

# **Governance** ("ESG") Investing

**Considerations** and Approaches

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# **Presented By**



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# **Learning Objectives**

Gain a broader and clearer understanding of the following:

- ESG and other sustainable investment options
- 2 ESG trends, challenges, and concerns
- The information, tools, and resources utilized by investors to perform ESG analysis
- The risks evaluated through an ESG approach and how these risks vary by issuer
- The performance of ESG fixed income and equity indices and sustainable investment funds
- Steps, factors, and objectives to consider when developing an ESG investment approach



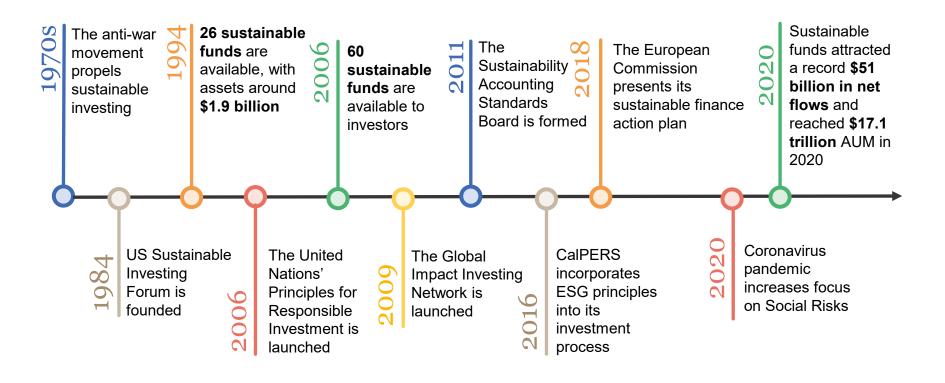


Introduction to ESG & Sustainable Investing





# The History of Sustainable Investing





# **Approaches to Sustainable Investing**



#### SRI

Avoid socially adverse industries like fossil fuels, tobacco, alcohol, and weapons



# **ESG Integration**

Systematically consider impact of environmental, social, and governance risks



# **Thematic**

Align objectives with values, such as UN PRI Sustainable Development Goals



# **Impact**

Seek companies that have a direct impact on positive societal change (clean energy)

**Exclusionary** 

**Risk Management** 

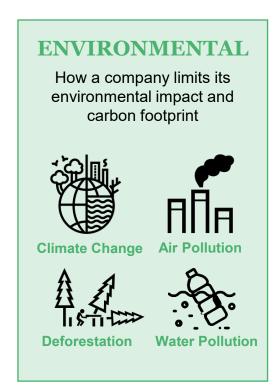
**Goals Driven** 

**Social Outcome** 

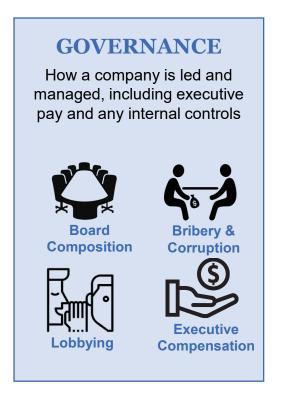


#### What is ESG Investing?

- ESG investing is a sustainable investment approach
  - More inclusive than Socially Responsible Investing (exclusionary approach)
  - Broader in scope than Thematic and Impact investing
- Incorporates <u>measurable non-financial ESG factors</u> into an investment analysis







