19.72	-10.95	32	
Bottom G	17.03	- <b>1</b> 3.64	76	
Top Scope 3 Mkt Cap	16.94	- <b>13</b> .73	101	
Bottom Diversity	14.04	-16.64	22	
Bottom E	8.23	-22.44	29	
Bottom ESG Alpha Signal	4.48	-26.19	42	
Bottom S	0.51	-30.17	23	
Bottom ESG Performance	-6.06	-36.73	41	

Confluence

Notes:

- 3yr Returns are equal weighted, rebalanced monthly

- Alpha is vs Russell 1000 ETF (IWB)



## ESG Short Signal – US Large Cap

ORLY

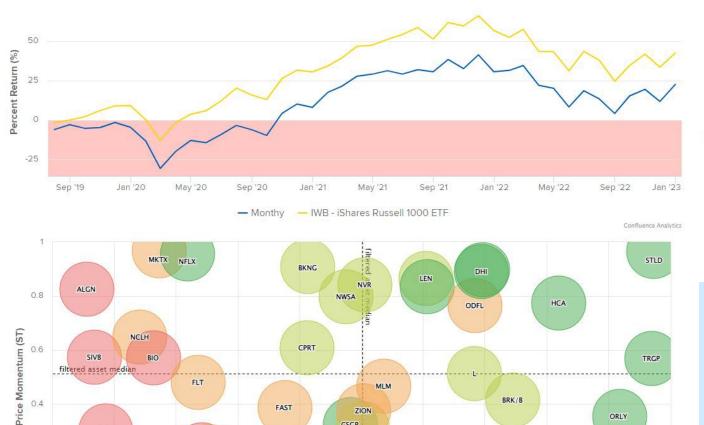
CTRA

0.9

Confluence Analytics

MOH

0.8



ZION

0.5

Price Momentum (LT)

BRO

ROL

0.6

0.7

CSGP

CHTR

SBNY

0.1

0.2

0 0 GNRC

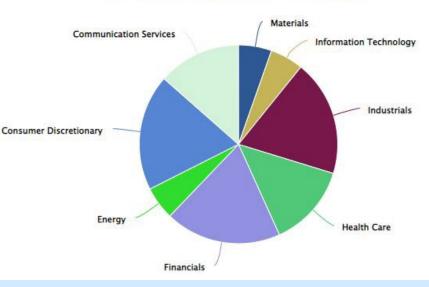
LYV

0.3

0.4

0.2

Percent Allocation Per Sector



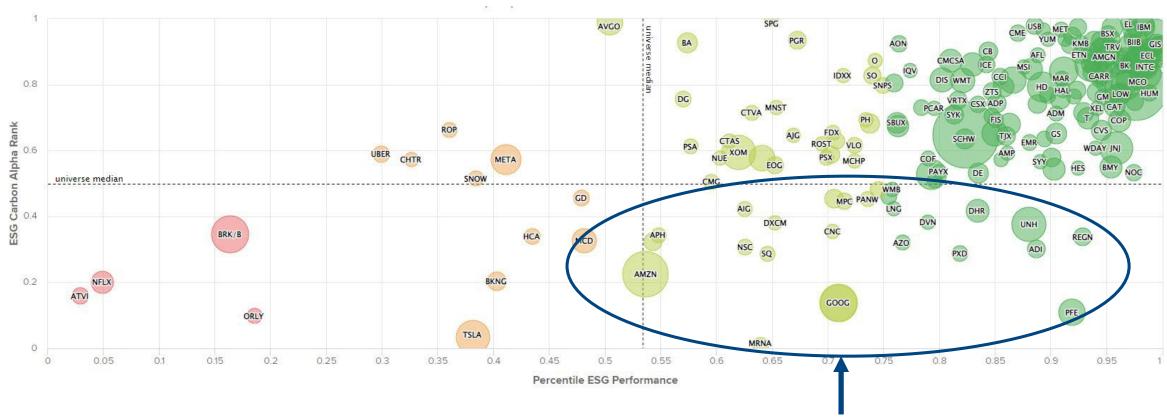
#### **ESG Short Signal – US Large Cap**

Underperformed over backed tested data history by over 1000bps

Signal Components: Bottom Ranked ESG Performance & Alpha Signals plus Social Rank



## **ESG Short Signal – IWB ETF**



High ranked ESG Companies that are forecasted to underperform over the next 12 months



