

A world of investing.®



# Putnam ESG Core Bond ETF

**Summary prospectus**

**1 | 18 | 23**

**FUND SYMBOL** Putnam ESG Core Bond ETF

---

PCRB

**Principal U.S. Listing Exchange:** NYSE Arca, Inc.

George Putnam Balanced Fund  
Putnam BDC Income ETF  
Putnam BioRevolution ETF  
Putnam California Tax Exempt  
Income Fund  
Putnam Convertible Securities Fund  
Putnam Core Bond Fund  
Putnam Core Equity Fund  
Putnam Diversified Income Trust  
Putnam Dynamic Asset Allocation  
Balanced Fund  
Putnam Dynamic Asset Allocation  
Conservative Fund  
Putnam Dynamic Asset Allocation  
Growth Fund  
Putnam Emerging Markets Equity Fund  
Putnam Emerging Markets ex-China ETF  
Putnam ESG Core Bond ETF  
Putnam ESG High Yield ETF  
Putnam ESG Ultra Short ETF  
Putnam Floating Rate Income Fund  
Putnam Focused Equity Fund  
Putnam Focused International  
Equity Fund  
Putnam Focused Large Cap Growth ETF  
Putnam Focused Large Cap Value ETF  
Putnam Global Health Care Fund  
Putnam Global Income Trust  
Putnam Global Technology Fund  
Putnam Government Money Market Fund  
Putnam High Yield Fund  
Putnam Income Fund  
Putnam Intermediate-Term Municipal  
Income Fund  
Putnam International Capital  
Opportunities Fund  
Putnam International Equity Fund  
Putnam International Value Fund  
Putnam Large Cap Growth Fund  
Putnam Large Cap Value Fund  
Putnam Massachusetts Tax Exempt  
Income Fund

Putnam Minnesota Tax Exempt  
Income Fund  
Putnam Money Market Fund  
Putnam Mortgage Opportunities Fund  
Putnam Mortgage Securities Fund  
Putnam Multi-Asset Income Fund  
Putnam New Jersey Tax Exempt  
Income Fund  
Putnam New York Tax Exempt Income  
Fund  
Putnam Ohio Tax Exempt Income Fund  
Putnam PanAgora ESG Emerging Markets  
Equity ETF  
Putnam PanAgora ESG International  
Equity ETF  
Putnam Pennsylvania Tax Exempt  
Income Fund  
Putnam Research Fund  
Putnam Short Duration Bond Fund  
Putnam Short-Term Municipal Income Fund  
Putnam Small Cap Growth Fund  
Putnam Small Cap Value Fund  
Putnam Strategic Intermediate  
Municipal Fund  
Putnam Sustainable Future ETF  
Putnam Sustainable Future Fund  
Putnam Sustainable Leaders ETF  
Putnam Sustainable Leaders Fund  
Putnam Tax Exempt Income Fund  
Putnam Tax-Free High Yield Fund  
Putnam Ultra Short Duration Income Fund  
Putnam VT Core Equity Fund  
Putnam VT Diversified Income Fund  
Putnam VT Emerging Markets Equity Fund  
Putnam VT Focused International  
Equity Fund  
Putnam VT George Putnam Balanced Fund  
Putnam VT Global Asset Allocation Fund  
Putnam VT Global Health Care Fund  
Putnam VT Government Money Market Fund  
Putnam VT High Yield Fund  
Putnam VT Income Fund

**Putnam VT International Equity Fund**  
**Putnam VT International Value Fund**  
**Putnam VT Large Cap Growth Fund**  
**Putnam VT Large Cap Value Fund**  
**Putnam VT Mortgage Securities Fund**

**Putnam VT Research Fund**  
**Putnam VT Small Cap Growth Fund**  
**Putnam VT Small Cap Value Fund**  
**Putnam VT Sustainable Future Fund**  
**Putnam VT Sustainable Leaders Fund**

On May 31, 2023, Franklin Resources, Inc. (“Franklin Resources”) and Great-West Lifeco Inc., the parent company of Putnam U.S. Holdings I, LLC (“Putnam Holdings”), announced that they have entered into a definitive agreement for a subsidiary of Franklin Resources to acquire Putnam Holdings in a stock and cash transaction.

