

Wespath Benefits and Investments implements the sustainable investment strategies for investment funds made available through it and its investment management subsidiaries, including Wespath Institutional Investments. Below, Wespath and its subsidiaries are referred to collectively as “Wespath.”

Shareholder Engagement—Success Stories



Wespath’s Lucas Schoepner (pictured right), Manager of Sustainable Investment Stewardship, and peer investors visit an EQT Corporation natural gas wellsite as part of our focus on methane reduction.

Wespath is a recognized global leader in sustainable investment and a founding signatory to the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment. Engagement is a core tenet of Wespath’s sustainable investment activities. It is an opportunity to enter into constructive dialogue with companies, asset managers and policymakers on sustainability issues that we believe improve shareholder value and support a more sustainable global economy.

The following success stories are the results of engagement in action! For more information, visit our Sustainable Investment webpage:



¹ <https://www.oxy.com/sustainability/>; <https://www.chevron.com/corporate-responsibility/climate-change>

² <https://www.unepfi.org/industries/investment/antonio-guterres-net-zero-asset-owner-alliance-is-gold-standard-for-net-zero-commitments/>

³ CS Gender 3000, Credit Suisse Research, Sept. 2016.

⁴ <http://www.30percentcoalition.org/>

Environmental



Wespath has engaged companies on climate issues for over two decades. This includes leading multi-year engagements with **Chevron** and **Occidental Petroleum** through Climate Action 100+, the world’s largest collaborative engagement coalition. After engagement with Wespath and Climate Action 100+, both companies published their first-ever climate risk reports, providing crucial public acknowledgments of the effects of climate change.¹ In 2022, Wespath supported efforts that led to Chevron becoming the first oil and gas company to recommend a vote for a shareholder proposal focused on the management of methane, which passed with 98% support.



We also demonstrate climate engagement leadership through our work with the **Net-Zero Asset Owner Alliance**, described as the “gold standard” for climate commitments.² The Alliance’s ground-breaking paper, *The Future of Investor Engagement*, which Wespath co-authored, outlines meaningful action that investors can take to help achieve a net-zero economy through shareholder engagement. The paper has been widely distributed and is taught by elite MBA programs.

Social



Wespath encourages companies to disclose information related to the rights of employees and people affected by business operations. In an engagement with **Caterpillar**, we urged the company to address the business risks associated with the use of its products in conflict areas, including Western Sahara, which is territory occupied by Morocco; the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region; the Occupied Palestinian Territories; and Myanmar, where revenue from jade mining has financed conflict. In response, Caterpillar conducted human rights impact assessments across all of its units and strengthened its human rights policy.



Following widespread reports of violence in stores and repeated occupational safety violations at **Dollar General**, Wespath helped lead an engagement with the low-cost retailer focused on its workplace safety policies. The engagement led a collaborating investor to file a shareholder resolution calling for an independent auditor to evaluate the company’s policies. Wespath supported the proposal, and it passed with majority shareholder approval on the first attempt.

Governance



We have long felt, and the research demonstrates³, that diverse boards result in better performance. Wespath holds membership in the **30% Coalition**, which advocates for gender diversity in the board room. Since 2012, more than 400 companies have added women to their boards through the Coalition’s efforts.⁴



We co-lead the **Investors for Opioid & Pharmaceutical Accountability (IOPA)**, a coalition of institutional investors representing over \$4.2 trillion in assets under management. The IOPA focuses on corporate governance reforms that seek to promote responsible behavior within companies in the opioid and pharmaceutical industry. Following the IOPA’s engagement, five pharma companies agreed to change their executive pay practices to help ensure corporate leaders are held accountable for their company’s actions.