Investing in companies improving our world

Putnam Sustainable Leaders Fund (PNOYX)
Companies leading in material ESG practices

Putnam Sustainable Future Fund (PMVYX)
Companies developing sustainable solutions
Sustainable investing aims to identify companies that are thriving by producing beneficial products in a responsible way. Putnam Investments offers two funds with sustainable mandates and has created a team dedicated to integrating sustainability insights with our fundamental research process.

**Sustainable investing and ESG criteria**
Sustainable investing aims to identify companies that offer potential for strong financial returns while also demonstrating a commitment to sustainable business practices and positive impact. Putnam’s research combines conventional fundamental and valuation analysis with an amplified focus on relevant sustainability issues. Evaluating investment opportunities in this way can help investors better understand growth opportunities as well as potential risks.

Sustainability is often considered through analysis of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) policies, practices, and performance. Environmental practices might include improving water quality or reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Social impact could involve fair labor practices and improvement in workplace diversity, inclusion, and equity. Governance issues might relate to a company’s leadership structures, board composition, and management incentives.

**ESG analysis improves fundamental research**
Sustainable investing and ESG data are both evolving. New tools are helping to provide a clearer understanding of a company’s effectiveness and impact. But even these new tools have limitations and require fundamental context to be useful. At Putnam, our broad global research is closely integrated with our sustainability research. Our research analysts examine the most relevant ESG issues within the context of each company and industry, and they collaborate with team members across industries and asset classes.
SUSTAINABILITY MATTERS

Intangible assets, which are nonphysical items like brands or trademarks, represent most of the value of S&P 500 companies. Analysis of ESG issues like employee well-being and supply chain management can help to assess the value of intangibles. Evaluating a company’s activity beyond standard financial statements helps us understand its long-term prospects and identify emerging risks and opportunities.

ESG factors have impact on risk and returns

A highly regarded 2016 study led by George Serafeim of Harvard Business School found that stocks of companies with strongest performance on material ESG issues outpaced those with poor ESG performance. Additional research suggests that ESG performance is an effective risk indicator, as companies with poor ESG performance have been more prone to stock market underperformance, volatility, and bankruptcy risk.

Businesses recognize the importance of ESG criteria

Environmental, social, and governance issues are already deeply embedded in most company strategies. Corporate leaders now recognize that effective management and communication of their sustainability efforts can benefit companies and all of their stakeholders, from investors to employees to communities. More than 90% of S&P 500 companies now provide sustainability reports, a rapid rise from just 20% earlier this decade.

As ESG popularity grows, 90% of the S&P 500 companies supply sustainability reports

S&P 500 companies, 2011–2019

Source: Governance & Accountability Institute, Inc. 2019 Research, most recent data available.

“CEOs recognize that environmental, social, and governance issues are core business considerations.”

KATHERINE COLLINS, CFA, MTS
Head of Sustainable Investing
A research team looking for long-term value and sustainability

At Putnam, we believe that the greatest investment potential comes from thoughtful integration of fundamental, valuation, and sustainability analysis. Therefore, we are working to embed focus on financially material ESG issues throughout the investment process and across the equity and corporate credit teams.

Deep fundamental analysis
Like all other investors who aim for capital appreciation over time, the portfolio managers of our sustainable funds focus on companies with potential to produce strong long-term financial performance. They analyze conventional factors, such as company strategy, growth potential, and competitive position, in order to forecast future earnings and cash flows.

What is more pronounced in the sustainable investing process is an emphasis on environmental, social, and governance issues. We believe that analyzing ESG factors provides an enhanced understanding of its fundamentals and strengthens our core investment work.

Putnam offers two funds that are rooted in the recognition that strong sustainability performance often contributes to strong financial performance over the long term. For Putnam Sustainable Leaders Fund, the portfolio managers seek companies that exhibit leadership in financially material sustainability practices. For Putnam Sustainable Future Fund, they seek companies that are creating innovative solutions to sustainability challenges, resulting in strong financial prospects and positive environmental or social impact.