As part of this transaction, Putnam Investment Management, LLC (“Putnam Management”), a wholly owned subsidiary of Putnam Holdings and investment manager to the Putnam family of funds (the “Putnam Funds”), would become an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of Franklin Resources.

The transaction is subject to customary closing conditions, including receipt of applicable regulatory approvals. Subject to such approvals and the satisfaction of these conditions, the transaction is currently expected to be consummated in the fourth quarter of 2023.

Under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, consummation of the transaction will result in the automatic termination of the investment management contract between each Putnam Fund and Putnam Management and any related sub-management and sub-advisory contracts, where applicable. Therefore, the Board of Trustees of the Putnam Funds will be asked to approve a new investment management contract between each Putnam Fund and Putnam Management (and new sub-management and sub-advisory contracts, if applicable). If approved by the Board of Trustees, the new investment management contract will be presented to the shareholders of each Putnam Fund for their approval.

*Shareholders should retain this Supplement for future reference.*

# Putnam ESG Core Bond ETF

## Investment objective

Putnam ESG Core Bond ETF seeks high current income consistent with what Putnam Investment Management, LLC (“Putnam Management”) believes to be prudent risk.

## 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.**

### Annual fund operating expenses

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

Management fees	Distribution and service (12b-1) fees	Other expenses*	Total annual fund operating expenses
0.35%	0.00%	0.00%	0.35%

+ Other expenses are based on estimated amounts for the current fiscal year.

### 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.

1 year	3 years
\$36	\$113

## 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 portfolio turnover rate will be available after the fund completes its first fiscal year.

## Principal investment strategies

The fund invests mainly in a diversified portfolio of investment-grade fixed-income securities with a focus on companies or issuers that Putnam Management, the fund’s investment manager, believes meet relevant environmental, social or governance (“ESG”) criteria on a sector-specific basis (“ESG criteria”).

The fund invests mainly in bonds of governments and private companies located in the United States that are investment-grade in quality with intermediate- to long-term maturities (three years or longer). Investment-grade securities are rated at least BBB or its equivalent at the time of purchase by a nationally recognized securities rating agency, or are unrated investments that Putnam Management believes are of comparable quality. Putnam Management may invest in below-investment-grade investments. However, Putnam Management will not invest in securities that are rated lower than B or its equivalent by each rating agency rating the investment, or are unrated securities that it believes are of comparable quality. The fund will not necessarily sell an investment if its rating is reduced (or increased) after purchase. The fund may also invest in foreign fixed income investments, although foreign investments do not represent a primary focus of the fund.

The fund may consider, among other factors, a company's or issuer's ESG criteria (as described below), credit, interest rate, liquidity and prepayment risks, as well as general market conditions, when deciding whether to buy or sell investments.

Under normal circumstances, the fund invests at least 80% of the value of its net assets in fixed-income securities that meet Putnam Management's ESG criteria. This policy is non-fundamental and may be changed only after 60 days' notice to shareholders. Putnam Management may not apply ESG criteria to investments that are not subject to the fund's 80% policy and such investments may not meet Putnam Management's ESG criteria.

In evaluating investments for the fund, Putnam Management identifies relevant ESG criteria on a sector-specific basis using an internally developed materiality map, which is informed by the ESG issues identified by the Sustainability Accounting Standards Board as material to companies or issuers within a particular industry. A materiality map provides a guide to understanding which ESG criteria are more or less important for a given sector or subsector; it includes those ESG criteria that may be reasonably likely to influence investment decision-making. Putnam Management constructs the materiality map by evaluating the significance of specified ESG criteria (i.e., board structure and composition, diversity, equity and inclusion, or climate change risk, among others) in specific industries (i.e., consumer, healthcare, financials, etc.), subsectors, or countries. Putnam Management then categorizes the relevance of each ESG criteria for each industry, subsector, or country. As part of this analysis, Putnam Management may utilize metrics and information such as emissions data, carbon intensity, sources of energy used for operations, water use and re-use, water generation, waste diversion from landfill, employee safety and diversity data, supplier audits, product safety, board composition, and incentive compensation structures. After evaluating these criteria, Putnam Management will assign each company or issuer, as applicable, a proprietary 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 Putnam Management's ESG criteria for purposes of the above-referenced non-fundamental investment policy, a company or issuer must be rated 2 or 1 by Putnam Management. While Putnam Management may consider independent third-party data as a part of its analytical process, the portfolio

management team performs its own independent analysis of issuers and does not rely solely on third-party screens.

