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# Putnam Sustainable Leaders Fund

**Summary prospectus**

**8 | 30 | 21**

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<b>FUND SYMBOLS</b>	<b>CLASS A</b>	<b>CLASS B</b>	<b>CLASS C</b>	<b>CLASS R</b>	<b>CLASS R6</b>	<b>CLASS Y</b>
	PNOPX	PNOBX	PNOCX	PNORX	PSLGX	PNOYX

**Putnam Sustainable Leaders Fund**

Summary prospectus dated August 30, 2021

- The footnote to the “Management fees” column in the “Annual fund operating expenses” table in the section *Fees and expenses* is deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:

† Management fees are subject to a performance adjustment. The fund’s base management fee is subject to adjustment, up or down, based on the fund’s performance relative to the performance of the S&P 500 Index for portions of a performance period after August 1, 2019 and the Russell 3000 Growth Index for portions of a performance period prior to August 1, 2019. The maximum annualized performance adjustment rate, upward or downward, is 0.12%. For the most recent fiscal year, the fund’s base management fee prior to any performance adjustment was 0.549%.

- The sub-section *Investments* in the section *Investments, risks, and performance* is deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:

**Investments**

We invest mainly in common stocks of U.S. companies of any size, with a focus on companies that we believe exhibit a commitment to financially material sustainable business practices. In evaluating investments for the fund, we view “financially material sustainable business practices” as business practices that we believe are reasonably likely to impact the financial condition or operating performance of a company and that relate to environmental, social, or corporate governance issues. We identify relevant environmental, social, or corporate governance issues on a sector-specific basis using an internally developed materiality map, which is informed by the sustainability issues identified by the Sustainability Accounting Standards Board as material to companies within a particular industry. As part of this analysis, we may utilize metrics and information such as emissions data, carbon intensity, sources of energy used for operations, water use and re-use, water generation and diversion from landfill, employee safety and diversity data, supplier audits, product safety, board composition, and incentive compensation structures. Stocks of companies that exhibit a commitment to financially material sustainable business practices are typically, but not always, considered to be growth stocks. Growth stocks are stocks of companies whose revenues, earnings, or cash flows are expected to grow faster than those of similar firms, and whose business growth and other characteristics may lead to an increase in stock price. We may consider, among other factors, a company’s sustainable business practices (as described above), valuation, financial strength, growth potential, competitive position in its industry, projected future earnings, cash flows and dividends when deciding whether to buy or sell investments. We may also invest in non-U.S. companies.

Under normal circumstances, the fund invests at least 80% of the value of its net assets in securities that meet our sustainability criteria. These criteria are based on a proprietary materiality map that is informed by the sustainability issues identified as material by the Sustainability Accounting Standards Board. In applying these criteria, we will assign each company a proprietary environmental, social and/or corporate governance (ESG) rating ranging from 1 to 4 (1 indicating the highest (best) ESG rating and 4 indicating the

lowest (worst) ESG rating). In order to meet our sustainability criteria for purposes of this investment policy, a company must be rated 2 or 1 by us. This policy is non-fundamental and may be changed only after 60 days' notice to shareholders. In selecting each investment, we focus on companies that have a demonstrated commitment to sustainable business practices in areas that are relevant and material to their long-term financial returns and risk profiles. We believe that companies that have exhibited such a commitment also often demonstrate potential for strong financial growth. This commitment may be reflected through ESG policies, practices, or outcomes. The fund's approach to sustainable investing incorporates fundamental research together with consideration of ESG factors. Environmental factors include, for example, a company's carbon intensity and use of resources like water or minerals. Sustainability measures in this area might include plans to reduce waste, increase recycling, raise the proportion of energy supply from renewable sources, or improve product design to be less resource intensive. Social factors include, for example, labor practices and supply chain management. Sustainability measures in this area might include programs to improve employee well-being, commitment to workplace equality and diversity, or improved stewardship of supplier relationships and working conditions. Corporate governance factors include, for example, board composition and executive compensation. Sustainability measures in this area might include improvements in board independence or diversity, or alignment of management incentives with the company's strategic sustainability objectives. The integrated approach of the fund combines analysis of the growing body of ESG data and deep fundamental analysis and looks for companies that demonstrate leadership, beyond compliance, on relevant sustainability issues. The characteristics that we may use when considering sustainability leadership include:

- (1) Materiality. The company is focused on sustainability issues that are relevant to long term business success.
  - (2) Creativity and proactiveness. The company's sustainability characteristics go beyond compliance to demonstrate heightened commitment.
  - (3) Transparency. The company's goals are specific, with candid and consistent progress reporting.
  - (4) Impact. The sustainability characteristics create benefits that are meaningful both at the company and more broadly.
- The sixth paragraph of the sub-section *Risks* in the section *Investments, risks, and performance* is deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:

Investing with a focus on companies that exhibit a commitment to sustainable practices may result in the fund investing in certain types of companies, industries or sectors that the market may not favor. In evaluating an investment opportunity, we may make investment decisions based on information and data that is incomplete or inaccurate. Sustainability and ESG factors are not uniformly defined and applying such factors involves subjective assessments. Sustainability and ESG scorings and assessments of issuers can vary across third-party data providers and may change over time. In addition, a company's business practices, products or services may change over time. As a result of these possibilities, among others, the fund may temporarily hold securities that are inconsistent with the fund's sustainable investment criteria. Regulatory changes or interpretations regarding the definitions and/or use of ESG or other

sustainability criteria could have a material adverse effect on the fund's ability to invest in accordance with its investment policies and/or achieve its investment objective, as well as the ability of certain classes of investors to invest in funds, such as the fund, whose strategies include ESG or other sustainability criteria.

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*Shareholders should retain this Supplement for future reference.*

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# Putnam Sustainable Leaders Fund

Before you invest, you may wish to review the fund's prospectus, which contains more information about the fund and its risks. You may obtain the prospectus and other information about the fund, including the statement of additional information (SAI) and most recent reports to shareholders, at no cost by visiting [putnam.com/funddocuments](http://putnam.com/funddocuments), calling 1-800-225-1581, or e-mailing Putnam at [funddocuments@putnam.com](mailto:funddocuments@putnam.com).

The fund's prospectus and SAI, both dated 8/30/21, are incorporated by reference into this summary prospectus.

## Goal

Putnam Sustainable Leaders Fund seeks long-term capital appreciation.

## Fees and expenses

The following tables describe the fees and expenses you may pay if you buy, hold, and sell shares of the fund. You may pay other fees, such as brokerage commissions and other fees to financial intermediaries, which are not reflected in the tables and examples below. You may qualify for sales charge discounts if you and your family invest, or agree to invest in the future, at least \$50,000 in Putnam funds. More information about these and other discounts is available from your financial professional and in *How do I buy fund shares?* beginning on page 16 of the fund's prospectus, in the Appendix to the fund's prospectus, and in *How to buy shares* beginning on page II-1 of the fund's statement of additional information (SAI).

### Shareholder fees *(fees paid directly from your investment)*

Share class	Maximum sales charge (load) imposed on purchases (as a percentage of offering price)	Maximum deferred sales charge (load) (as a percentage of original purchase price or redemption proceeds, whichever is lower)
Class A	5.75%	1.00%*
Class B	NONE	5.00%**
Class C	NONE	1.00%***
Class R	NONE	NONE
Class R6	NONE	NONE
Class Y	NONE	NONE

### Annual fund operating expenses

*(expenses you pay each year as a percentage of the value of your investment)*

Share class	Management fees <sup>1</sup>	Distribution and service (12b-1) fees	Other expenses	Total annual fund operating expenses
Class A	0.62%	0.25%	0.18%	1.05%
Class B	0.62%	1.00%	0.18%	1.80%
Class C	0.62%	1.00%	0.18%	1.80%
Class R	0.62%	0.50%	0.18%	1.30%
Class R6	0.62%	N/A	0.08%	0.70%
Class Y	0.62%	N/A	0.18%	0.80%

\* Applies only to certain redemptions of shares bought with no initial sales charge.

\*\* This charge is phased out over six years.

\*\*\* This charge is eliminated after one year.

† Management fees are subject to a performance adjustment. The fund's base management fee is subject to adjustment, up or down, based on the fund's performance relative to the performance of the S&P 500 Index for portions of a performance period after August 1, 2019 and the Russell 3000 Growth Index for portions of a performance period prior to August 1, 2019. For the most recent fiscal year, the fund's base management fee prior to any performance adjustment was 0.544%.

### Example

The following hypothetical example is intended to help you compare the cost of investing in the fund with the cost of investing in other funds. It assumes that you invest \$10,000 in the fund for the time periods indicated and then, except as indicated, redeem all your shares at the end of those periods. It assumes a 5% return on your investment each year and that the fund's operating expenses remain the same. Your actual costs may be higher or lower.