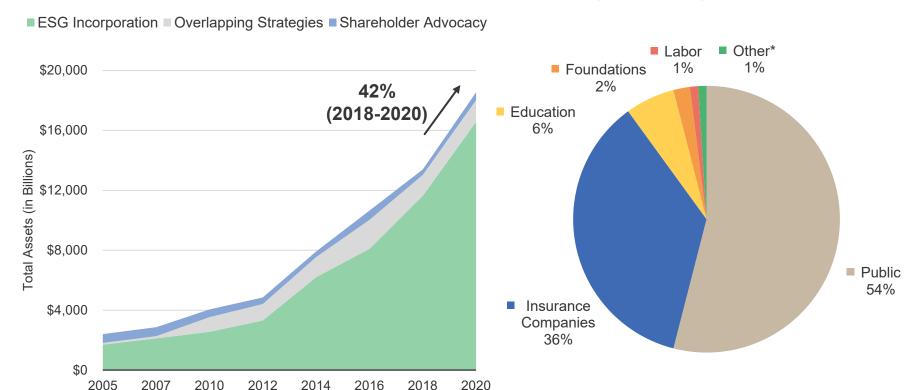




# **Sustainable Investing Continues to Grow Rapidly**

# Sustainable Investing in the United States 2005-2020

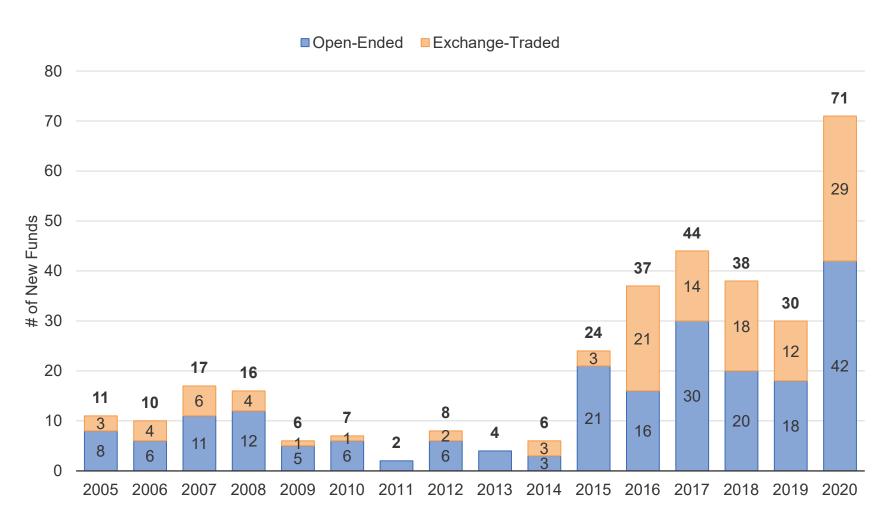
# Institutional Investor ESG Assets, by Investor Type, 2020



<sup>\*</sup>Other consists of family offices, healthcare institutions, faith-based institutions and other nonprofits that collectively represent about 1 percent of ESG assets in 2020 Source: US SIF Foundation 2020 Report on US Sustainable and Impact Investing Trends



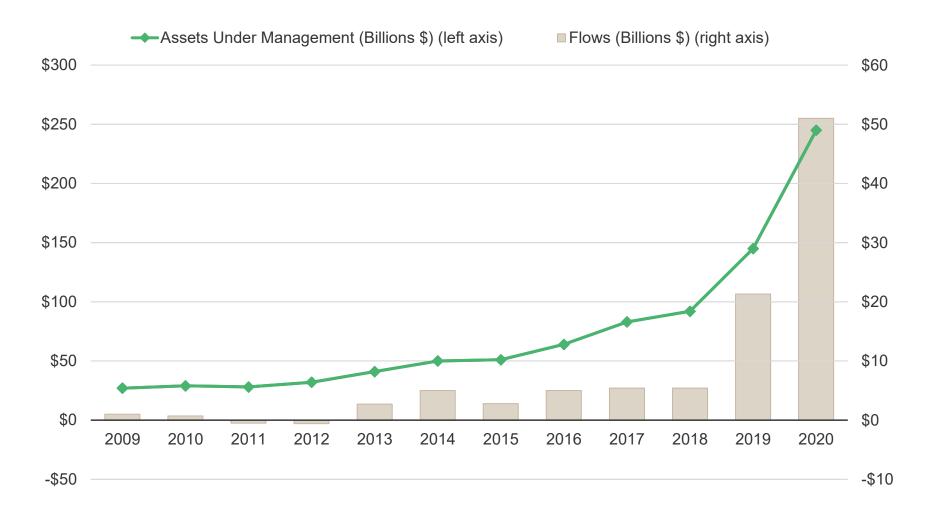
#### **ESG Trends: New Sustainable Fund Launches**



Source: Morningstar, "Sustainable Investing: The Evolving Landscape & the Path Forward." Published 2021. Note: 40 open-end funds in the report were launched between 1971 and 2004. The earliest ETF launch was in 2005. Includes 20 funds that subsequently have liquidated. Does not include original launches of funds that have subsequently repurposed.



