



YOUR INVESTMENTS. YOUR PLANET. YOUR CHOICE.

ECONOMY

INSIDE

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The heat continues as we enter the final quarter of 2019. Will the market continue to heat or will we see a correction. No one knows. One thing that is clear is that the S&P 500 is up about 18% heading into these winter months--another reason to maintain proper allocations regardless of headline risk. Having allocations in various asset classes like gold, REITs and dividend paying stocks will help weather market shifters like interest rate deductions and global trade tensions. At the same time, continuing to be invested in strong earning, low beta equities will keep us in the game and we will use any volatility to rebalance as needed.

People sometimes ask me what I am reading lately. Besides the doom and gloom books that inspire me such as The Uninhabitable Earth by David-Wallace Wells, a book that I recently went back to is Peter Lynch's 1994 classic Beating the Street. For those who don't remember (or

weren't born yet), Peter Lynch was the Fidelity fund manager from the 80s. What rings true to me as I read this old classic is how we invest today hasn't changed much from 25 years ago. Yes, there are fancy ETFs that do a lot of the work for us, but when it comes to investing, don't forget about what is actually taking place here--investing in companies with strong earnings AND strong values. He mentions way back in 1994 how Southwest Airlines (LUV) gave all employees the same % raise each year, regardless of rank. Their annual corporate gala was a chili cookout. If one was to invest in LUV back in 1994, they would be up about 1400% today. On the other end of the spectrum, during this same time period, Exxon Mobil (XOM) is up only 300%, a fifth of Southwest's performance. (Note: Exxon is lagging the S&P500 this year by about 18%). The point here being, sustainable investing existed even 25 years ago and companies that are integrating these

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COMPANIES COMMITTED

Have you had one? You know, one of those meatless burgers. Lately, I find myself grilling this new phase of food and have been pleasantly surprised. Enter Beyond Meat Inc. Founded almost 10 years ago, Beyond (BYND), based out of El Segundo, CA, has quickly risen as a partner for many fast food restaurants. It's products include the Beyond Burger, Beyond Sausage, Beyond Beef Crumbles and Beyond Chicken Strips.

In terms of sustainability, a recent study discovered that the Beyond Burger generates 90% less greenhouse gas emissions, requires 46% less energy, and has 99% less impact on water scarcity and 93% less impact on land use than a quarter pound of U.S. beef. Now, that's a step in the right direction.

For many hungry folk, the decision to lessen the dependence on meat is based on health and dietary concerns.

But for many, especially younger eco-conscious types, it is for environmental reasons. It takes an estimated 1800 gallons of water to produce one pound of beef. (Peas, in comparison, take 18 gallons). Agriculture is one of the largest contributors to greenhouse gas emissions.



Recently, McDonald tapped BYND to offer their burger at the 80 year old burger chain. The burger, called simply, the P.L.T. (for Plant, Lettuce, Tomato) will be offered at select locations.

*Note: Sustainvest may have a position in the company*



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## SHAREHOLDER ACTIVISM

### Sustainvest Update

As a refresher here regarding shareholder activism, we wanted to make sure all readers understood what this type of activism meant. Shareholder advocacy or activism is a way to leverage the power of stock ownership in publicly-traded companies to promote environmental, social, and governance change from within.

Shareholder resolutions are a powerful way to encourage corporate responsibility and discourage practices that are unsustainable, unethical, or increased exposure to risk.

Shareholders holding at least \$2,000 worth of stock in a publicly-traded company for at least one year prior to the filing deadline can introduce a resolution to company management to be voted on at the next annual meeting. The goal of a shareholder resolution is to influence a company's decision making. As a shareholder we have the right. If they company is privately held, we do not.

For this upcoming file year, we are looking to file resolutions with Enphase Energy, Dunkin Brands, Sonos, Adobe Inc. and Merck Pharmaceutical.

Stay tuned as Sustainvest continues to submit shareholder proposals in the upcoming months for the 2020 proxy season.