Share class	1 year	3 years	5 years	10 years
Class A	\$676	\$890	\$1,121	\$1,784
Class B	\$683	\$866	\$1,175	\$1,919
Class B (no redemption)	\$183	\$566	\$975	\$1,919
Class C	\$283	\$566	\$975	\$1,919
Class C (no redemption)	\$183	\$566	\$975	\$1,919
Class R	\$132	\$412	\$713	\$1,568
Class R6	\$72	\$224	\$390	\$871
Class Y	\$82	\$255	\$444	\$990

### Portfolio turnover

The fund pays transaction-related costs, such as commissions, when it buys and sells securities (or "turns over" its portfolio). A higher turnover rate may indicate higher transaction costs and may result in higher taxes when the fund's shares are held in a taxable account. These costs, which are not reflected in annual fund operating expenses or the above example, affect fund performance. The fund's turnover rate in the most recent fiscal year was 24%.

### Investments, risks, and performance

#### Investments

We invest mainly in common stocks of U.S. companies of any size, with a focus on companies that we believe exhibit a commitment to financially material sustainable business practices. Stocks of companies that exhibit a commitment to financially material sustainable business practices are typically, but not always, considered to be growth stocks. Growth stocks are stocks of companies whose revenues, earnings, or cash flows are expected to grow faster than those of similar firms, and whose business growth and other characteristics may lead to an increase in stock price. We may consider, among other factors, a company's sustainable business practices (as described below), valuation, financial strength, growth potential, competitive position in its industry, projected future earnings, cash flows and dividends when deciding whether to buy or sell investments. We may also invest in non-U.S. companies.

Under normal circumstances, the fund invests at least 80% of the value of its net assets in securities that meet our sustainability criteria. In applying these criteria, we will assign each company a proprietary environmental, social and/or corporate governance (ESG) rating ranging from 1 to 4 (1 indicating the highest (best) ESG rating and 4 indicating

the lowest (worst) ESG rating). In order to meet our sustainability criteria for purposes of this investment policy, a company must be rated 2 or 1 by us. This policy may be changed at any time upon notice to shareholders. In selecting each investment, we focus on companies that have a demonstrated commitment to sustainable business practices in areas that are relevant and material to their long-term financial returns and risk profiles. We believe that companies that have exhibited such a commitment also often demonstrate potential for strong financial growth. This commitment may be reflected through ESG policies, practices, or outcomes. The fund's approach to sustainable investing incorporates fundamental research together with consideration of ESG factors. Environmental factors include, for example, a company's carbon intensity and use of resources like water or minerals. Sustainability measures in this area might include plans to reduce waste, increase recycling, raise the proportion of energy supply from renewable sources, or improve product design to be less resource intensive. Social factors include, for example, labor practices and supply chain management. Sustainability measures in this area might include programs to improve employee well-being, commitment to workplace equality and diversity, or improved stewardship of supplier relationships and working conditions. Corporate governance factors include, for example, board composition and executive compensation. Sustainability measures in this area might include improvements in board independence or diversity, or alignment of management incentives with the company's strategic sustainability objectives. The integrated approach of the fund combines analysis of the growing body of ESG data and deep fundamental analysis and looks for companies that demonstrate leadership, beyond compliance, on relevant sustainability issues. The characteristics that we may use when considering sustainability leadership include:

- (1) Materiality. The company is focused on sustainability issues that are relevant to long term business success.
- (2) Creativity and proactiveness. The company's sustainability characteristics go beyond compliance to demonstrate heightened commitment.
- (3) Transparency. The company's goals are specific, with candid and consistent progress reporting.
- (4) Impact. The sustainability characteristics create benefits that are meaningful both at the company and more broadly.

While the fund's focus on companies that exhibit a commitment to sustainable business practices is expected to remain consistent, it is likely that sustainable business practices, as well as the specific metrics and measurements that the fund uses to evaluate them, will continue to evolve over time.

## **Risks**

It is important to understand that you can lose money by investing in the fund.

The value of investments in the fund's portfolio may fall or fail to rise over extended periods of time for a variety of reasons, including general economic, political or financial market conditions, investor sentiment and market perceptions, government actions, geopolitical events or changes, and factors related to a specific issuer, geography, industry or sector. These and other factors may lead to increased volatility and reduced liquidity in the fund's portfolio holdings. The novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and efforts to contain its spread are likely to negatively affect the value, volatility, and liquidity of the securities and other assets in which the fund invests and exacerbate other risks that apply to the fund. These effects could negatively impact the fund's performance and lead to losses on your investment in the fund. Companies whose stocks we believe are undervalued by the market may have experienced adverse business developments or may be subject to special risks that have caused their stocks to be out of favor.



