ESG High Cash Flow Briana Bradley, Maddy Hadwick, Kenny Mark, Vivek Anandh 11-03-2025

Investment Thesis

Idea: High Cash Flow and Cost-Efficient ESG Strategy

Origin: This idea was inspired by the research paper "Real Earnings Management and Subsequent Stock Returns" (Li, 2010). The paper shows that firms with strong and stable operating cash flows tend to command valuation premiums and deliver more persistent future returns

Strategy: High Operating Margins and Low levels of production costs outperform the S&P500

Historical Performance: 14.19% Inflation Adjusted Annual Return (5 – Year CAGR)

Recommendation: Buy \$50,000 position in High Cash Flow, Low COGS ESG Strategy Fund, Sell ESGV

What to Sell: Sell ESGV due to its broad, cap-weighted composition that overweights mega-cap tech and underrepresents operationally efficient firms.

Effect on Portfolio: Reduces volatility, enhances returns, and improves diversification





What is High Cash Flow and Cost-Efficient?



Supported by **Ball et al (2016)**, which finds operating cash flow explains cross-sectional stock returns better than earnings or accrual measures.

Firms with **strong CFO growth** demonstrate superior earnings quality and lower likelihood of manipulation compared to net income

Low or improving COGS growth signals **operational efficiency and pricing power**, key indicators of sustainable profitability.





Back Testing

Back testing Method: Bloomberg Equity Screening

Data Pulled From: Bloomberg, ESG Fundamentals, various market research, academic studies

Rebalance Frequency: Quarterly

Number of Positions: 10

Number of Years Back-Tested: 10, 3, 1

Minimum Stock Market Cap: \$10 billion

Weighted: Equal Weighting for all 10 stocks

Currency: USD





Backtesting Implementation Details

# OF STOCKS	10
MIN MARKET CAP	\$10.5B
MIN MONTHLY TRADING VOLUME	\$4.1M
WEIGHTING SCHEME	EQUAL
REBALANCING FREQUENCY	QUARTERLY
TIME FRAME	10 YEARS
CURRENCY	USD





Backtesting Results - Characteristics

5-Year Analysis*	Mean	Min	25%	Median	75%	Max
Market Cap (\$Billions)	22.7	10.5	11.46	46.9	82.5	113.3
P/E Ratio	19.8x	11.2x	15.5x	19.0x	23.4x	28.8x
Trading Volume (\$Millions)	7.8	4.1	5.6	7.2	8.7	10.3
Share Price	\$146.80	\$72.60	\$109.10	\$143.90	\$170.20	\$244.10