The fund's approach to ESG investing incorporates fundamental research together with consideration of ESG criteria which may include, but are not limited to, those included in the following descriptions. Environmental criteria include, for example, a company's or issuer's carbon intensity and use of resources like water or minerals. ESG 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 criteria include, for example, labor practices and supply chain management. ESG 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 criteria include, for example, board composition and executive compensation, as well as bondholders' rights. ESG measures in this area might include improvements in board independence or diversity, or alignment of management incentives with the company's or issuer's strategic ESG objectives.

Putnam Management uses a sector-specific approach in evaluating investments. In the corporate credit sector, Putnam Management combines fundamental analysis with relevant ESG insights with a forward-looking perspective. Putnam Management believes that this approach contributes to a more nuanced assessment of an issuer's credit profile which offers potential opportunity to limit tail risk in credit portfolios (i.e., the risk that the price of a portfolio may decrease by more than three standard deviations from its current price) and ratings volatility. Putnam Management believes that securitized debt instruments present unique challenges in applying ESG criteria due to the presence of various asset types, counterparties involved, and the complex structure of the securitized debt market along with a lack of available ESG-related data. In evaluating securitized debt instruments for potential investment, Putnam Management takes a broad approach, analyzing both the terms of the transaction, including the asset type being securitized and structure of securitization, as well as key counterparties. Opportunities are analyzed at the asset level within each securitization and each subsector to identify assets that meet relevant ESG thresholds. Additionally, in evaluating securitized debt instruments, Putnam Management analyzes relevant ESG criteria regarding the originator, servicers, or other relevant counterparties. In the sovereign debt sector, Putnam Management uses quantitative modeling and fundamental research to evaluate countries across a variety of ESG criteria (i.e., natural resource dependence and level of public corruption) and non-ESG criteria (i.e., global economic conditions, market valuations and technicals). Putnam Management believes that sovereign issuers with better ESG scores generally benefit from lower borrowing costs and that ESG criteria may influence the perception of the credit risk of a country's debt. Countries are evaluated both on current ESG metrics and the extent of recent progress.

Putnam Management evaluates ESG considerations using independent third-party data (where available), and also uses company or issuer disclosures and public data sources. Putnam Management believes that ESG considerations are best analyzed in

combination with a company's or issuer's fundamentals, including a company's or issuer's industry, location, strategic position, and key relationships.

In addition to bonds, the fund may also invest in other fixed-income instruments. In addition to the main investment strategies described above, the fund may make other types of investments, such as assignments of and participations in fixed and floating rate bank loans, investments in hybrid and structured bonds and notes, and preferred securities that would be characterized as debt securities under applicable accounting standards and tax laws. The fund may also use derivatives, such as futures, options, certain foreign currency transactions and swap contracts, for both hedging and non-hedging purposes.

### **Principal investment risks**

- *ESG investing risk.* Investing with a focus on companies or issuers that meet Putnam Management's ESG criteria may result in the fund investing in certain types of companies, issuers, industries or sectors that the market may not favor. Conversely, investing in such companies or issuers may result in the fund foregoing investment in securities that outperform the fund's investments in certain environments. In evaluating an investment opportunity, Putnam Management may make investment decisions without the availability of optimal ESG-related data (which may be even less available with securitized debt instruments) or based on information and data that is incomplete or inaccurate. ESG metrics are not uniformly defined and applying such metrics involves subjective assessments. ESG scorings and assessments of issuers can vary across third-party data providers and may change over time. Putnam Management does not rely exclusively on third-party data providers in evaluating ESG criteria. ESG information from third-party data providers may be incomplete, inaccurate or unavailable, particularly with respect to companies in emerging market countries, which may adversely impact the investment process. The fund does not restrict its investments to "green bonds" (*i.e.*, U.S. dollar-denominated bonds designated as "green" by the Climate Bonds Initiative) and does not restrict investments based solely on "negative screens". In addition, a company's or issuer'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 ESG investment criteria. Regulatory changes or interpretations regarding the definitions and/or use of ESG 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 criteria. Because fixed-income investments generally represent a promise to pay principal and interest by an issuer, and not an ownership interest, and may involve complex structures, ESG-related investment considerations may have a more limited impact on risk and return (or may have an impact over a different investment time horizon) relative to other asset classes, and this may be particularly true for shorter-term investments. In addition, holders of fixed-income investments do not typically have voting rights, unlike holders of equity investments who have the right to vote on issuer proposals.