#### **ESG Trends: Fund Flows and Assets**



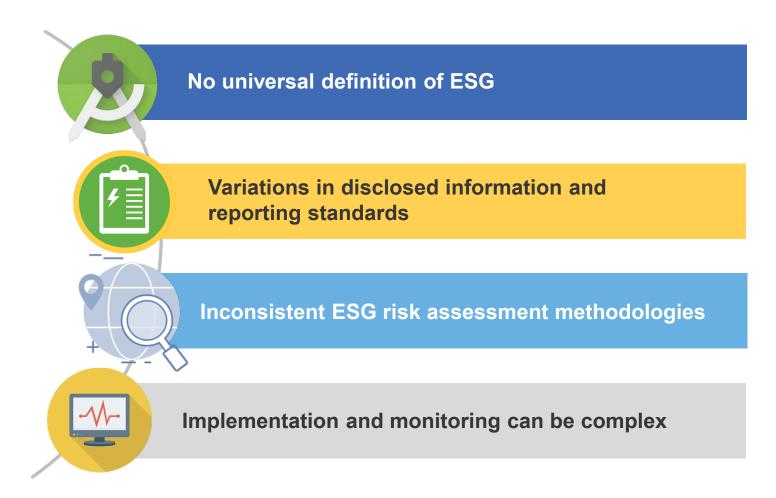


## Why Do Investors Implement an ESG Investment Approach?





# **ESG Challenges and Concerns for Investors**





## The SEC Is Paying Close Attention to ESG Investing

- The SEC issued a Risk Alert on April 9, 2021 that raised the following concerns related to ESG investing:
  - Inconsistent portfolio management practices
  - Inadequate internal controls
  - Inconsistent marketing materials and disclosures
  - Proxy voting practices that are not consistent with stated approaches
  - Unsubstantiated or potentially misleading claims regarding ESG approaches
  - Compliance programs that did not adequately address ESG issues
- SEC is encouraging investment managers to "say what you do, do what you say."



April 9, 2021

The Division of Examinations' Review of ESG Investing\*

#### I. Introduction

Investor demand for investment products and financial services that incorporate environmental, social, and governance ("ESG")<sup>1</sup> factors has increased in recent years. In response to this demand, a range of investment advisers have offered several ESG investment options, including registered investment companies and pooled investment vehicles, e.g., private funds (collectively, "funds"), and separately managed accounts. Today we are issuing this Risk Alert to highlight observations from recent exams of investment advisers, registered investment companies, and private funds offering ESG products and services (collectively, "firms").

The Division has observed that firms approach ESG investing in various ways. In making investment decisions, some advisers and funds consider ESG factors alongside many other factors, such as macroeconomic trends or company-specific factors like a price-to-earnings ratio, to seek to enhance performance and manage investment risks. Others focus on ESG practices because they believe investments with favorable ESG profiles may provide higher returns or result in better ESG-related outcomes. For example, some ESG funds select companies that have demonstrated a commitment to a particular ESG factor, such as companies with policies aimed at minimizing their environmental impact. Some advisers and funds take into account ESG factors by applying negative, positive, or norms-based screens to investments. Others focus on engaging with companies with a goal of improving specific ESG-related practices. Certain

Source: SEC Risk Alert, April 9, 2021.