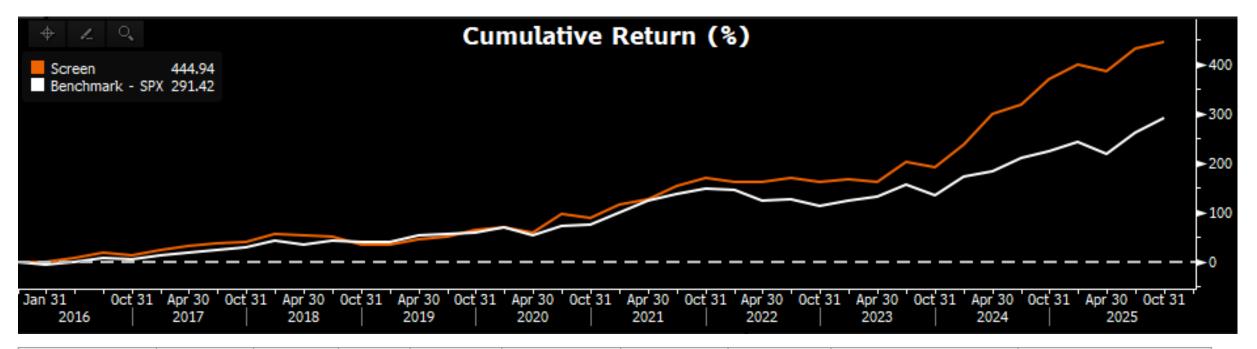
Back test Criteria

Selected Screening Criteria	Matches
Security Universe	1594323
51) :: Trading Status: Active	574202
52) :: Exchanges: United States	28001
53) :: Indices: Bloomberg ESG Score Total Coverage Index	3518
54) ∷ Current Market Cap >= 10000 Million	712 🚯 🚫
55) # Top 25 Sequential Percentile Rank - Higher is Better(Current FY CEst Cash Flow From Operations % YoY)	16 🚯 🚫
56) :: Top 10 Sequential Rank - Lower is Better(LF Cost of Goods Sold - 1 Yr Growth)	10 🚯 🚫





Backtesting Results – 10yr Performance



<u>Annualized</u>	Return	α*	β*	σ	Sharpe	Treynor	Max DD	Info Ratio*	Idio. Risk
10 Year	18.48%	5.12	0.95	20.23	0.93	0.15	-51.05%	0.36	0.09
10 Year SPY	11.08%		1.00	18.61	0.59	0.07	-52.98%		





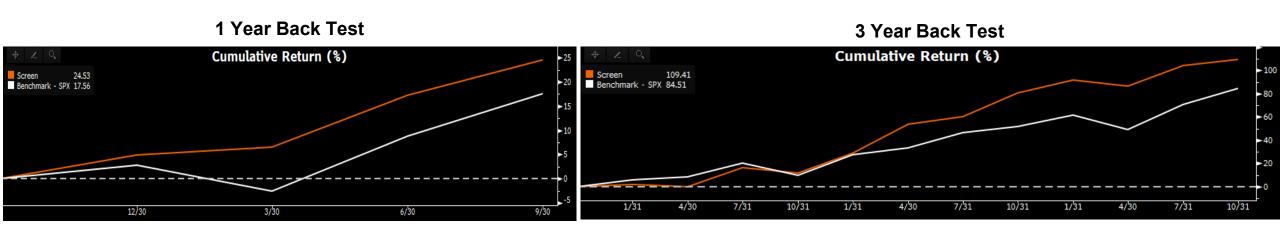
Quarterly v. Monthly Returns







Backtesting Results – 1 and 3Yr Performance



<u>Annualized</u>	Return	α*	β*	σ	Sharpe	Treynor	Max DD	Info Ratio*	Idio. Risk
3 Year	28.46%	8.78	0.92	21.11	1.51	0.27	-34.74%	0.39	0.10
3 year SPY	12.97%		1.00	15.15	0.63	0.11	-35.24%		
1 Year	18.07%	1.35	0.75	18.10	0.88	0.24	-28.79%	0.51	0.13
1 Year SPY	8.73%		1.00	17.09	0.36	0.05	-28.35%		





Recommended Purchases

Name	Ticker	P/E Ratio	Monthly Trading Volume (\$M)	Market Cap (\$B)	Share Price	# of Shares	Total Value
Take-Two Interactive Software, Inc.	TTWO	88.19 (est)	1.47	47.29	255.36	20	\$5,000
Lumen Technology Inc.	LUMN	NaN	20.22	10.54	10.31	485	\$5,000
The Coca-Cola Company	КО	23.28	15.47	296.38	68.98	72	\$5,000
Lockheed Martin	LMT	24.00	1.30	113.82	492.41	10	\$5,000
3M Company	MMM	21.28	3.01	88.45	167.17	30	\$5,000
Motorola Solutions, Inc.	MSI	32.19	0.77	67.74	408.60	12	\$5,000
Rockwell Automation inc.	ROK	38.27	0.69	41.42	370.21	14	\$5,000
Westinghouse Air Brake Technology Corporation	WAB	28.19	0.98	34.95	205.92	24	\$5,000
Leidos Holdings, Inc.	LDOS	17.81	0.75	24.44	190.74	278	\$5,000
CACI International Inc.	CACI	24.82	0.26	12.41	562.44	201	\$5,000