Examples of positive impact

Source: Putnam Investments

Visit our website for timely insights from our Sustainable Research team. putnam.com/individual/how-we-invest/sustainable-investing/
We integrate ESG analysis with traditional fundamental research

- Integrating ESG factors with fundamental research brings a more complete understanding of companies and provides a solid foundation for building effective investment portfolios.
- Our analysts have extensive knowledge of companies and industries as well as first-hand interaction with industry leaders and c-suite executives. This expertise allows us to make best use of ESG data.
- As active, fundamental asset managers, we have a unique opportunity to contribute to the practice of sustainable investing and to help advance the field.
- The team’s capabilities continue to expand and include expertise in quantitative analysis and impact assessment.

“Our sustainable investing effort has the potential to benefit investors, our communities, and our planet for many years to come.”
Two funds investing in sustainability and positive impact

**Putnam Sustainable Leaders Fund (PNOYX)**

The Sustainable Leaders portfolio invests in companies that have demonstrated leadership in the sustainability issues that are financially material to their businesses. We believe companies that exhibit this type of commitment also often demonstrate potential for strong long-term financial performance.

**MORNINGSTAR CATEGORY** | **LIPPER CATEGORY**
--- | ---
Large Growth | Multi-Cap Core

**ANNUALIZED TOTAL RETURN PERFORMANCE** as of 9/30/21

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inception 7/19/94</th>
<th>Class Y shares</th>
<th>S&amp;P 500 Index</th>
<th>Russell 3000 Growth – S&amp;P 500 Linked Benchmark</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 year</td>
<td>27.31%</td>
<td>30.00%</td>
<td>30.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>20.13</td>
<td>15.99</td>
<td>15.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 years</td>
<td>21.11</td>
<td>16.90</td>
<td>19.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 years</td>
<td>18.89</td>
<td>16.63</td>
<td>17.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life of fund</td>
<td>12.86</td>
<td>10.96</td>
<td>10.80</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total expense ratio: 0.78%

**Top Ten Holdings** as of 9/30/21

- Microsoft: 7.77%
- Apple: 6.88%
- Amazon: 4.94%
- Danaher: 2.70%
- Adobe: 2.70%
- Thermo Fisher Scientific: 2.30%
- Visa: 2.13%
- Bank of America: 1.98%
- Chipotle Mexican Grill: 1.94%
- Johnson Controls: 1.87%

Holdings represent 24.10% of the portfolio and will vary over time.

**Putnam Sustainable Future Fund (PMVYX)**

The Sustainable Future portfolio invests in companies whose products and services provide solutions to essential sustainability challenges. We believe solutions-oriented companies with potential to create positive social and environmental impact also demonstrate potential for strong growth and long-term financial performance.

**MORNINGSTAR CATEGORY** | **LIPPER CATEGORY**
--- | ---
Large Growth | Multi-Cap Growth

**ANNUALIZED TOTAL RETURN PERFORMANCE** as of 9/30/21

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inception 4/2/02</th>
<th>Class Y shares</th>
<th>Russell Midcap Growth Index</th>
<th>Russell 3000 Value – Russell Midcap Growth Linked Benchmark</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 year</td>
<td>29.97%</td>
<td>30.49%</td>
<td>30.45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>23.37</td>
<td>19.14</td>
<td>19.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 years</td>
<td>19.01</td>
<td>19.27</td>
<td>16.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 years</td>
<td>17.80</td>
<td>17.54</td>
<td>16.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life of fund</td>
<td>11.93</td>
<td>9.22</td>
<td>8.74</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total expense ratio: 0.77%

**Top Ten Holdings** as of 9/30/21

- Danaher: 3.29%
- Adobe: 3.04%
- Dynatrace: 2.68%
- Chipotle Mexican Grill: 2.55%
- Edwards Lifesciences: 2.28%
- Thermo Fisher Scientific: 2.25%
- MSCI: 2.14%
- Bio-Rad Laboratories: 2.04%
- DocuSign: 1.92%
- Sunrun: 1.91%

Holdings represent 24.10% of the portfolio and will vary over time.