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principles today should continue to be strong performers because they have morals. Times, they are a changing, and it's good to be invested with this social and environmental compass to help guide the ship.

Performance numbers for Q3 and YTD below:

	Q3	2019 YTD
S&P 500	1.3%	19.82%
Total Bond Mkt.Index (BND)	1.64%	6.86%
Nasdaq	-.09%	21.50%
Sustainable Index ETF (DSI)	1.45%	20.28%
Gold	4.26%	14.71%
Energy Sector/Oil ETF (XLE)	-7.16%	3.68%
Clean Energy ETF (PBW)	-1.88%	29.81%

## NEWS!

Recently, we launched a robo advisor site with just a \$5,000 minimum.



With a \$5,000 minimum balance, the program was created to help further the mission of sustainable investing and opening up the movement of SRI to those who perhaps couldn't get into. Our mission is to help guide those who are possibly taking their first attempt into this more environmentally friendly way to invest.

SustainFolio is a technology based investment platform designed for individuals who want to integrate sustainability into their portfolios digitally. SustainFolio allows its clients to establish a portfolio based on their tolerance for risk and their aspirations for building wealth using sustainable low cost ETFs.

Portfolios are held in a brokerage account at Charles Schwab and Co., Inc.

Check it out here at [www.sustainfolio.com](http://www.sustainfolio.com)

## GREENY OF THE QUARTER

Greeny of the Quarter is Swedish activist Greta Thunberg, 16, who spoke at the United Nations in New York City on climate change, accusing world leaders of inaction and half-measures. As shareholder activists ourselves, we felt the speech was so powerful that we are placing the text below. If you haven't watched the entire speech online, we suggest you take time to do so.

*"My message is that we'll be watching you.*

*This is all wrong. I shouldn't be up here. I should be back in school, on the other side of the ocean. Yet you all come to us young people for hope. How dare you!*

*You have stolen my dreams and my childhood with your empty words. And yet I'm one of the lucky ones. People are suffering. People are dying.*

*Entire ecosystems are collapsing. We are in the beginning of a mass extinction, and all you can talk about is money, and fairy tales of eternal economic growth. How dare you!*

*For more than 30 years the science has been crystal clear. How dare you continue to look away, and come here saying that you're doing enough when the politics and solutions needed are still nowhere in sight.*

*You say you hear us and that you understand the urgency. But no matter how sad and angry I am, I do not want to believe that. Because if you really understood the situation and still kept on failing to act, then you would be evil. And that I refuse to believe.*

*The popular idea of cutting our emissions in half in 10 years only gives us a 50 percent chance of staying below 1.5 degrees and the risk of setting off irreversible chain reactions beyond human control.*

*Fifty percent may be acceptable to you, but those numbers do not include tipping points, most feedback loops, additional warming hidden by toxic air pollution or the aspects of equity and climate justice.*

*They also rely on my generation sucking hundreds of billions of tons of your CO<sub>2</sub> out of the air with technologies that barely exist.*

*So a 50 percent risk is simply not acceptable to us, we who have to live with the consequences.*

*How dare you pretend that this can be solved with just business as usual and some technical solutions? With today's emissions levels, that remaining CO<sub>2</sub> budget will be entirely gone within less than eight and a half years.*

*There will not be any solutions or plans presented in line with these figures here today, because these numbers are too uncomfortable and you are still not mature enough to tell it like it is.*

*You are failing us, but the young people are starting to understand your betrayal. The eyes of all future generations are upon you and if you choose to fail us, I say: We will never forgive you.*

*We will not let you get away with this. Right here, right now is where we draw the line. The world is waking up and change is coming, whether you like it or not.*

*Thank you."*

-Greta Thunberg  
9/23/2019

If you are interested in learning more about our services, please contact us at [info@sustainvest.com](mailto:info@sustainvest.com) or call us at 707-766-9480

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