#### **ESG Tools & Resources**

Disclosure Frameworks & Standards







Data Collectors & Information Providers



REFINITIV |

**Bloomberg** 



**Analytics Providers** 





**MSCI** 



Moody's









**USISIF** 

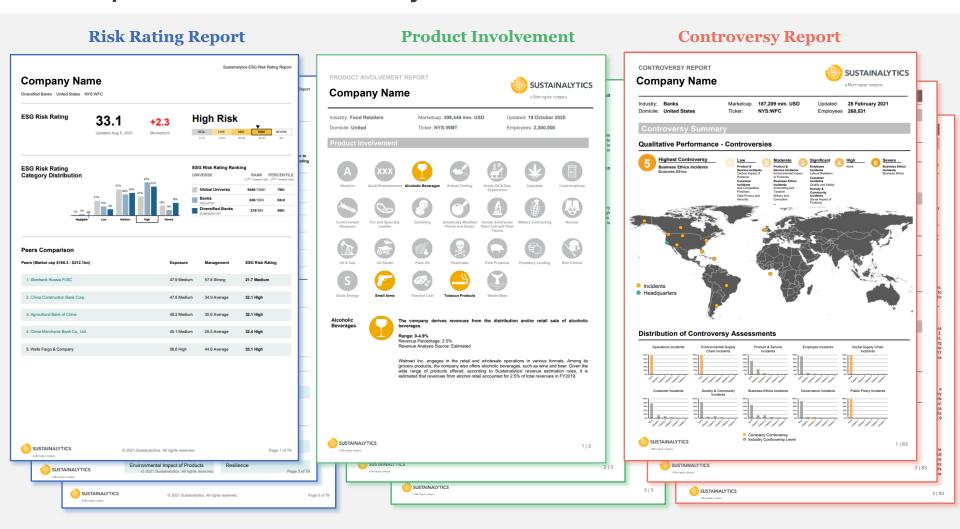


# **ESG Tools & Resources Continued (continued)**





# **Example Resources – ESG Analytics Provider**







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#### How is ESG Risk Measured?

- Evaluation focuses on exposure to, and management of, material ESG risks
- Ineffective management of material ESG risks could have a significant financial impact on company performance and enterprise value