- *Model Risk.* If the quantitative models or data that are used in managing the fund prove to be incorrect or incomplete, investment decisions made in reliance on the models or data may not produce the desired results and the fund may realize losses. Additionally, market movements are likely to change the risk levels and risk allocations of the fund. Investments made based on quantitative models may perform differently from the market as a whole.
- *Fluctuation of NAV and share price risk.* Shares may trade at a larger premium or discount to NAV than shares of other ETFs. The NAV of the fund will generally fluctuate with changes in the market value of the fund's holdings. The fund's shares can be bought and sold in the secondary market at market prices. Disruptions to creations and redemptions, the existence of extreme market volatility or potential lack of an active trading market for the fund's shares may result in the fund's shares trading significantly above (at a premium) or below (at a discount) NAV or the intraday value of the fund's holdings. In addition, in stressed market conditions or periods of market disruption or volatility, the market for fund shares may become less liquid in response to deteriorating liquidity in the markets for the fund's underlying portfolio holdings.
- *Trading issues risk.* The fund has no public trading history. There can be no assurance that an active trading market will develop or be maintained or that the market for fund shares will operate as intended, which could lead to the fund's shares trading at wider spreads and larger premiums and discounts to NAV than other actively managed ETFs. As a result, it may cost investors more to trade fund shares than shares of other ETFs. There is no guarantee that the fund will be able to attract market makers and authorized participants. Market makers and authorized participants are not obligated to make a market in the fund's shares or to submit purchase and redemption orders for creation units. The market prices of the fund's shares are expected to fluctuate, in some cases materially, in response to changes in the fund's NAV, the intraday value of the Fund's holdings and supply and demand for the fund's shares. Putnam Management cannot predict whether the fund's shares will trade above, below or at their NAV or the intraday value of the fund's holdings. During such periods, investors may incur significant losses if they sell shares.

The securities held by the fund may be traded in markets that close at a different time than the exchange on which the fund's shares are listed. Liquidity in those securities may be reduced after the applicable closing times. Accordingly, during the time when the exchange is open but after the applicable market closing, fixing or settlement times, bid-ask spreads on the exchange and the corresponding premium or discount to the shares' NAV may widen.

- *Large shareholder risk.* Certain accounts or affiliates of Putnam Management, including other funds advised by Putnam Management or third parties, may from time to time own (beneficially or of record) or control a substantial amount of the fund's shares, including through seed capital arrangements. Such shareholders may at times be considered to control the fund. Dispositions of a large number of shares by these shareholders may adversely affect the fund's liquidity and net assets to the extent such transactions are executed directly with the fund in the form of redemptions through an authorized participant, rather than executed in the secondary market.



These redemptions may also force the fund to sell securities, which may increase the fund's brokerage costs. To the extent these large shareholders transact in shares of the fund on the secondary market, such transactions may account for a large percentage of the trading volume on the exchange and may, therefore, have a material effect (upward or downward) on the market price of the fund's shares.

- *Authorized participant concentration risk.* Only an authorized participant may engage in creation and redemption transactions directly with the fund. The fund may have a limited number of financial institutions that act as authorized participants, none of which are obligated to engage in creation and/or redemption transactions. To the extent that those authorized participants do not engage in creation and redemption orders, there may be a significantly diminished trading market for fund shares or fund shares may trade at a discount (or premium) to NAV and possibly face trading halts and/or de-listing.
- *Cash transactions risk.* Unlike certain ETFs, the fund may effect creations and redemptions in cash or partially in cash. Therefore, it may be required to sell portfolio securities and subsequently recognize gains on such sales that the fund might not have recognized if it were to distribute portfolio securities in-kind. As such, investments in the fund's shares may be less tax-efficient than an investment in an ETF that distributes portfolio securities entirely in-kind.
- *Market risk.* 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.
- *Fixed-income investments risk.* The risks associated with fixed-income investments include interest rate risk, which is the risk that the value of the fund's investments is likely to fall if interest rates rise. Fixed-income investments are also subject to credit risk, which is the risk that the issuer of a fixed-income investment may default on payment of interest or principal. Credit risk is generally greater for debt not backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. government, and interest rate risk is generally greater for longer-term debt. Fixed-income investments may be more susceptible to downgrades or defaults during economic downturns or other periods of economic stress. Mortgage-backed investments, unlike traditional debt investments, are also subject to prepayment risk, which means that they may increase in value less than other bonds when interest rates decline and decline in value more than other bonds when interest rates rise. The fund may have to invest the proceeds from prepaid investments, including mortgage-backed investments, in other investments with less attractive terms and yields. The fund's investments in mortgage-backed securities, and in certain other securities and derivatives, may be or become illiquid. The fund's