Current performance may be lower or higher than the quoted past performance, which cannot guarantee future results. Share price, principal value, and return will vary, and you may have a gain or a loss when you sell your shares. Performance of class Y shares assumes reinvestment of distributions and does not account for taxes. Class Y shares, available to investors through an asset-based fee program or for institutional clients, are sold without an initial sales charge and have no CDSC. Performance for class Y shares before their inception are derived from the historical performance of class A shares (inception 11/1/99 and 8/31/90), which have not been adjusted for the lower expenses; had they, returns would have been higher. For the most recent month-end performance, please visit putnam.com.
SAMPLE HOLDINGS: STRONG BUSINESSES WITH SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS PRACTICES

Listed here are some of the companies that may appear in Putnam’s sustainable fund portfolios. The strengths and characteristics highlighted below are based on the analysis and opinions of Putnam’s Sustainable Investing team and are not intended as an investment recommendation.

WALMART
Business and sustainability strengths
• Longstanding focus on value to customers, which drives revenue growth
• Ambitious internal goals for employee opportunity and well-being, which improve productivity
• Leadership like “Project Gigaton” and working with Sustainability Consortium
• Strong growth in online and delivery business

EVERBRIDGE
Business and sustainability strengths
• Critical event management and emergency alert software protects people, assets, and data
• High recurring revenue model and opportunities from new products are driving robust revenue growth
• Large opportunities in international markets and public sector
• Positive free cash flow; unusual for a fast-growing SaaS company

Sustainable Leaders Fund and Sustainable Future Fund
Putnam’s Sustainable Investing team believes that these companies may be appropriate for both the Sustainable Leaders and Sustainable Future portfolios.

DANAHER
Business and sustainability strengths
• Products help advance research, improve health and safety, and promote environmental stewardship
• Capital allocation and portfolio management is accelerating organic growth
• Danaher Business System has benefits to leadership development, productivity and efficiency, and growth

DOCUSIGN
Business and sustainability strengths
• Strong growth as customers adopt e-signature processes
• Much better convenience, speed, security, cost, and environmental footprint versus paper
• Opportunities for growth with enterprise customers and document management products
For informational purposes only. Not an investment recommendation.

Consider these risks before investing: 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.

Growth stocks may be more susceptible to earnings disappointments and the market may not favor growth-style investing. Investments in small and midsize companies increase the risk of greater price fluctuations. 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 companies, industries, or sectors. International investing involves currency, economic, and political risks. Investing with a focus on companies whose products and services produce positive environmental, social, and economic development impact may result in the fund investing in certain types of companies, industries, or sectors that underperform the market as a whole. In evaluating an investment opportunity, we may make investment decisions based on information and data that is incomplete or inaccurate. Due to changes in the products or services of the companies in which the fund invests, the fund may temporarily hold securities that are inconsistent with its sustainable investment criteria.

Our investment techniques, analyses, and judgments may not produce the outcome we intend. The investments we select for the fund may not perform as well as other securities that we do not select for the fund. We, or the fund’s other service providers, may experience disruptions or operating errors that could have a negative effect on the fund. You can lose money by investing in the fund.

The Russell Midcap Growth Index is an unmanaged index of those companies in the Russell Midcap Index chosen for their growth orientation. The Russell 3000 Value-Russell Midcap Growth Linked Benchmark represents performance of the Russell 3000 Value Index through March 20, 2018, and performance of the Russell Midcap Growth Index thereafter. The S&P 500 Index is an unmanaged index of common stock performance. The Russell 3000 Growth - S&P 500 Linked Benchmark represents performance of the Russell 3000 Growth Index through July 31, 2019, and performance of the S&P 500 Index thereafter. 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. You cannot invest directly in an index. Not all share classes are available on all platforms.

Investing with a focus on ESG-impact companies may cause the fund to forego otherwise attractive investment opportunities or may increase or decrease the fund’s exposure to certain types of companies and, therefore, to possibly underperform funds that do not invest with a similar focus.

For informational purposes only. Not an investment recommendation.

A world of investing®

Investors should carefully consider the investment objectives, risks, charges, and expenses of a fund before investing. For a prospectus, or a summary prospectus if available, containing this and other information for any Putnam fund or product, call your financial representative (or call Putnam at 1-800-225-1581). Read the prospectus carefully before investing.