Sell Proposal – Sell \$50,000 of ESGV

Strategy Name: *ESGV Index*

Managing Group: Old SIF

Date Adopted: 9/13/2023

Industry Focus: ESG (Environment, Sustainable, Governance)

Focused

	SPY	ESGV
Sharpe	1.37	1.28
σ	-0.09	-1.14
β	1	1.07
CAGR	14.92%	13.97%

Mega-cap heavy: Concentrated in large tech names,

limiting diversification.

Crowded exposure: High valuations in popular AI and

growth names adds risk.

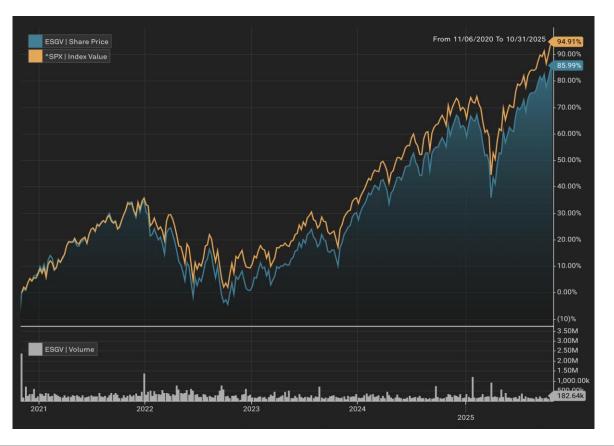
Weak selectivity: Passive ESG screen misses firms with

strong fundamentals.

Seasonal Peak: November-April

Seasonal Trough: August–October

% of Overall Fund: 10.09%







Effect on the Portfolio

	Existing Portfolio	New Portfolio	
Beta	1.02	0.99	
Sharpe	0.89	0.94	
Alpha (annualized)	-0.14%	1.00%	
Standard Deviation (M)	4.99%	4.92%	
Standard Deviation (Y)	17.28%	17.04%	
Expected Return*	13.40%	14.19%	

*Inflation adjusted 5Y CAGR





Effect on the Portfolio

Current Sector Allocation

Sector	Total Value	% of Portfolio
Basic Materials	\$3,448.10	1.58%
Consumer Discretionary	\$25,904.37	11.87%
Consumer Staples	\$8,205.60	3.76%
Energy	\$-	0%
Financial Services	\$27,301.06	12.51%
Healthcare	\$20,754.05	9.51%
Industrials	\$8,249.24	3.78%
Real Estate	\$18,942.70	8.68%
Technology	\$80,419.20	36.85%
Utilities	\$371.00	0.17%
Communication Services	\$24,638.61	11.29%
Total	\$218,233.92	100.00%

New Sector Allocation

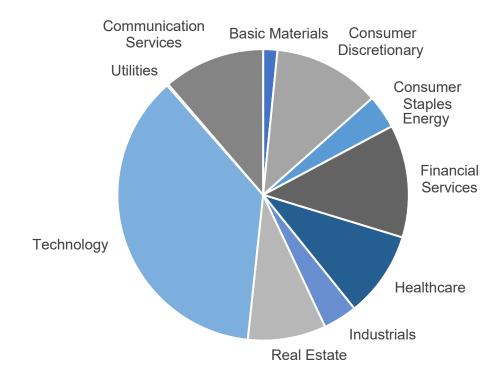
Sector	Total Value	% of Portfolio	
Basic Materials	\$2,575.16	1.18%	
Consumer Discretionary	\$19,575.58	8.97%	
Consumer Staples	\$11,195.40	5.13%	
Energy	\$-	0.00%	
Financial Services	\$20,644.93	9.46%	
Healthcare	\$15,691.02	7.19%	
Industrials	\$26,253.54	12.03%	
Real Estate	\$17,589.65	8.06%	
Technology	\$75,792.64	34.73%	
Utilities	\$283.70	0.13%	
Communication Services	\$28,632.29	13.12%	
Total	\$218,233.92	100.00%	



