



John Hancock Hedged Equity & Income Fund

Notification of Sources of Distribution

This notice provides shareholders of the John Hancock Hedged Equity & Income Fund (NYSE: HEQ) with important information concerning the distribution declared on March 1, 2024, and payable on March 28, 2024. No action is required on your part.

Distribution Period: March 2024

Distribution Amount Per Common Share: \$0.2500

The following table sets forth the estimated sources of the current distribution, payable March 28, 2024, and the cumulative distributions paid this fiscal year to date from the following sources: net investment income; net realized short term capital gains; net realized long term capital gains; and return of capital or other capital source. All amounts are expressed on a per common share basis and as a percentage of the distribution amount.

Source	<u>For the period 01/1/2024-03/31/2024</u>		<u>For the fiscal year-to-date period 01/1/2024-03/31/2024¹</u>	
	Current Distribution (\$)	% Breakdown of the Current Distribution	Total Cumulative Distributions (\$)	% Breakdown of the Total Cumulative Distributions
Net Investment Income	0.1237	49%	0.1237	49%
Net Realized Short- Term Capital Gains	0.1092	44%	0.1092	44%
Net Realized Long- Term Capital Gains	0.0171	7%	0.0171	7%
Return of Capital or Other Capital Source	0.0000	0%	0.0000	0%
Total per common share	0.2500	100%	0.2500	100%

Average annual total return (in relation to NAV) for the 5 years ended on February 29, 2024 4.88%

Annualized current distribution rate expressed as a percentage of NAV as of February 29, 2024 8.53%

Cumulative total return (in relation to NAV) for the fiscal year through February 29, 2024 0.95%

Cumulative fiscal year-to-date distribution rate expressed as a percentage of NAV as of February 29, 2024 2.13%

You should not draw any conclusions about the Fund's investment performance from the amount of this distribution or from the terms of the Fund's managed distribution plan.

¹ The Fund's current fiscal year began on January 1, 2024 and will end on December 31, 2024.

The amounts and sources of distributions reported in this Notice are only estimates and are not being provided for tax reporting purposes. The actual amounts and sources of the amounts for tax reporting purposes will depend upon the Fund's investment experience during the remainder of its fiscal year and may be subject to changes based on tax regulations. The Fund will send you a Form 1099-DIV for the calendar year that will tell you how to report these distributions for federal income tax purposes.

The Fund has declared the March 2024 distribution pursuant to the Fund's managed distribution plan (the "Plan"). Under the Plan, the Fund makes fixed quarterly distributions in the amount of \$0.2500 per share, which will continue to be paid quarterly until further notice.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact your financial professional or call the John Hancock Investment Management Closed-End Fund Information Line at 1-800-843-0090, Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., Eastern Time.