

BNP Paribas – Environmental Equity Trust

Ethical Survey, as voted by members of the Ethical Advisers Co-Op



Appealing

Poor | Disappointing | Average | Appealing | Excellent

As voted by Ethical Adviser Co-op members. Find a specialised ethical adviser near you: www.ethicaladviserscoop.org/find-an-adviser.html

Fund Overview

An actively managed fund investing in international companies. Impax employs negative screening and seeks positive investments.

Ethical Concerns

Investments

- ✘ Some investments in the Fund may be problematic for ethical investors, such as:
 - Secondary fossil fuel exposure: Siemens AG, TE Connectivity and Trimble offer services to the mining, oil and gas industry as well as to the renewables sector
 - Tobacco: WestRock makes cigarette packages, however this is a very minor aspect of their business operations

Other concerns

- ✘ BNP Paribas and Impax Asset Management do not disclose the Trust's voting record on their website. However, BNP Paribas is willing to disclose this information when requested.
- ✘ Only the [top 10](#) holdings are disclosed on the website but a full list are located on the RIAA website and BNP Paribas is willing to provide a full list of holdings for research purposes.
- ✘ All information on the Trust's ethical screening process, voting history and other relevant policies can only be found on the Impax website, not on BNP Paribas', which makes this information difficult to find. This information is at a companywide level and not Trust specific.

Good Points

- ✓ The Trust excludes coal mining and production, tar sands, oil, weapons, tobacco.
- ✓ Commitment to transparency by being [UNPRI](#) signatory and [RIAA](#) certified.
- ✓ Invests in companies with at least 20% of revenue, profits or capital deployed in environmental markets such as clean energy, water, sustainable food, agriculture and forestry, water, and resource recovery. This proportion is currently over 60%.
- ✓ The Trust will not invest in companies which have an exposure of greater than [5%](#), as measured by revenue, in the following sectors:
 - pornography, alcohol, gambling, nuclear power, tobacco and conventional weapons. The Trust will not invest in securities classified as being in the tobacco industry by the Global Industry Classification Standard.
- ✓ Trust holdings are only disclosed publicly on the RIAA [website](#).

About the 'Ethical Survey'

About the Ethical Advisers Co-Op

The Ethical Advisers Co-op is a group of 35 financial advisers who are passionate about ethics and finance. The Co-op was established as a not-for-profit over 10 years ago to enable likeminded financial advisers to work together to represent the voice of the consumer. We work to shift the super and investment industry into being more ethically aligned with their clients' objectives. The Co-op's nationwide membership of ethical financial advisers help over 3,300 Australians make financial decisions and invest in line with their ethical values.

How the Leaf-System Works

The ethical rating is voted by Australian financial advisers who specialise in ethical investments (Co-op members). The advisers assess if fund ethics suit their average ethical client, and if it matches with the average client's expectations and objectives. The advisers consider how successful the fund is at; 1) removing industries and stocks harmful to the environment and society 2) including companies with environmental or social benefits, and 3) providing evidence of actions from the fund which benefit society and/or the environment. The quality of information the fund provides on its ethical policies, companies invested in, and proxy voting is important in assessing if a fund is as ethical as claimed. The final rating is an average of these votes.

Financial advisers are voluntarily participating to help ethical consumers gain a quick understanding of how the clients of a group of industry professionals view the ethics of each fund. The Co-op and the advisers do not receive any form of remuneration or reward for participating.

Further Research

Does your fund walk the talk?

The Australasian Centre for Corporate Responsibility (ACCR) – a not-for-profit shareholder advocacy organisation – pushes for transparency around whether your super fund 'walks the talk' on issues such as climate and human rights. You can find details on your super fund [here](#).

Is your fund investing in fossil fuels?

Market Forces is a not-for-profit delivering transparency on fossil fuel lending, insuring and investing within super funds, banks and insurance companies. You can see how exposed your super fund, bank or insurance company is to the fossil fuel industry [here](#).

If the fund is certified by the Responsible Investment Association Australasia (RIAA)

You can find more ethical and investment information for certified funds [here](#).

More information on this fund

For exact details of the fund's claimed ethics, costs and legal details see the fund's Product Disclosure Statement - available on their website.

Vote based on information last updated 31st August 2019