How Corporations Are Using Environment Concerns to Scam You

Analysis by Dr. Joseph Mercola ✔ Fact Checked

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STORY AT-A-GLANCE

- ESG, or environmental, social and governance, funds are supposed to be those focused on companies with strong environmental ethics and responsibility
- Further investigation reveals rampant greenwashing has occurred, and many ESG-labeled funds are far from "sustainable"
- The SEC is investigating Goldman Sachs overs its ESG funds, including whether the bank's management of ESG funds differs from what it has disclosed to investors
- In May 2022, electric vehicle manufacturer Tesla was removed from the S&P 500 ESG Index, despite its focus on creating environmentally conscious vehicles
- Tesla's CEO Elon Musk tweeted in response that ESG is a scam, considering Exxon Mobil is still listed in the S&P 500 ESG Index top 10

Pouncing on investors' interest in environmentally friendly, sustainable investing, the S&P 500 ESG Index was launched in 2019.[1] ESG, or environmental, social and governance, funds are supposed to be those focused on companies with strong environmental ethics and responsibility, but further investigation reveals rampant greenwashing has occurred, and many ESG-labeled funds are far from "sustainable."

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has been scrutinizing ESG funds for years, as their popularity soared. While funds focused on socially responsible investing were valued at $2.83 billion in 2015, this grew to $17.67 billion by 2019, when Alex Bernhardt, U.S. head of responsible investments at investment consultant Mercer, told The Wall Street Journal, "In every asset class, in every region, ESG product development is the thing right now."[2]

Fast-forward to 2022, and the SEC is cracking down on ESG labels, with multiple investigations launched into ESG greenwashing on Wall Street by multiple mega-banks. Globally, $41 trillion are expected to flow into ESG funds in 2022.[3]

Murky Guidelines Mire ESG Label Credibility

A glaring problem with ESG labels is the lack of regulations that define what qualifies as a company that's environmentally or socially responsible. In 2019, the SEC began sending letters to asset managers asking for what models were used to determine ESG investments.

In 2019, Betty Moy Huber, co-head of law firm Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP's environmental, social and corporate governance group, told The Wall Street Journal, "This is a relatively new area. Now the SEC is saying, 'Wait, how do you know these are ESG products and that you don't have a fossil fuel company with known, poor ESG performance in there?'"[4]

S&P and MSCI have established their own ratings system for ESG labels, with controversial methodologies. For instance, ESG funds may hold up to 20% of their shares in non-ESG stocks, such that "fossil fuel-free" funds may actually hold fossil fuel companies.[5]

"As a result, many "ESG" funds still hold major emitters like ExxonMobil, and are only marginally less carbon-intensive than the market average," Quartz reported.[6] It wasn't until May 2022 that the SEC announced plans to develop stricter standards for ESG labels.[7]

SEC Goes After Goldman Sachs

After an investigation into greenwashing by Deutsche Bank in 2021 — that led to a raid of the bank's offices in Germany by German authorities[8] — and a $1.5 million fine to BNY Mellon for "misstatements and omissions about ESG considerations," the SEC is now going after Goldman Sachs.

In the BNY Mellon case, one ESG fund included 185 investments, 67 of which had no ESG-quality score when the security was purchased, but shareholders were told its strategy included "identifying and considering the environmental, social and governance risks, opportunities and issues throughout the research process."[9] But in the case of Goldman, as reported by Quartz:[10]

> *"The Goldman investigation is focused on mutual funds. Because there is no legal standard for ESG definitions, the SEC will determine whether the bank's actual methods for managing ESG funds differ from what it has disclosed to investors, not whether the funds are really green or not."*

Goldman manages at least four ESG or "clean energy" funds and renamed its Blue Chip Fund the U.S. Equity ESG Fund in June 2020. According to The Wall Street Journal:[11]

> *"Goldman says in regulatory documents that its ESG fund aims to keep 80% of its net assets in stocks issued by companies that meet the fund manager's criteria. They exclude companies that earn most of their revenue from selling alcohol, tobacco, weapons, coal, oil and gas, and some other products.*
>
> *Goldman says holdings in the U.S. Equity ESG Fund undergo an ESG analysis but reserves the right to invest in some companies without such a screening. It can also invest up to 20% of its net assets in stocks that deviate from its ESG standards."*

When the SEC first began scrutinizing ESG labels, it was done via compliance examiners, who would forward any concerns to SEC enforcement attorneys. An SEC enforcement task force was launched in 2021 to further investigate greenwashing related to ESG investing products, and the Goldman investigation could result in formal enforcement action.[12]

'The World's Largest Ponzi Scheme'

