



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

# SEEDS *of* CHANGE

## THE LAST STRAW!

### Your Support Got Starbucks to Eliminate Plastic Straws

You never know what it will take to get a big corporation's attention. So you have to keep the pressure on. Starbucks shareholders did just that when they voted strongly in favor of this year's *As You Sow* resolution pressing the company to phase out plastic straws.

Shortly after the vote, **Starbucks announced plans to eliminate 3 billion single-use plastic straws by 2020!** And it's funding development of a sustainable paper cup. Obviously, the company felt pressured to act – exactly the point of the shareholder resolution.

Thank you for all you do. Your voice and your gift are the reasons for this progress.



## "Testing, Testing...1,2,3"

### Chocolate Firms Agree to Settlement



Chocolate lovers like you helped get manufacturers to agree to investigate the lead and cadmium we find in so many favorite chocolates. We'll send you updates with new developments — and be sure to check out the chocolate page on our website!

## INSIDE:

- p.2** Methane is 87 times worse...
- p.2** A Monster Problem with your Energy Drink
- p.3** New Gender Lens Investing Tool
- p.3** More Ways to Make an Impact
- p.4** Engagement Highlights

## Methane is 87 times worse...

Natural gas, essentially methane, is supposedly a clean, climate-friendly alternative to “dirty” fossil fuels. But natural gas may be making things worse. Methane has 87 times the global warming punch of CO<sub>2</sub> in the first 20 years. It only takes about 3% leakage in the natural gas supply chain to erase natural gas’ climate benefit over coal.

That’s right, just 3% leakage, in total — from the wellhead to the gas meter at your house — makes natural gas *worse* for the climate than COAL. And a lot of our cities are burdened with old and deteriorating gas pipelines that in some areas leak like a sieve.

So where are we now? The numbers are alarming. **As You Sow’s** report, “The End of the Line”, has critical up-to-date information for both corporations and individuals like you. It’s available to read or download at [asyousow.org/reports/](http://asyousow.org/reports/)

We’re pressing hard to make sure utilities take concrete steps on fugitive methane, for the climate and for all our benefit.



**“It only takes about 3% leakage in the natural gas supply chain to make natural gas worse for the climate than coal.”**



## A Monster Problem with Your Energy Drink

*Forced Labor in Sugar Manufacturing not so Sweet*

Zero is not the grade you want on a report. But that’s exactly what **Monster Beverage** scored on its efforts to tackle modern slavery and forced labor in its supply chain.

Sugar is a key ingredient in its product and the sugar industry has one of the highest levels of documented forced labor abuse. We asked Monster why they weren’t reporting on modern slavery, as UK and CA regulations require. Monster told us that senior management simply did not think slavery was an important enough issue to spend time and money on!

Well. We disagree. We presented a shareholder resolution at the company’s Annual Meeting and brought along a petition with nearly 22,000 signatures. After the meeting, our CEO talked with a Monster Board member who said the Board discussed the resolution at length.

We’re following up with Monster – you haven’t heard the last about Monster and its sugar suppliers. Your contributions are funding vital action in supply chain transparency and uncovering bad actors and bad practices.



# New Gender Lens Investing Tool

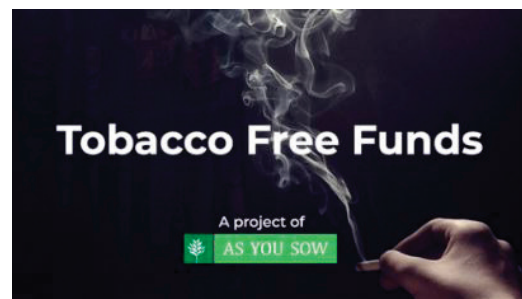
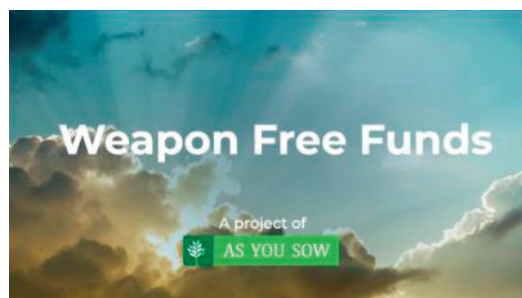
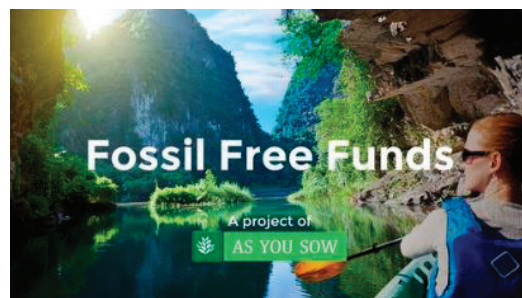
Now you can look at mutual funds with a gender perspective

For the first time ever, you have the ability to apply a gender lens in evaluating mutual funds. **Gender Equality Funds** is *As You Sow's* 5th **Invest Your Values** website.

It enables everyone, from individuals with 401(k)s to institutional investors with billions of dollars under management, to align investments with their values. It encourages fund managers to construct and offer investment vehicles that support gender parity.

**Gender Equality Funds** screens over 5,000 mutual funds and calculates a gender score for each fund. It's easy to see a fund's score, find alternatives, and compare financial returns.

Check it out at [GenderEqualityFunds.org](http://GenderEqualityFunds.org).



## More Ways to Make an Impact

- Vote your proxies
  - Authorize your shares for **As You Sow** resolutions
  - Consider a custom resolution
  - Align your mutual fund investments — including your 401(k) — with your values.
- Explore all five **Invest Your Values** online tools

We're here to help — [info@asyousow.org](mailto:info@asyousow.org) will always reach us, and we'll get right back to you.

# Your Gift Has Impact

*You're Making a Real Difference in the World*

This year alone,



- **Starbucks** committed to eliminate its 3 billion-a-year plastic straw habit
- **Kraft Heinz** and **Mondelez** became the 4th and 5th major companies to agree to our packaging demands, announcing plans to make 100% of packaging recyclable, reusable, or compostable



- **McDonald's** committed to eliminate polystyrene foam globally, removing a billion foam cups from the market — and announced they will recycle *all* post-consumer packaging in *all* stores

- **Dunkin' Donuts** will replace foam coffee cups too, removing another billion foam cups every year



- **Chili's** and **Maggiano's** agreed to work toward eliminating chicken raised with medically important antibiotics, affecting all 1,600 restaurants

- **Anadarko** shareholders voted an extraordinarily strong 53% support for our climate change risk assessment resolution



- **Chevron** shareholders voted 45% in favor of our fugitive methane resolution. Management explicitly acknowledged they needed to do better on this issue

## Holding Corporations Accountable

# Yes.

**I want to tackle** ocean plastics —  
and climate change —  
and antibiotic-resistant superbugs...



## I WANT TO HOLD CORPORATIONS ACCOUNTABLE!

Give online today: [asyousow.org/donate](http://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.

