# What is ESG Integration?

We look for companies which take a proactive approach to managing their environmental footprints, companies which perform well across social impact metrics, and companies with good governance practices. We believe leadership across those dimensions can represent sustainable sources of shareholder value creation long term.

ESG integration involves incorporating environmental, social, and governance criteria into the portfolio construction process. ESG integration can be complementary to traditional investment research. For instance, it can help to uncover risk factors, return drivers, or other considerations that may not be evident in traditional financial analysis. That can lead to better informed investment decisions.

ESG integration can also involve building portfolios that align with client's values. That can involve portfolio customization, as we work to understand clients' unique interests and worldviews.

### **Our ESG Integration Process and Philosophy:**

At Baldwin Wealth Partners, we have integrated environmental, social, and governance criteria into our investment analysis since 2005. We see ESG integration as a key tool for driving investment returns and managing portfolio risk.

Today, we apply ESG frameworks as part of our investment diligence process across individual equities, public markets funds, and private asset managers. We've outlined some of the ESG criteria we incorporate into our investment diligence below:

#### Equities

- Environmental footprint management policies.
- Social impact metrics like
   workplace safety.
- Good governance practices
   including strong board oversight
- Exposure to sustainability themes.

#### **Public Managers**

- Integration of ESG criteria into investment diligence.
- Dedicated ESG resources.
  Transparency around portfolio ESG metrics.

#### Private Managers

- Environmental and social impact.
- Portfolio investment themes.
- Transparency around portfolio ESG metrics.

We apply those frameworks to identify potential ESG leaders and ESG improvers across asset classes.

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## **Impact Investing and Values Alignment:**

In addition to our ESG research, we can also help clients construct portfolios that align with their values or leverage their capital to achieve their broader goals. That can involve:

- Exclusionary Screening Avoiding investing in companies selling products or services that are anathema to client values. E.g., Screening out investments in Tobacco, Weapons, or oil and gas stocks.
- Impact Investing Making investments that further clients' missions. E.g., Helping family foundations invest in community development financial institution (CDFI) notes or renewable energy funds.
- Shareholder Engagement Helping clients use their investments to pressure portfolio companies around sustainability issues. E.g., Asking railroad companies to set emissions targets.

There is no one-size-fits-all approach to impact investing or values alignment. Instead, that process involves working with clients to understand their unique viewpoints, and then proactively communicating what they own, why they own it, and how that aligns with their goals.



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