BlackRock founder and CEO Larry Fink, who has close ties to the World Economic Forum's (WEF) head Klaus Schwab, and joined WEF's board in 2019, stated in October 2021, "Short-term policies related to environmentalism in terms of restricting supply of hydrocarbons has created energy inflation, and we're going to be living with that for some time … We're in a new regime."[13]

On Twitter, Russ Greene wrote, "ESG advocates have sought to portray as a conspiracy theory the link between ESG and higher oil and gas prices, but if so it's one that's shared by many of the most successful figures in finance, including ESG investors," referring to Blackstone cofounder, billionaire Steve Schwarzman, who has said that a focus on ESG is "driving a credit crunch for oil and gas companies."[14]

However, investment firm BlackRock has more power than most governments on Earth, and it also controls the Federal Reserve, mega-banks like Goldman Sachs and the WEF's Great Reset, according to F. William Engdahl, a strategic risk consultant and lecturer who holds a degree in politics from Princeton University.[15]

BlackRock also has ties to Blackstone — the largest landlord in the U.S. as well as the largest real estate company worldwide, with a portfolio worth $325 billion[16] — as Schwarzman and Fink started out in business together.[17] BlackRock, Engdahl believes, may control the world's economic future, in part via ESG investing:[18]

> *"Fink … now stands positioned to use the huge weight of BlackRock to create what is potentially, if it doesn't collapse before, the world's largest Ponzi scam, ESG [Environment, Social values and Governance] corporate investing. Fink with $9 trillion to leverage is pushing the greatest shift of capital in history into a scam known as ESG Investing.*
>
> *The UN 'sustainable economy' agenda is being realized quietly by the very same global banks which have created the financial crises in 2008. This time they are preparing the Klaus Schwab WEF Great Reset by steering hundreds of billions and soon trillions in investment to their hand-picked 'woke' companies, and away from the 'not woke' such as oil and gas companies or coal.*
>
> *BlackRock since 2018 has been in the forefront to create a new investment infrastructure that picks "winners" or "losers" for investment according to how serious that company is about ESG — Environment, Social values and Governance.*
>
> *For example a company gets positive ratings for the seriousness of its hiring gender diverse management and employees, or takes measures to eliminate their carbon "footprint" by making their energy sources green or sustainable to use the UN term.*
>
> *How corporations contribute to a global sustainable governance is the most vague of the ESG, and could include anything from corporate donations to Black Lives Matter to supporting UN agencies such as WHO.*
>
> *… Oil companies like ExxonMobil or coal companies no matter how clear are doomed as Fink and friends now promote their financial Great Reset or Green New Deal."*

Elon Musk Calls ESG a 'Scam'

In May 2022, electric vehicle manufacturer Tesla was removed from the S&P 500 ESG Index, despite its focus on creating environmentally conscious vehicles. Incidents of racial discrimination at a company factory were cited as one factor in its removal, and Tesla was said to be "ineligible for index inclusion due to its low S&P DJI ESG Score, which fell in the bottom 25% of its global GICS® industry group peers."[19]

Tesla's CEO Elon Musk tweeted in response "@SPGlobalRatings has lost their integrity [sic]," considering Exxon Mobil is still listed in the S&P 500 ESG Index top 10.[20] Musk tweeted:[21]

> *"Exxon is rated top ten best in world for environment, social & governance (ESG) by S&P 500, while Tesla didn't make the list! ESG is a scam. It has been weaponized by phony social justice warriors."*

What's more, TIME reported, "According to Bloomberg, the world's largest ESG-focused exchange-traded fund has almost invested 3.1% of its assets in the oil and gas sector …"[22]

A New System of Control Via Allocation of Resources

ESG is one tactic being used to push the "green" agenda forward. While the notion of a pollution-free world is an attractive one, ultimately this isn't about the environment — it's all about creating a control system in which the world's resources are owned by the richest of the rich, while the rest of the population can be controlled through the allocation of those resources, including energy. As explained in an anonymous Winter Oak article:[23]

> *"Under such an economic construct, asset holding conglomerates can redirect the flow of global capital by aligning investments with the UN's SDGs [sustainable development goals] and configuring them as Environmental, Social, and Corporate Governance (ESG) compliant so that new international markets can be built on the disaster and misery of potentially hundreds of millions of people reeling from the economic collapse caused by war.*
>
> *Therefore, the war offers a huge impetus for the governments pushing the reset to actively pursue energy independence, shape markets towards 'green and inclusive growth' and eventually move populations towards a cap-and-trade system, otherwise known as a carbon credit economy.*
>
> *This will centralize power in the hands of stakeholder capitalists under the benevolent guise of reinventing capitalism through fairer and greener means, using deceptive slogans like 'Build Back Better' without sacrificing the perpetual growth imperative of capitalism."*

The WEF also discusses ESG as part of its "sustainable" resource-based economic system:[24]

