



Policy Academy Curriculum

***Environmental
Radicalism and
the Danger of
ESG Policies***

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Policy Academy Curriculum Environmental Radicalism and the Danger of ESG Policies

In this Independent Women Policy Academy lesson, you'll learn about environmental, social, and governance (ESG) investing. While this investment strategy is marketed as a force for good, it is used by extreme environmentalists to manipulate markets and advance a radical, leftist agenda. You will learn how ESG policies cause more harm than good and how these actions impact your day-to-day lives. ESG is purposefully complex and convoluted as its proponents would prefer the majority of Americans stay uninformed and unengaged on the issue. By the end of this course, you not only have a comprehensive understanding of ESG but will also be armed with numerous tools to challenge it.

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Introduction: Understanding ESG

ESG may seem confusing or complex, but we break it down in simple terms.

- Read **IW's Primer on ESG** and learn the important basics.
- Also check out Center for Energy and Conservation Director Gabriella Hoffman's op-ed explaining **ESG investing strategies hurt retirement savings accounts** to buy virtue.
- And just to get a feel for how far-reaching ESG is, read Gabriella's blog analyzing **how chocolate companies line up under the rubric of Leftist "good."**



How It Works: Circumventing Congress and Accountability by Design

The policies being pushed by ESG—like net-zero, fossil fuel divestment, trans-activism, and race-based quotas—are not new. But the process of using the power of the financial sector to force these policies on Americans is.

- Click [HERE](#) to learn how Congress is asserting itself and pushing back against ESG so the American voter is not kept out of the loop.
- Read Independent Women’s Center for Energy and Conservation Director Gabriella Hoffman’s overview explaining [why high ESG scores are not indicative of any tangible benefit to society](#).
- **Bonus Read:** Once popular, ESG posturing is no longer official government policy because it invites [higher](#) energy costs and delivers few environmental benefits. Click [HERE](#) to read Gabriella’s blog about successful pushback efforts to ESG happening in both the public and [private](#) sectors under the second Trump administration.





Impacts of ESG: Lost Value and Freedom

ESG impacts American families in a number of ways. From expensive energy to lower value for retirees and pensions to politicized shopping experiences at Target, ESG is generating a multitude of consequences.

- Watch **Mandy's Congressional testimony on the cascading consequences of ESG and how it impacts bill-payers, entrepreneurs, parents, and workers.**

Here are the quick points:

- **"E"** standards result in higher cost energy, unreliable electricity grids, and stand to undermine environmental progress.
- **"E"** standards enrich high-end asset managers at Blackrock, State Street, and Vanguard at the expense of retirees and pensioners.
- **"S"** standards force companies to engage in controversial political issues, such as campaigns to defund the police or promoting "gender transitions" in children, cultivating division in the workplace and the marketplace.
- **"G"** standards give the appearance of diversity while restricting freedom of thought and competing viewpoints in the workforce.
- You can also read Gabriella's affiliated op-ed, **"Don't Let ESG Sully Our Environment Achievements."**



Is ESG Legal? Good Question.

A growing number of legal experts are labeling ESG investing as potentially illegal collusion.

- Read Independent Women’s **COALITION LETTER** urging Congress to **assess the legal implication of ESG** as many state legal officers have raised the alarm.
 - Here is a quick link to Kentucky’s Attorney General **OPINION** finding that ESG investment practices “which introduce mixed motivations to investment decisions, are **inconsistent with Kentucky law governing fiduciary duties.**”
- Check out a **REPORT** by Jason Isaac, one of IW’s coalition partners in the fight against ESG—**Life: Powered. Coordinating politically-charged attacks against businesses could violate federal antitrust laws.**
- **Bonus Content:** 40 states have **ADOPTED** legislation built off of the **Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA)** that makes it unlawful to sacrifice the financial interests of beneficiaries for other interests aimed at advancing a “particular social cause.”

State of Play: Overview of Legislative Pushback

Independent Women's Center on Energy and Conservation encourages policy leaders to both educate and protect citizens from ESG. Many state officials have been stepping up to protect their states' interests. As of March 2025, 31 states have taken action against ESG.

- Read Gabriella Hoffman's overview of [state actions pushing back against ESG](#). Here is her latest [UPDATE](#) and a link to a comprehensive state [TRACKER](#).

— Energy —

States Push Back Against ESG Policies

Gabriella Hoffman
Inside Sources
July 15, 2022

A photograph of a man with a beard and a wide-brimmed hat, wearing a plaid shirt, standing in a field. He is holding a tablet computer. In the background, there are several large metal silos under a blue sky with clouds.

