

Mission: To provide people of faith with tools for implementing their values as consumers, investors, employees, employers, and citizens.

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The Review's Approach

Even in the world of socially responsible investing, there are few absolutes. Issues often conflict with one another and sometimes investors—whether individuals or institutions—are forced to make decisions about the relative merits of the tradeoffs.

A number of articles in this issue address environmental issues, an area prone to conflict and tradeoffs. Sometimes the tradeoffs are between environmental concerns themselves (nuclear waste versus climate change), sometimes between capital costs and long-term environmental performance.

It is important that a congregation or committee thoroughly discuss the potential for tradeoffs. Too often, it is easy to make a decision based on a limited set of facts that favor one decision. Although this may ultimately be the most appropriate decision for your congregation, you cannot be sure without an investigation of mitigating elements or competing issues.

In addition, conversations exploring such potential tradeoffs offer an opportunity to consider and test your own values. Such discussions offer the best opportunities to know that decisions are made based consciously on the congregation's values.

Express Your Values through Action

1. ***Review your building's environmental impact.*** Read the articles on zero net energy buildings (p. 7) and environmentally friendly computers (p. 6) and consider the effect your building (office, home, place of worship) has on the environment. Consider changes you can make that would reduce that footprint.
2. ***Review your portfolio.*** Look at the companies included in the articles on shareholder engagement (p. 2), nuclear power (p. 4), and zero net energy buildings (p. 7) and evaluate whether the activities documented increase or decrease the desirability of having these companies in your investment portfolio.
3. ***Review your mutual fund holdings.*** Read the article on Sudan screening and use it as a prompt for you to look at the holdings of your mutual fund investments. Do your funds reflect your values?