



# Sustainable investing: The summit of stewardship

Sentinel Sustainable Core Opportunities Fund

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800.282.FUND | [www.sentinelinvestments.com](http://www.sentinelinvestments.com)



# Sustainable investing and you

Enhanced corporate governance, sound financial stewardship and environmental awareness have taken on new meaning and importance in today's global economic landscape. For those seeking to invest in companies leading in these areas, Sentinel Investments offers the **Sustainable Core Opportunities Fund**.

## Sentinel's three pillars of sustainable investing

### Pillar I:

#### Screening — A Process Combining Exclusionary and Qualitative Criteria

We employ an integrated process combining exclusionary screening with in-depth qualitative screening—a process which seeks to identify companies with useful products, strong corporate governance practices, a history of environmental stewardship, and good employee and community relations.

We recognize there is no perfect company. However, the companies that emerge from this comprehensive process are fundamentally strong and well-managed, with stated and identifiable commitments to their customers, employees, communities, shareholders and the world at large.

#### Exclusionary Screens

Alcohol • Tobacco • Weapons • Gambling • Nuclear power generation • Lack of diversity

#### Qualitative Screens

##### Business Practices and Corporate Governance

Sustainable companies:

- are responsive to consumer and public concerns, and market their products responsibly;
- demonstrate “best practices” related to board independence and elections, auditor independence, executive compensation, voting rights and other important governance issues;
- have strong records of compliance and do not have a pattern of regulatory violations for their products or services; and
- provide beneficial and useful products and services.

##### Community

Sustainable companies:

- engage with the communities in which they operate;
- take a proactive approach to minimizing their negative impact; and
- support their local and/or global communities, either through financial support or by encouraging employee volunteerism.

##### Diversity

Sustainable companies:

- promote equal opportunity and actively recruit, hire and promote individuals in order to create a diverse workforce; and
- do not have a pattern of discrimination based on age, gender, religion, race, disability, sexual orientation or gender identity.

##### Environment

Sustainable companies:

- have exceptional environmental policies, management systems, and performance;
- meet or exceed industry standards; and
- take a proactive approach to environmental initiatives.

##### Human Rights

Sustainable companies:

- do not permit the use of child labor, forced labor or other abuses in the manufacture of their products; and
- enforce codes of conduct and vendor standards for their sub-contractors, operations and suppliers.

##### Labor

Sustainable companies:

- do not have a pattern of labor law violations or engage in unfair labor practices;
- do not have poor health and safety records or consistent patterns of OSHA violations;
- offer competitive salaries and benefits, have family-friendly policies and good relationships with unions.

##### Supply Chain

Sustainable companies:

- have vendor policies that include a code of conduct; and
- apply environmental, health, safety and diversity criteria in supplier selection.

*Sustainable investing at Sentinel means investing in companies with solid fundamentals and strong environmental, social, and corporate governance (“ESG”) attributes.*

## **Pillar II:** Shareholder Advocacy

As a sustainable investor, we advocate for sustainable business practices through our proxy voting activities. Several key issues have been at the fore of proxy voting for sustainable investors, including executive “say on pay,” disclosure of political contributions, board declassification, and sustainable reporting. Our proxy voting guidelines and voting record are available for your information on the Sentinel Investments Web site.

## **Pillar III:** Corporate Engagement

We believe it is important to use our voice as investors to effect corporate change. Corporate engagement occurs in many forms, from contacting companies on specific topics and providing comments to regulatory agencies on sustainable issues to supporting non-profit organizations engaged in improving sustainable business practices. Recent corporate engagement efforts have included encouraging companies to participate in the Carbon Disclosure Project (“CDP”) and the CDP Water Disclosure Project.

## **Our Philosophy**

At Sentinel, we have a fundamental belief that **sustainable companies should first do no harm** — whether through products, practices, or policies. For us, sustainable companies are responsible corporate citizens that in some way impact the world in a positive manner. Therefore, we seek companies that provide beneficial products, services and/or technologies, have a history of environmental stewardship, have strong corporate governance practices, and good employee and community relations. In short, we are looking for companies with favorable ESG profiles.

## **Our Process**

Sentinel’s sustainable investment process combines the fundamental analysis of the portfolio management team with the research and analysis of in-house sustainable investing researchers which, through an in-depth screening process, define the investable universe. Together they collaborate to create diversified, sustainable portfolios.

Once portfolios are constructed, the process does not end there. The portfolio management team constantly monitors performance, valuations, risk factors, and changing market conditions, while the sustainable investing researchers constantly monitor companies to ensure they continue to meet Sentinel’s sustainable criteria.

**Learn more about Sentinel’s approach to sustainable investing. Please contact your Financial Advisor or visit [www.sentinelinvestments.com/sustainable](http://www.sentinelinvestments.com/sustainable)**

Sentinel is an active asset manager headquartered above the noise of Wall Street, in Montpelier, Vermont.

We are an integral part of National Life Group, a mutually-held family of financial service companies with roots dating back to 1848.

Sentinel's range of actively managed mutual funds are designed to find attractive returns through the combination of quantitative analysis and deep fundamental research.

Learn more about Sentinel:

800.233.4332

[www.sentinelinvestments.com](http://www.sentinelinvestments.com)

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A Sentinel Sustainable Fund's environmental, social and corporate governance criteria may cause the Fund to forgo opportunities to buy certain securities, and/or forgo opportunities to gain exposure to certain industries, sectors, regions and countries. In addition, a Sentinel Sustainable Fund may be required to sell a security when it might otherwise be disadvantageous for it to do so.

Large company stocks as a group could fall out of favor with the market and underperform investments that focus on small and mid-sized company stocks. International securities are subject to political influences, currency fluctuations and economic cycles that may be unrelated to those affecting the domestic financial markets and may experience wider price fluctuations than US domestic securities.

**NOT FDIC INSURED • MAY LOSE VALUE • NO BANK GUARANTEE**

**Before investing, carefully consider a fund's objectives, risks, charges and expenses. Summary and full prospectuses containing this and other information are available from [sentinelinvestments.com](http://sentinelinvestments.com). Please read them carefully.**

Sentinel Investments is the unifying brand name for Sentinel Financial Services Company, Sentinel Asset Management, Inc., and Sentinel Administrative Services, Inc. Sentinel Funds are distributed by Sentinel Financial Services Company, One National Life Drive, Montpelier, VT 05604, 800-282-FUND, [www.sentinelinvestments.com](http://www.sentinelinvestments.com).