



\$11 Trillion in Mutual Funds Analyzed for Carbon Risk

As You Sow and YourSRI.com team up to carbon footprint 8,500 funds so all investors can know what they own - now available to public at fossilfreefunds.org

OAKLAND, CA – October 13, 2016 – FossilFreeFunds.org, a website created by As You Sow, an environmental advocacy non-profit focused on climate finance, that enables all investors to know the climate risk embedded in their retirement accounts has now added carbon footprinting of **over \$11 trillion** in global mutual funds and ETFs to the site — the largest ever analysis of this kind.

The free tool now offers new advanced functionality that empowers investors to track their exposure to carbon pollution that companies embedded in their mutual funds and ETFs are emitting. The analysis utilizes data provided by global sustainability solutions provider South Pole Group, and yourSRI.com, a leading carbon data analyst and reporting solution provider for responsible investments.

“Transparency leads to transformation,” said Andrew Behar, CEO of As You Sow. “Measuring a company’s carbon emissions is a critical way to understand the specific climate risk of your investments. We have aggregated this data for all of the companies embedded in each of the 8,500 most-held global mutual funds and ETFs. This tool enables every investor to answer the question, ‘Am I investing in my own destruction or the clean energy future?’”

Traditional fossil free investment approaches avoid companies with reserves of coal, oil, and gas that represent potential future emissions. Carbon footprinting turns the focus to current greenhouse gas emissions, helping unveil businesses who operate with lower footprints than their industry peers. This launch will cover funds in the US, UK, Germany, France, Denmark, and Hong Kong. The developers plan to expand to cover every fund in every exchange across the entire globe soon.

“Decarbonizing” a portfolio involves investing in companies that have lower carbon footprints than their peers. Institutional investors such as California’s CalPERS and Sweden’s AP4 have embraced carbon footprinting as a way to protect their assets from climate risk. Major index providers are increasingly offering low-carbon options that incorporate a footprinting analysis. But investors should be warned that some funds called “sustainable,” “ecology,” “green” or “integrity” may actually have very high carbon footprints. The platform allows investors to see the real scores that are updated every month with Morningstar’s latest holdings data.

Some surprising examples emerge from the analysis: Given that BlackRock recently published a major report on portfolio climate risk, it may be a surprise that the BlackRock Basic Value Fund's (MABAX) has a carbon footprint 170% higher than its benchmark, the Russell 1000 Value Index. Dimensional Social Core Equity (DSCLX) has 85% more carbon than the MSCI All World Index, with 13% of the portfolio made up of fossil fuel companies



including Shell, BP, and tar sands giant Suncor. And the State Street SPDR S&P 500 Fossil Fuel Reserves Free ETF (SPYX) holds 40 fossil fuel companies including companies with reserves like Phillips66, Valero, and Marathon; coal fired utilities Duke Energy and Southern Company, and oil field services leader Halliburton.

By providing a lens for investors to look at carbon demand and consider the entire value chain when measuring climate impact, the data can help investors large and small align their investing with their values. Fossil Free Funds analyzes over 8,500 global mutual funds, including 3,000 of the most commonly-held funds in U.S. retirement plans.

“Having funds with smaller footprints is one way to avoid climate risk,” said Andrew Montes, Director of Digital Strategies at As You Sow. “It also actively rewards companies that have made positive decisions to lower the climate impact of their operations. Investor demand will drive fund managers to drop companies with high carbon footprints and include those companies that are shifting to the clean energy economy.”

#

MEDIA CONTACT:

Max Karlin, (703) 276-3255, mkarlin@hastingsgroup.com

Taraneh Arhamsadr, As You Sow, (510) 735-8157, tarhamsadr@asyousow.org

Nadia Kahkonen, South Pole Group, n.kahkonen@thesouthpolegroup.com

As You Sow is a nonprofit organization that promotes environmental and social corporate responsibility through shareholder advocacy, coalition building, and innovative legal strategies. For more information visit www.asyousow.org.

South Pole Group is a leading provider of global sustainability solutions and a pioneer in emission reductions, renewable energy, supply chain, investment climate impact, forestry, and sustainable cities projects and programs. For more information visit www.thesouthpolegroup.com.

yourSRI.com & CSSP: With its online platform yourSRI.com, CSSP helps asset managers and asset owners worldwide to adequately manage risks related to ESG and Carbon issues. yourSRI offers you an independent and comprehensive “all-in-one” solution, by partnering with a global network of service and data providers such as MSCI and South Pole Group.