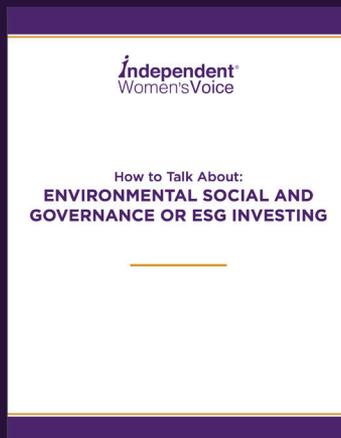




Tools You Can Use to Fight Back Too

ESG is extremely pervasive and there are many ways to push back. Here are just a few examples:

- **SEND** a letter to your financial Investor using our [template](#).
- **SEND** your thoughts to the ESG financial elites using our [action alert](#).
- **TELL** your friends and family about ESG by using our [“How to Talk About” guide](#).
- **KNOW** where your state stands by viewing [Consumers’ Research Anti-ESG Actions and Legislation Tracker](#)
- **FOLLOW** the U.S. House ESG Working Group actions, including [the latest working group report](#).





A Better, Balanced Approach to Helping the Environment

If ESG is more about pushing a leftist agenda instead of advancing its mainstay promise to improve the environment, is there a better way? Absolutely. The **Center for Energy and Conservation** advocates for a balanced approach to improving the environment that can protect the planet while avoiding a range of consequences (like retirees seeing a lower return on their hard-earned savings).

- Mandy and Gabby covered these topics and more on their **Earth Day Roundtable** with Liz Bowman, a CEC Board Member and Vice President of Government Affairs and Outreach at Williams Energy.
- You can also read their warning to **not let ESG sully our environmental achievements**.



Advancing our energy potential, protecting the environment, and promoting healthy communities





Optional Additional Resources

In this **Two Truths And A Lie: Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG)**, you'll learn about the shift from "shareholder" focused investing that prioritizes financial return to "stakeholder" driven investing that's being used by the Left to advance a woke agenda.

Check out this **How to Talk About: Environment, Social, and Governance or ESG Investing** guide from Independent Women's Voice, where you'll find fast facts and common misperceptions about ESG Investing.

More ESG op-eds at the **Center for Energy and Conservation**

A deep dive from the Fraser Institute about the **history of ESG**

Check out these Videos from our Coalition Partners

- PragerU has put out a short video explaining **ESG: Woke to Broke.**
 - The Heritage Foundation explains **how ESG hurts American entrepreneurs.**
-

Follow these Accounts on Twitter:

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 - **@I WV**
 - **@Gabby_Hoffman**
- 



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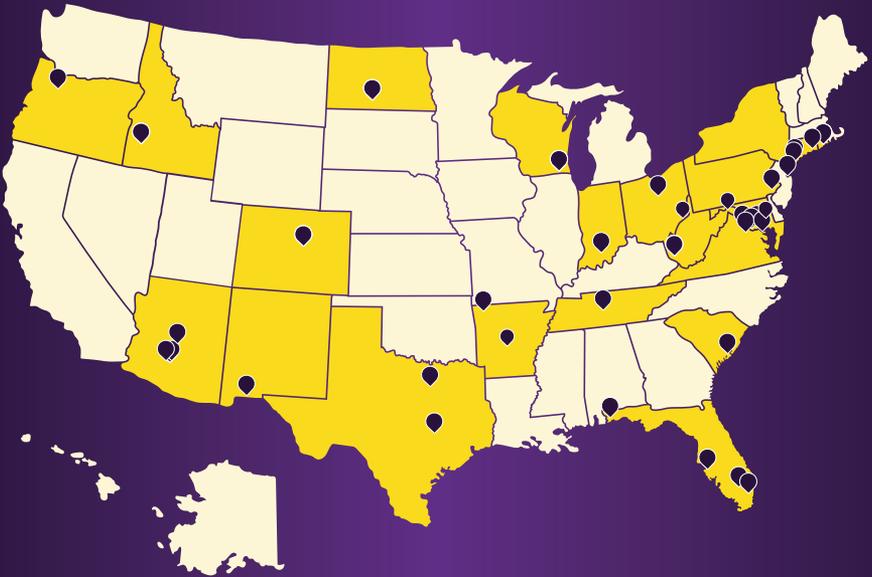


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