FINANCIAL

DATA

#### COMPANY DATA

SHAREHOLDER
MEETING RESULTS

MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

#### **ESG RISK EXPOSURE**

MATERIAL ESG RISKS, CONTROVERSIES AND UNFORESEEABLE EVENTS

#### **ESG RISK MANAGEMENT**

POLICY, PROGRAMS AND PERFORMANCE

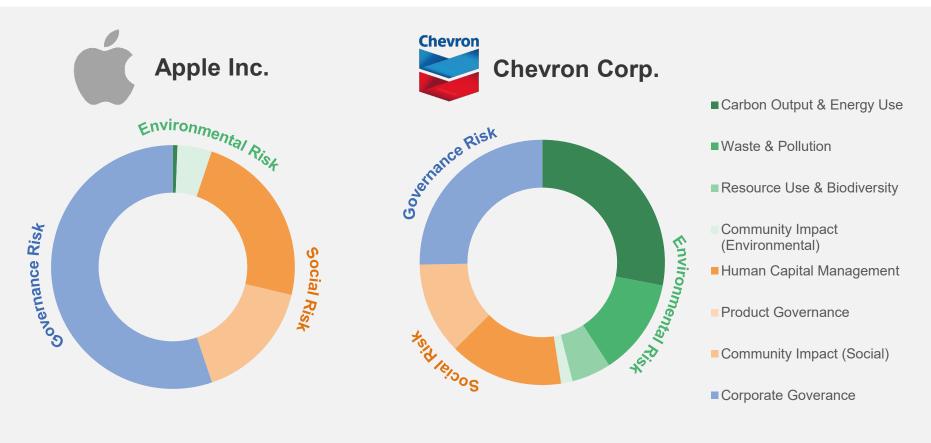
ESG RISK RATING

Source: Sustainalytics 23

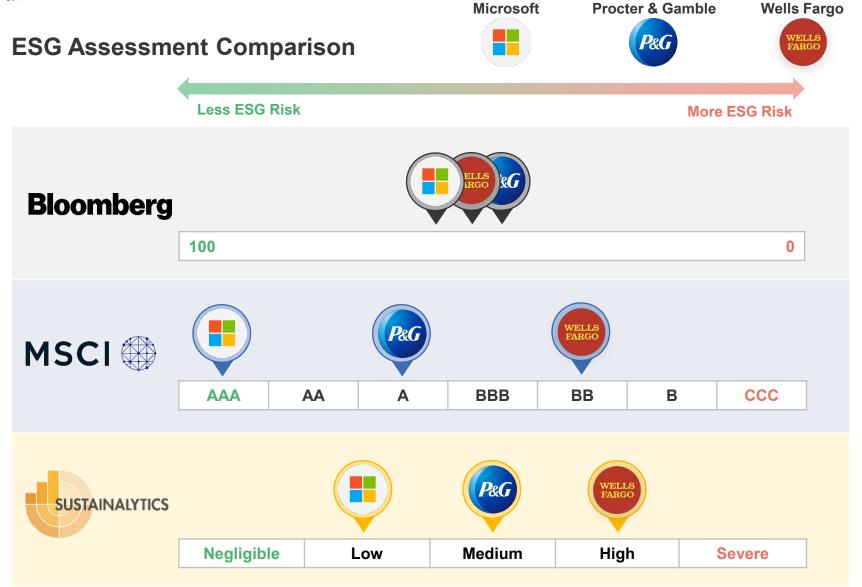


# **Example: Comparing & Evaluating ESG Risks**

ESG risks differ by industry and are driven by the nature of each industry's business operations









# ESG Assessment Comparison: Wells Fargo & Co.



Bloomberg
57.9 / 100

	vs History	vs Peers
Environmental	Better	Better
Social	Better	Neutral
Governance	Better	Worse

MSCI	
ВВ	

Compared to other companies in the banks industry

ESG Leader	Average	ESG Laggard
Financing Environmental Impact	<ul> <li>Corporate Governance</li> <li>Privacy &amp; Data Security</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Corporate Behavior</li> <li>Human Capital Development</li> <li>Consumer Financial Protection</li> <li>Access to Finance</li> </ul>



High Risk

**Business Ethics** 33.8%

Data Privacy and Security 16.9%

Corporate Gov. 11.2%

**Product** Gov. 11.2%

Human 10.3%

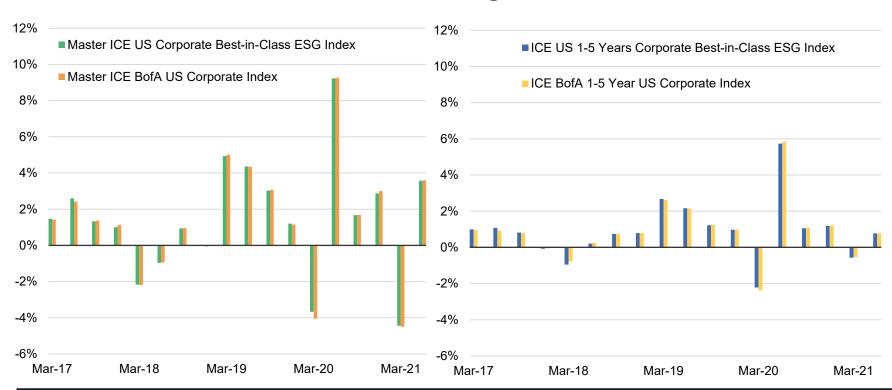
**ESG** Capital Integration Resilience 8.8%