The value of a company's stock may fall or fail to rise as a result of factors directly relating to that company, such as decisions made by its management or lower demand for the company's products or services. A stock's value may also fall because of factors affecting not just the company, but also other companies in the same industry or in a number of different industries, such as increases in production costs.

Growth stocks may be more susceptible to earnings disappointments, and the market may not favor growth-style investing. Stocks of small and midsize companies often trade in smaller volumes, and their prices may fluctuate more than stocks of larger companies. Stocks of these companies may therefore be more vulnerable to adverse developments than those of larger companies. From time to time, the fund may invest a significant portion of its assets in companies in one or more related industries or sectors, which would make the fund more vulnerable to adverse developments affecting those industries or sectors.

The value of international investments traded in foreign currencies may be adversely impacted by fluctuations in exchange rates. International investments, particularly investments in emerging markets, may carry risks associated with potentially less stable economies or governments (such as the risk of seizure by a foreign government, the imposition of currency or other restrictions, or high levels of inflation), and may be or become illiquid.

Investing with a focus on companies that exhibit a commitment to sustainable practices may result in the fund investing in certain types of companies, industries or sectors that the market may not favor. In evaluating an investment opportunity, we may make investment decisions based on information and data that is incomplete or inaccurate. In addition, a company's business practices, products or services may change over time. As a result of these possibilities, among others, the fund may temporarily hold securities that are inconsistent with the fund's sustainable investment criteria. Regulatory changes or interpretations regarding the definitions and/or use of ESG or other sustainability criteria could have a material adverse effect on the fund's ability to invest in accordance with its investment policies and/or achieve its investment objective, as well as the ability of certain classes of investors to invest in funds, such as the fund, whose strategies include ESG or other sustainability criteria.

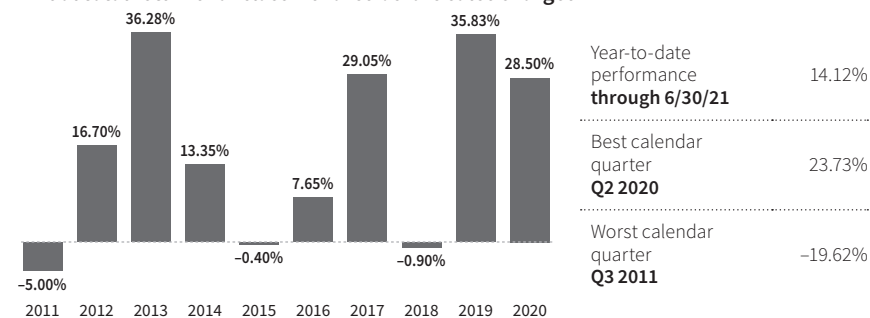
There is no guarantee that the investment techniques, analyses, or judgments that we apply in making investment decisions for the fund will produce the intended outcome or that the investments we select for the fund will perform as well as other securities that were not selected for the fund. We, or the fund's other service providers, may experience disruptions or operating errors that could negatively impact the fund.

The fund may not achieve its goal, and it is not intended to be a complete investment program. An investment in the fund is not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other government agency.

## **Performance**

The performance information below gives some indication of the risks associated with an investment in the fund by showing the fund's performance year to year and over time. Before March 21, 2018, the fund was managed with a materially different investment strategy and may have achieved materially different performance results under its current investment strategy from that shown for periods before this date. The bar chart does not reflect the impact of sales charges. If it did, performance would be lower. Please remember that past performance is not necessarily an indication of future results. Monthly performance figures for the fund are available at [putnam.com](http://putnam.com).