> *"Digital finance refers to the integration of big data, artificial intelligence (AI), mobile platforms, blockchain and the Internet of things (IoT) in the provision of financial services. Sustainable finance refers to financial services integrating environmental, social and governance (ESG) criteria into the business or investment decisions.*
>
> *When combined, sustainable digital finance can take advantage of emerging technologies to analyze data, power investment decisions and grow jobs in sectors supporting a transition to a low-carbon economy."*

But it's important to be aware of the downside of reliance on suspect labels like ESG, which could ultimately tie large parts of the global population, including small farmers, to a new form of data slavery. According to one of Navdanya's reports:[25]

> *"A global 'seal' of approval based on fake science, fake economics of maximizing profits through extraction will create new data slavery for farmers. Instead of using their own heads and cocreating with the Earth, they will be forced to buy 'Big Data.' Instead of obeying the laws of Mother Earth, they will be forced to obey algorithms created by Big Tech and Big Ag."*

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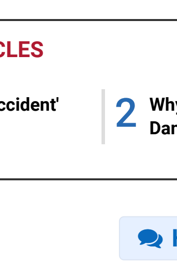

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wareagle82
Joined On 1/25/2022 10:01:46 AM
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Isn't it great to have people dictating how you live? Not how they live, mind you, just how you live. All of the stuff they want for you is not going to work for them. Their enhanced lifestyles are not going to tolerate the sort of degradation they have in mind for the rest of us. They'll still fly around in private planes while the rest of us are reduced to bicycling and walking. They'll still have their filets and lobster while we're sharing the latest cricket recipes. And thus far, not a single shot has been fired in this push. It's like a unique form of cancer that the patient does not realize exists until it has metastasized to the point beyond treatment. I'd like to think that we're not there yet, but so many things I previously thought impossible have happened in the past couple of years, and what used to be easily dismissed as conspiracy theory now seems possible.

The Covidians remain as committed to their cult as ever, and it will resurface again. Activism, no matter the cause, never goes away; its sole animating purpose is to perpetuate the grift. Parts of the govt are being weaponized to crack down on dissidents and the things that cannot be openly done by govt are outsourced to third parties, followed by lectures from the lemmings that "it's a private company; that makes it different." That baker who didn't want to do the customized same-sex marriage cake was a private company, too, and the same mob wanted him hung.

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Cabochon
Joined On 10/7/2018 12:45:48 PM
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Re the latest fashion in electric cars: They are expensive to buy and to run. Electricity is generated by power stations burning coal and gas, and emitting CO2 so how come electric cars are supposed to be "zero emissions" ? How long does recharging the battery take? ; how long does the charge last? Will there be queues at the charging station? Are lithium and cobalt expensive? - where are the sources and how are they mined? Does the mining process raise CO2? Any truth in child labour abuse in the Congo? How are old batteries disposed of? Will they be recycled and what kind power is required for this? What taxes will be raised on recharging batteries if everybody switches to electricity?

Domestic energy charges have tripled in two months due to fake wars and fake oil and gas shortages. Now we are getting somewhere. Is this EV nonsense just another ploy to extract more money from the middle classes who have garages or at least driveways to recharge their cars? As the globalist plan is to herd the remainder of the world population into smart city cubicles where they are unlikely even to own cars never mind EV's, only the wealthy will afford the EV's. Governments will not require revenue to support the dead useless eaters and the remainder will be impoverished. But who will be left to pay taxes and fund governments?

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Keython
Joined On 3/2/2021 12:07:23 PM
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Yes, all EVs are an unsustainable scam, including all the Telsa EV, so Elon Musk is scamming people too; even Hybrids look dubious. EV's also included electric motorbikes, electric bicycles, electric scooters, drones, and even larger aircraft. I'd be interested to know just how they plan to safely dismantle and recycle loads of welded together Li-ion cells, in worn out EV battery packs; some of these cells may retain significant charge! ---- Hydrogen powered vehicles, even Water-fuelled vehicles with apparently over-unity, electrolysis to drive power, energy-cycle, would seem far more efficient, and cheaper to make, buy, and recycle, and possibly safer too. These would probably need a much smaller battery pack too, for lights, and to drive ignition and/or electrolysis. Hydrogen combustion could also power a heat-powered refrigeration unit for in-vehicle AC.

Mark as Spam | Posted On 7/1/2022 11:32:10 AM
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Cabochon
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It's yet another part of the wider agenda, Keythong - artificially created wars involving grain and gas production - the targets of the globalists reflect their political agenda - it's that simple. Rejecting oil and gas will not reduce "climate change" which for millennia has been driven by solar winds, sun spots and powerful magnetic fields. The sun controls tiny planet earth because earth is part of the solar system - it IS rocket science. Water vapour is a greenhouse gas - the oceans are vast reservoirs of CO2. If the troposphere did not trap heat, our planet would be cold and uninhabitable.