investments in mortgage-backed securities may make the fund's net asset value more susceptible to economic, market, political and other developments affecting the residential and commercial real estate markets and the servicing of mortgage loans secured by real estate properties. During periods of difficult economic conditions, delinquencies and losses on commercial mortgage-backed investments in particular generally increase, including as a result of the effects of those conditions on commercial real estate markets, the ability of commercial tenants to make loan payments, and the ability of a property to attract and retain commercial tenants.

- *Derivatives risk.* The fund's use of derivatives may increase the risks of investing in the fund by increasing investment exposure (which may be considered leverage) or, in the case of many over-the-counter instruments, because of the potential inability to terminate or sell derivatives positions and the potential failure of the other party to the instrument to meet its obligations. The value of derivatives may move in unexpected ways due to unanticipated market movements, the use of leverage, imperfect correlation between the derivative instrument and the reference asset, or other factors, especially in unusual market conditions, and volatility in the value of derivatives could adversely impact the fund's returns, obligations and exposures. Derivatives are also subject to other risks, including liquidity risk (e.g., liquidity demands arising from the requirement to make payments to a derivative counterparty), operational risk (e.g., settlement issues or system failure), and legal risk (e.g., insufficient legal documentation or contract enforceability issues).
- *Portfolio turnover rate risk.* From time to time the fund may engage in frequent trading. Funds with high turnover may be more likely to realize capital gains that must be distributed to shareholders as taxable income. High turnover may also cause a fund to pay more brokerage commissions and to incur other transaction costs (including imputed transaction costs), which may detract from performance. The fund's portfolio turnover rate and the amount of brokerage commissions it pays and transaction costs it incurs will vary over time based on market conditions.
- *Management and operational risk.* There is no guarantee that the investment techniques, analyses, or judgments that Putnam Management applies in making investment decisions for the fund will produce the intended outcome or that the investments Putnam Management selects for the fund will perform as well as other securities that were not selected for the fund. Putnam Management, 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. It is important to understand that you can lose money by investing in the fund.

## **Performance**

Performance information will be available after the fund completes a full calendar year of operation.

## **Your fund's management**

### **Investment advisor**

Putnam Investment Management, LLC

### **Portfolio managers**

#### **Michael Salm**

Chief Investment Officer, Fixed Income, portfolio manager of the fund since 2023

#### **Albert Chan**

Head of Portfolio Construction, portfolio manager of the fund since 2023

#### **Andrew Benson**

Portfolio Manager, portfolio manager of the fund since 2023

#### **Sriketan Mahanti**

Portfolio Manager, portfolio manager of the fund since 2023

### **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**

Shares of the fund are listed and traded on an exchange, and individual fund shares may only be bought and sold in the secondary market through a broker or dealer at market price. These transactions, which do not involve the fund, are made at market prices that may vary throughout the day, rather than at net asset value (NAV). Shares of the fund may trade at a price greater than the fund's NAV (premium) or less than the fund's NAV (discount). An investor may incur costs attributable to the difference between the highest price a buyer is willing to pay to purchase shares (bid) and the lowest price a seller is willing to accept for shares (ask) when buying or selling fund shares in the secondary market (the "bid-ask spread"). Recent information, including information regarding the fund's NAV, market price, premiums and discounts, and bid-ask spread, is available at [putnam.com](http://putnam.com).

## **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**

The fund and its related companies may pay intermediaries, which may include banks, broker/dealers, or financial professionals, 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), or by calling 1-833-228-5577.**

This page intentionally left blank.