## Annual total returns for class A shares before sales charges



## Average annual total returns after sales charges (for periods ended 12/31/20)

Share class	1 year	5 years	10 years
Class A before taxes	21.11%	17.76%	14.47%
Class A after taxes on distributions	19.09%	15.78%	12.83%
Class A after taxes on distributions and sale of fund shares	13.89%	13.94%	11.64%
Class B before taxes	22.55%	18.07%	14.46%
Class C before taxes	26.56%	18.28%	14.29%
Class R before taxes	28.18%	18.87%	14.86%
Class R6 before taxes*	28.97%	19.54%	15.48%
Class Y before taxes	28.84%	19.47%	15.44%
S&P 500 Index (no deduction for fees, expenses or taxes)	18.40%	15.22%	13.88%
Russell 3000 Growth – S&P 500 Linked Benchmark** (no deduction for fees, expenses or taxes)	18.40%	16.95%	15.11%

\* Performance for class R6 shares prior to their inception (5/22/18) is derived from the historical performance of class Y shares and has not been adjusted for the lower investor servicing fees applicable to class R6 shares; had it, returns would have been higher.

\*\* The Russell 3000 Growth-S&P 500 Linked Benchmark represents performance of the Russell 3000 Growth Index from the inception date of the fund, August 31, 1990, through July 31, 2019 and performance of the S&P 500 Index from August 1, 2019 forward. Frank Russell Company is the source and owner of the trademarks, service marks and copyrights related to the Russell Indexes. Russell® is a trademark of Frank Russell Company.

After-tax returns reflect the historical highest individual federal marginal income tax rates and do not reflect state and local taxes. Actual after-tax returns depend on an investor's tax situation and may differ from those shown. After-tax returns are shown for class A shares only and will vary for other classes. These after-tax returns do not apply if you hold your fund shares through a 401(k) plan, an IRA, or another tax-advantaged arrangement.

Class B share performance reflects conversion to class A shares after eight years.

Effective March 1, 2021, Class C shares generally convert to Class A shares eight years after purchase. Prior to March 1, 2021, Class C shares generally converted to Class A shares ten years after purchase. Class C share performance does not reflect conversion to class A shares after eight years; had it, returns for the 10-year period would have been higher.

## **Your fund's management**

### **Investment advisor**

Putnam Investment Management, LLC

### **Portfolio managers**

#### **Katherine Collins**

Head of Sustainable Investing, portfolio manager of the fund since 2018

#### **Stephanie Dobson**

Portfolio Manager, portfolio manager of the fund since 2018

### **Sub-advisor**

Putnam Investments Limited\*

\* Though the investment advisor has retained the services of Putnam Investments Limited (PIL), PIL does not currently manage any assets of the fund.

## **Purchase and sale of fund shares**

You can open an account, purchase and/or sell fund shares, or exchange them for shares of another Putnam fund by contacting your financial professional or by calling Putnam Investor Services at 1-800-225-1581. Purchases of class B shares are closed to new and existing investors except by exchange from class B shares of another Putnam fund or through dividend and/or capital gains reinvestment.

When opening an account, you must complete and mail a Putnam account application, along with a check made payable to the fund, to: Putnam Investments, P.O. Box 219697, Kansas City, MO 64121-9697. The minimum initial investment of \$500 is currently waived, although Putnam reserves the right to reject initial investments under \$500 at its discretion. There is no minimum for subsequent investments.

You can sell your shares back to the fund or exchange them for shares of another Putnam fund any day the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) is open. Shares may be sold or exchanged by mail, by phone, or online at [putnam.com](http://putnam.com). Some restrictions may apply.

## **Tax information**

The fund's distributions will be taxed as ordinary income or capital gains unless you hold the shares through a tax-advantaged arrangement, in which case you will generally be taxed only upon withdrawal of monies from the arrangement.

## **Financial intermediary compensation**

If you purchase the fund through a broker/dealer or other financial intermediary (such as a bank or financial professional), the fund and its related companies may pay that intermediary for the sale of fund shares and related services. Please bear in mind that these payments may create a conflict of interest by influencing the broker/dealer or other intermediary to recommend the fund over another investment. Ask your advisor or visit your advisor's website for more information.

## **Information about the Summary Prospectus, Prospectus, and SAI**

The summary prospectus, prospectus, and SAI for a fund provide information concerning the fund. The summary prospectus, prospectus, and SAI are updated at least annually and any information provided in a summary prospectus, prospectus, or SAI can be changed without a shareholder vote unless specifically stated otherwise. The summary prospectus, prospectus, and the SAI are not contracts between the fund and its shareholders and do not give rise to any contractual rights or obligations or any shareholder rights other than any rights conferred explicitly by federal or state securities laws that may not be waived.

**Additional information, including current performance, is available at [putnam.com/funddocuments](http://putnam.com/funddocuments), by calling 1-800-225-1581, or by e-mailing Putnam at [funddocuments@putnam.com](mailto:funddocuments@putnam.com).**