7.9%





# Fixed Income ESG Index Performance Aligns with Non-ESG Index



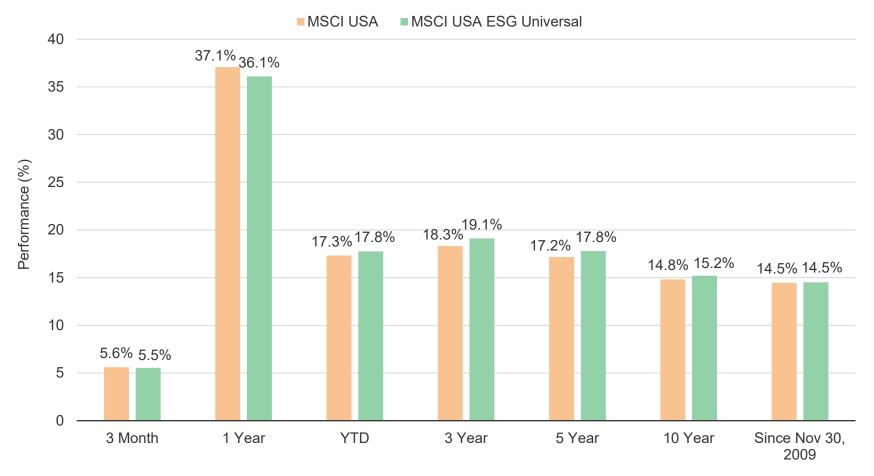
Historical Return Comparison (January 1, 2017 – June 30, 2021)				
	Master ESG Corporate Index	Master Non-ESG Corporate Index	1-5 Years ESG Corp Index	1-5 Year Non-ESG Corporate Index
Annualized Return	5.92%	5.86%	3.69%	3.69%
# of Quarters Outperformed	8 of 18	10 of 18	7 of 18	11 of 18



## **Public Equity ESG and Non-ESG Index Historical Performance**

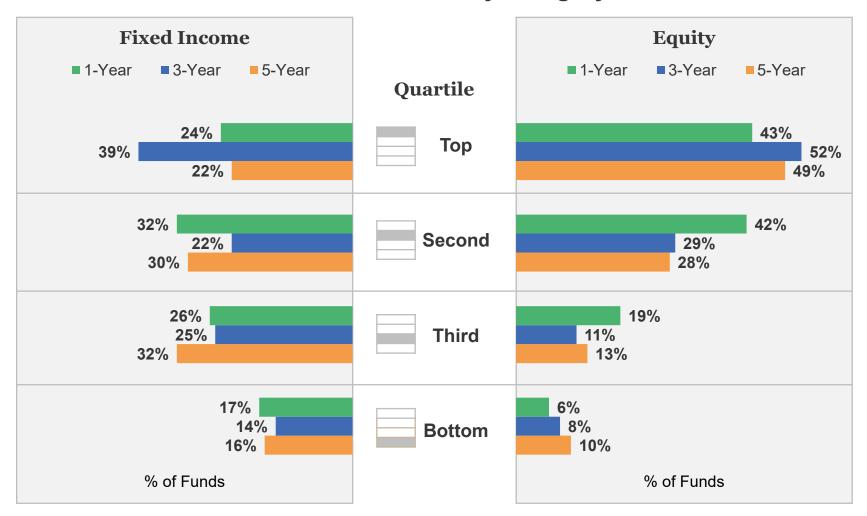
#### **MSCI Large Cap Price Returns**

July 31, 2021





## Sustainable Fund Performance: Ranked by Category Quartile





# Key Steps in Implementing an ESG Approach



**Identify ESG Priorities & Objectives** 



**Define ESG Investment Criteria** 



**Evaluate Strategy & Investment Vehicle Options** 



**Analyze ESG Integration Impact** 



**Update Investment Policy with ESG Parameters** 



**Integrate ESG Into the Investment Process** 



Monitor Results and Revise Approach as Needed



## **Determine ESG Investment Objectives & Considerations**

#### **Key Investment Factors**

# Sustainable Investment Objectives & Priorities

- Align investment approach with sustainable investment objectives
- Consider ESG risks in the investment process
- Reduce environmental risk exposure
- Adopt an ESG approach that is objective and transparent

