



AS YOU SOW

The nation's leading shareholder advocate, changing corporations for good.

SEEDS of CHANGE

Summer 2021

HARNESS YOUR ECONOMIC POWER



The U.S. imprisons more of its people, both per capita and in total, than any other country in the world.

For-profit firms have flooded money into prison and detention center services, and at the same time lobby for harsher policing and longer sentencing, even for non-violent offenders. They're reaping enormous profits from incarceration — and since a lot of mutual funds and 401(k) retirement plans include these companies, you could be profiting from prisons too.

In fact, if you're **invested with Vanguard**, it's pretty much guaranteed.

Now, thanks to YOU, Prison Free Funds is a reality.

The **Prison Free Funds** mutual fund screen and **action toolkit** are online, free, and available to everyone. Harness your economic power and shift your savings away from the prison industrial complex.

Your gifts are the resources that made it happen. Thank you.

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Choosing an ESG mutual fund? Don't trust the name

BlackRock's new U.S. "Carbon Transition Readiness ETF", which attracted \$1.25 billion in investor dollars on the first day it launched, is chock-full of fossil fuel companies. "The people who invested in that fund thought they were addressing climate risk," says Andrew Behar, As You Sow CEO. "Instead they got business as usual."

Sadly, that's not unusual. Of the 88 funds with "ESG" in their name, 35 earn a D or F on climate change or deforestation and 43 earn a D or F on at least one issue in our **Invest Your Values** screens.

So don't believe the name or the marketing. Take a few minutes to find out what a fund actually owns, at www.asyousow.org/invest-your-values.



YOUR SHAREHOLDER POWER

No More Bank Financing “Business-as-Usual”

After taking baby steps in 2020, by early 2021 **all six of the banks we engage** had committed to align their financing activities with the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement. Commitments include setting net-zero-by-2050 targets and publicly disclosing progress along the way – a critical part of accountability and ultimate success. **JPMorgan Chase, Morgan Stanley, Citibank, Bank of America, Wells Fargo, and Goldman Sachs** have all accepted responsibility for the emissions created by the projects their loans finance, and for aligning with the Paris Climate Agreement’s 1.5°C goal.



These actions are a clear signal to companies in every sector, including oil & gas, that they must set and meet credible net-zero transition targets or find access to capital increasingly expensive and restricted. No longer is business-as-usual an acceptable standard. **Your support created this impact — thank you.**

Absolute Cuts in Plastic

Recycling is important, but it’s not going to stem the tide of plastic pollution engulfing our oceans. A July report from Pew Charitable Trusts found that even if all current industry and government commitments were met, ocean plastic deposition would be reduced by only 7%; and that without immediate, sustained new commitments, annual flow of plastic into oceans could nearly triple by 2040. It also found that plastic pollution could be cut by ~80% in 20 years by aggressively applying existing solutions and technologies.

We filed shareholder resolutions demanding absolute cuts in overall use of plastic with ten major consumer goods and retail companies. With a first-time resolution, it usually takes a while to elicit action — but **Unilever** made the first commitment, and now **Keurig Dr Pepper, Pepsi, Mondelez** (Chips Ahoy, Oreo, Triscuit), **Target**, and **Walmart** have also made absolute-cut commitments.

It’s a great start but not enough. We’re staying on it.



YOUR GIFT POWERS THE PROGRESS. OVER 87%* OF YOUR DONATION

MAKING CHANGE

Regenerative Agriculture is on a Roll

Our pesticide-laden food system needs an overhaul. We're holding big consumer-facing food companies — the biggest customers of agricultural commodities — responsible for their suppliers' farming practices, pushing them to eliminate toxic pesticide use and invest in regenerative practices to improve biodiversity and soil health. We've got some great progress for you —

- **Kellogg's** will phase out glyphosate (aka Roundup) as a pre-harvest desiccant in its wheat and oat supply chains
- **General Mills** is expanding the regenerative farming commitment it made to us last year, and its suppliers already are seeing pollinators and birds returning to farms!
- **JM Smucker's** conducted a pesticide risk analysis in its supply chains and is working to reduce pesticide use through Integrated Pest Management
- **Pepsi** committed to advancing regenerative agriculture practices on 7 million acres
- **Campbell's** will reduce pesticides in its key crop supply chains, tomatoes, wheat, and potatoes; pilot a pest management tool; increase its Integrated Pest Management practices; and begin collecting pesticide data

The direct shareholder pressure we practice is an effective way to hold corporations accountable, particularly consumer-facing companies like the ones we target here.

Thank you for standing with us.



Racial Justice Corporate Rankings

Our Racial Justice and Diversity/Equity/Inclusion corporate scorecards rank all the S&P500 companies. Now companies are competing with each other for better scores.

Check out the ten best and ten worse at www.asyousow.org/our-work/social-justice

Say on Climate

We're working to compel every publicly-held company in the U.S. to formally adopt **Say on Climate**, which calls for companies to disclose a Paris-aligned climate transition plan and report annually on progress against the benchmarks. We've sent letters to 125 companies, met with scores, and filed three resolutions — and we're just getting started.

Stay tuned. **Together, we'll get this done.**

GOES DIRECTLY TO PROGRAM WORK. THANK YOU! (*2019 AUDITED FINANCIALS)



ACTION CHANGES THINGS

The guilty verdict in the George Floyd murder case is a glimmer of hope, but real change comes only with great effort. Companies need to be held accountable, because words are easy — ensuring that people of color are hired, paid, promoted, and retained equitably is less so.

New Racial Justice mutual fund screening tool

Thanks to your generosity, we've taken the first steps, scoring the S&P500 in our Racial Justice Corporate Scorecard. Now our research team is working on adding rankings for the Russell1000 companies. Soon we'll have enough data to build a new Invest Your Values mutual fund screen — Social Justice Funds.

You'll be able to see which mutual funds hold companies scoring poorly on racial justice.

You can make it happen. Will you help?

Systemic racism is a pernicious and debilitating force. Social Justice Funds will enable investors to make sure their savings support companies doing the right thing.

Your gift today powers the work. Give today.



Yes. I want to help build Social Justice Funds!
I want to invest my values.

I WANT TO HOLD CORPORATIONS ACCOUNTABLE!

Give online today: asyousow.org/donate

As You Sow gets big companies to make big changes, to benefit people, planet, and profit. Because the corporations creating the problems have got to be part of the solution.