It's the same old, same old - political agenda masquerading as our "saviour". The only thing we need saving from are private jet flying, gas guzzling hypocrites who do not follow their own mandates because they know they are pure hokum. Global temperature likely controls CO2 - not the other way round. But we must not be complacent. Already I have seen NHS vehicles in the UK sporting logos such as "I am electric -zero emissions". We must not underestimate the determination of the globalists to infiltrate every aspect of life both on an international, national and local level.

At the same time, we are aware of high altitude spraying of plastic beads and aluminium particles to blot out sunlight, creating artificial clouds to supposedly cool down the planet, particles floating on water depriving oceanic algae of sunlight which ultimately reduces the supply of oxygen and fewer rain clouds with obvious effects on food production. Viral plandemics, toxic injections, infanticide and electric vehicle scams kind of pale in comparison to their attempts to destroy the solar system.

Mark as Spam | Posted On 7/1/2022 1:14:03 PM
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Almond
Joined On 2/26/2008 4:23:33 PM
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I have to laugh when I hear businesses and universities claiming they are "sustainable". In what way? They are not even self-reliant? How much energy do they use? Are they tied to the grid? Do they rely on the sewer and water system? Do they have their own well? Are they self-contained for garbage disposal? Do they feed themselves from only what they produce? Do they use chemicals on their lawns? Do workers or students commute (gas) and basically live their lives far away? How long could they continue to survive and function totally off grid?

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juststeve
Joined On 1/5/2012 11:13:54 AM
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Just the wolves taking over the hen houses. Foxes are too small these days. A constant theme observed for decades, anything truly grassroots gets absorbed one way or another by Parasitic Predator$ rigged system & all its slippery word games and legal maneuvers. Organic, first they paid no attention, then they called it all going back to caveman status eating sticks and twigs, then they worked on maneuvering it all into the land of their make-believe laws and legal system where they declare as fast as they can, their toxic methods are actually organic. Now add in most areas of life as anything grassroots working is eventually brought back into their riptide of Power & Control.

Little to nothing healthy or positive is coming from Predator$, we have to build it from scratch from the ground up locally. Parallel structures alongside their system. It is their system to their benefit, and it won't be changed from within that system. A link showing how Gates can speak out of both sides of his mouth, (the Snake - hat's off to Stan.) brownstone.org/.../bill-gates-and-the-frame-game If anything truly green is too happen, it will come directly from us, drop the mic.

Reply | Mark as Spam | Posted On 7/1/2022 5:31:11 AM
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wwalkerware
Joined On 11/13/2009 2:05:29 PM
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The SEC investigating Goldman Sachs overs its ESG funds, or anything else is pure diversionary bs. Goldman is to big to fail, they are a NGO/GO, determinate factor in choosing "winners and losers" in the NWO scheme of things. If, Goldman were to be found in non-compliance or otherwise "outside" of the statues, regulations, rules or whatever, whatever of the day "ism", so what?! Its all show, any fine will be paid by the taxpayer, no jail terms for anyone, raises for everyone and life goes on.

The question is, how many people will think that somehow the government is cracking down on "wall street"or "big bank"? if ratings of msm news casts go up during these so called "investigations" it means people are still stupid and willing to be lead to the cliff....and off the cliff. If no one is paying attention, means ratings are down and plan "b" or "c" is put into place to snooker the populace into thinking the government has somehow "turned" back to(wards) the people.

Remember, everything government does is nothing. Nothing to help the people who gave up sovereignty to create it in the first place, AND THEN worked and partied while the government took all remaining sovereignty we did not grant to it. Now we don't know how to get back what we never gave away. Lots of blame, enough for everyone to take a couple of tons each, to go around for this mess we find ourselves in these days. Resist everything and enlist friends and neighbors to stand their ground. Its a start.

Reply | Mark as Spam | Posted On 7/1/2022 12:26:31 PM
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rebeccarustlee
Joined On 6/27/2019 2:45:58 PM
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Ultimately, it is too grandiose. Makes me think of the Tower of Babel.

Reply | Mark as Spam | Posted On 7/1/2022 4:45:28 AM
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Longplay
Joined On 3/4/2021 6:50:21 AM
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As an architect I was constantly exposed to the green product and green building scam that started in the early 2000s. Essentially, someone started an organization that developed "green" standards and suckered governmental agencies to demand compliance and manufacturers and developers to accept paying to be "certified". More often than not, all it took was the spewing of a lot of mumbo jumbo repackaging their normal practices in "green" jargon. Sadly, most architects bought into the game.

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