ESG strategy options that align with objectives

Maintain appropriate diversification options

Impact on investment performance

Flexibility to revise the ESG approach

Evaluate additional costs and resources to monitor

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# **Evaluate ESG Investment Approaches**

ESG Approach	ESG Investment Criteria Overview
Top Performers	<ul> <li>Eligibility based on issuer ESG risk assessments</li> <li>Limit eligibility to issuers that maintain medium or lower ESG risk ratings</li> </ul>
Hybrid Approach	<ul> <li>Base eligibility on top performer ESG investment criteria</li> <li>Exclude specific issuers or industries, such as fossil fuels</li> </ul>
Industry Tilts	<ul> <li>No exclusions. Apply higher allocations to issuers with better ESG risk ratings</li> </ul>
E, S, or G Focus	<ul> <li>Limit exposure to issuers with higher environmental, social, or governance risk based on industry exclusions and ESG risk drivers</li> </ul>



#### **Review ESG Investment Vehicle Options**

#### **ETFs / Mutual Funds**

#### **Separately Managed Accounts**

Investment manager employs an integrated one-size-fits-all ESG approach.

#### Flexibility/ Approach

Customized ESG objectives and approach based on investor's ESG goals.

Less transparency in fund management or security selection process.

#### **Transparency**

Greater transparency in the security selection process.

Passively managed funds may have lower expense ratios. Actively managed fund expenses tend be higher.

#### Cost

Fees may vary by manager and approach. May be lower or greater than Fund expense ratios.

- Easier to open an account
- Ideal for "smaller" investors
- No ESG customization needs



Best Suited Investor

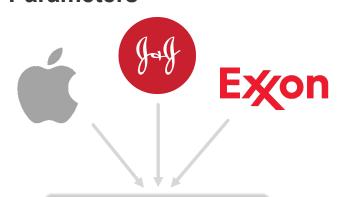


- Greater customization. Approach based on investor values & ESG objectives
- Investors that prefer the flexibility to adjust their ESG approach

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# Separately Managed Account: Example Application of ESG Investment Parameters



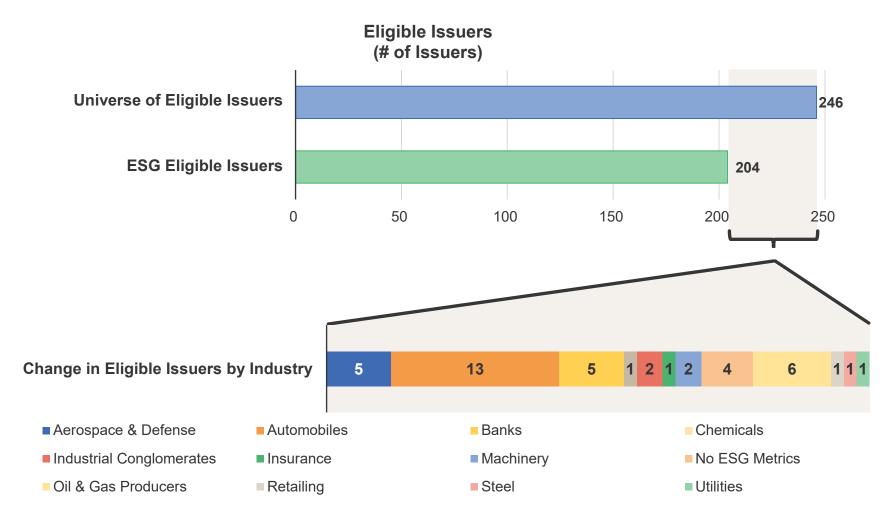
#### **Example ESG Investment Parameters**

- 1. Maximum ESG Risk Rating of *medium* or lower risk
- 2. Industry Exclusions Oil & Gas Producers

Issuer	Apple	Johnson & Johnson	Exxon Mobil Corp
Credit Ratings	AA+	AAA	AA
ESG Risk Rating	Low Risk <b>√</b>	High Risk <b>X</b>	High Risk <b>X</b>
Industry	Technology Hardware	Pharma <b>√</b>	Oil & Gas Producers
Eligible Investment	YES	NO	NO



# Analyze Impact of the ESG Approach on Eligible Issuers



Based on Sustainalytics framework and PFM's Approved Issuer List as of 7/31/2021. Issuers without ESG risk ratings (No ESG Metrics) are not treated as eligible issuers in the sample ESG approaches.