## **European Factors Underperforming 3 Yrs**

	ESG Factor	Syr Return	Alpha	# of Companies
Pottom norforming ECC	EAFE MSCI ETF (EFA)	14.15		
Bottom performing ESG	International Developed ESG Universe	12.77	-1.39	305
Factors and Signals from the	Top E	12.56	-1.6	144
	Top Carbon	12.42	- <b>1</b> .73	99
iShares Europe ETF(IEV)	Top Sector Price Mo	10.45	-3.7	50
over 3 years	Top Sector Price Mo (LT)	10.27	-3.89	47
	Top Carbon Mkt Cap	8.76	-5 <mark>.</mark> 39	84
	Top Price Mo	7 <mark>.6</mark> 5	-6.5	48
Low Governance/Diversity	Top Price Mo (LT)	6.58	-7 <mark>.</mark> 57	45
scores and our ESG	Bottom Carbon ESG Alpha Signal	4.36	-9.79	41
	Top Scope 3 Mkt Cap	2.26	-11.89	72
Performance Signal both	Bottom Price Mo (LT)	0.81	-13.35	52
generate considerable levels	Bottom Sector Price Mo (LT)	-0.25	- <b>1</b> 4.4	52
	Bottom Sector Price Mo (ST)	-0.7	-14.86	50
of alpha on the short side	Bottom Price Mo (ST)	-0.82	- <b>1</b> 4.98	50
	Bottom Price Mo	-9.55	-23.71	52
	Bottom Sector Price Mo	-9.64	-23.79	52
We will construct a short	Top Carbon Alpha Signal	-10.04	-24.2	62
portfolio using these factors	Bottom ESG Performance	-20.29	-34.44	19
	Top ESG Alpha Signal	-24	-38.15	53
and show the data behind	Bottom E	-24.04	-38.2	13
those decisions in	Bottom S	-32.95	-47 <mark>.</mark> 11	6
	Bottom ESG	-34.82	-48.97	7
subsequent pages	Bottom G	-55.12	-69.27	9
	Bottom Diversity	-56.83	-70.99	5

ESG Factor

**3vr** Return

Alpha

# of Companies

Notes:

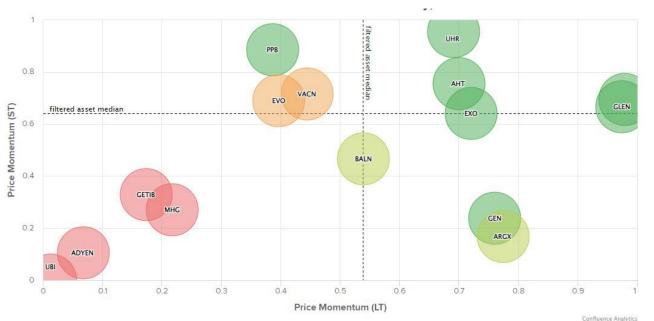
- 3yr Returns are equal weighted, rebalanced monthly

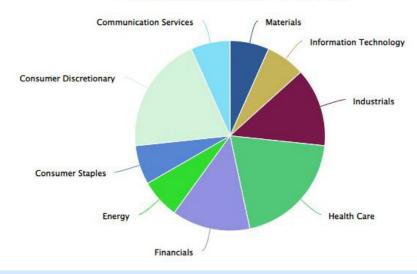
- Alpha is vs iShares Europe ETF (IEV)



### **ESG Short Signal - European Shorts**







#### **ESG Short Signal – Europe**

Outperformed over 1yr (-16.8 vs. -3.2) and over the history of our available data set

#### Constructed from Low ESG Performance Signals and Governance / Diversity Ranks

**Percent Allocation Per Sector** 



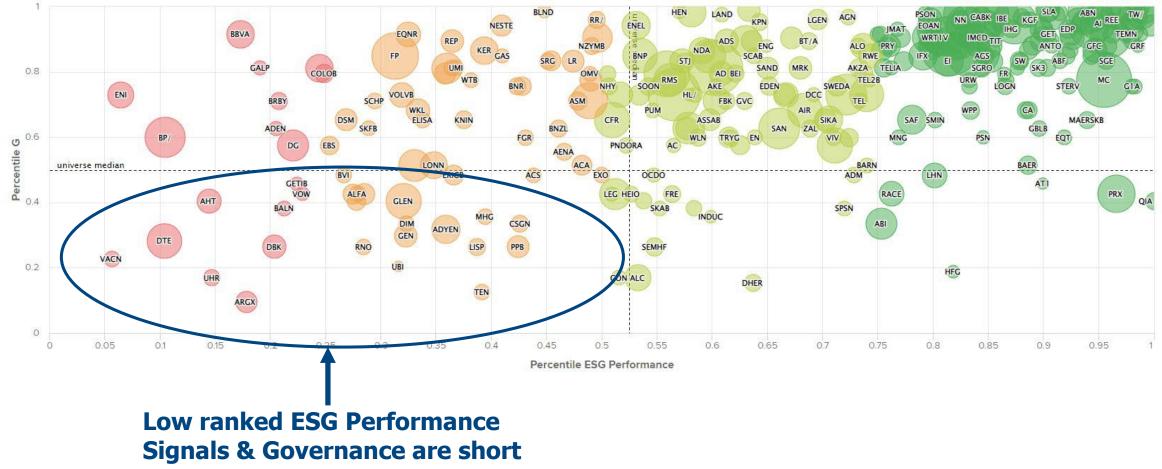
### ESG Short Signal – IEV ETF (Performance ESG vs Diversity)



Low ranked ESG Performance Signals & Diversity are short candidates



## ESG Short Signal – IEV ETF (Performance ESG vs Governance)



candidates

# Thank you!