#### **Update ESG Investment Policy Language ("IPS")**

- Considerations when amending an IPS for ESG requirements include:
  - Specific ESG criteria/metrics that will be applied to determine issuer eligibility
  - Frequency of ESG criteria application (e.g., monthly, quarterly)
  - Exclusion of any industries or specific issuers
  - Investment sectors that the ESG criteria applies to

#### SUSTAINABILITY

Wherever possible, investment decisions shall take into account environmental, social, and governance ("ESG") factors.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL, GOVERNANCE (ESG) INVESTMENT INITIATIVE**

ESG investing is the process of incorporating analyses of non-financial environmental, social, and governance factors into investment decisions alongside more traditional financial criteria. As indicated in SUSTAINABILITY section of this Investment Policy, it is the Treasurer's objective to integrate environmental, social, and governance ("ESG") factors into investment decisions to the extent practical and possible. In order to achieve this objective, the Treasurer or the County's investment advisor, will apply the ESG Investment Criteria as defined herein to the Investments Subject to ESG Investment Criteria as set forth below. The ESG investment criteria will be based on the ESG risk ratings and subindustry rankings provided by Sustainalytics as of the most recent priormonth end date.

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## ETF/Mutual Funds – Evaluating ESG Investment Strategy Options

#### Morningstar ESG Fund Ratings report

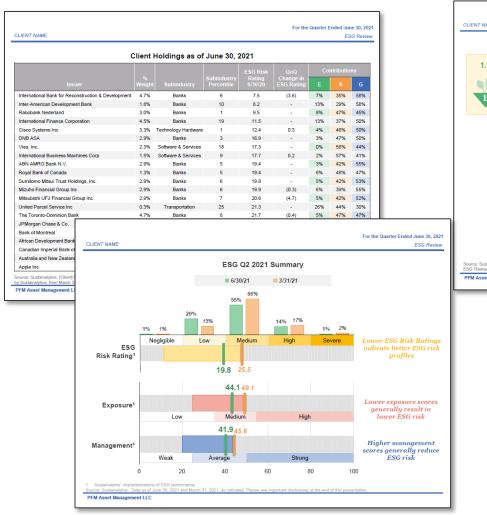


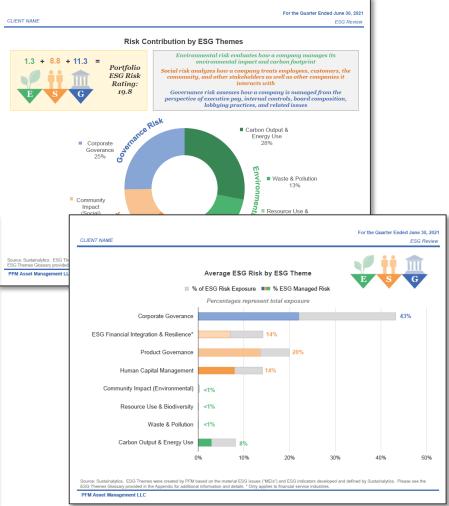




## SMAs - Evaluating & Monitoring ESG Investment Strategies

Example Portfolio Level ESG Report









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There is no guarantee the investment objectives will be achieved as the investment portfolio will only include holdings consistent with the applicable Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) guidelines. As a result, the universe of investments available will be more limited. ESG criteria risk is the risk that because the investment portfolio ESG criteria excludes securities of certain issuers for nonfinancial reasons, the investment portfolio may forgo some market opportunities that would be available to investment portfolios that do not apply ESG criteria.

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