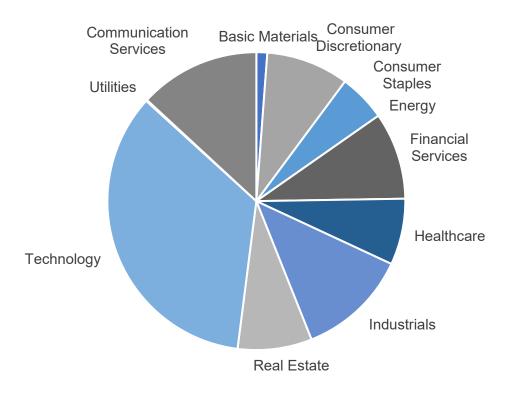


Effect on the Portfolio

Current Sector Allocation



New Sector Allocation







Recap

Idea – Implement strategy to diversity fund and increase returns

Strategy – High Operating Margins and Low levels of production costs to outperform the S&P500

Historical Performance – 14.19% Inflation Adjusted Annual Return (5 – Year CAGR)

Recommendation – Buy \$50k, In ESG Fund, Sell \$50k of ESGV in ESG Fund

What to Sell – Sell \$50k of \$207,603 in ESGV Index within ESG Fund

Effect on Portfolio – Decrease Volatility, increases return & fund diversity





Exhibits





25 Year Backtest







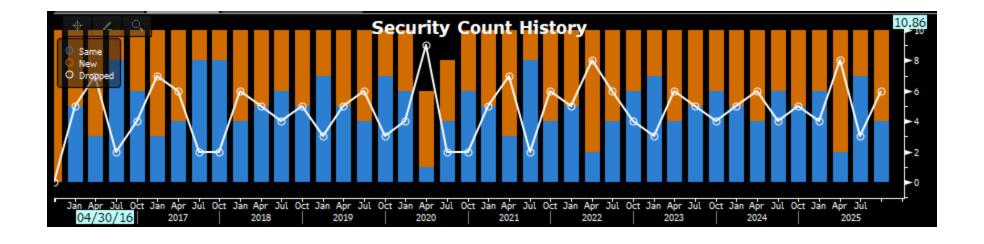
Lockheed ESG Score

	Score	Trend	Vs Peers
ESG Score	7.25	+1.80	Leading
Environmental	7.30	+0.92	Leading
Social	6.50	+3.14	Leading
Governance	8.28	+0.11	Leading





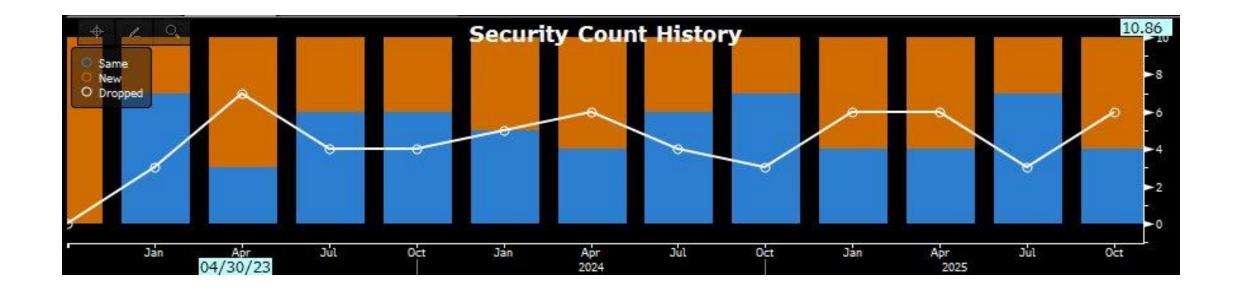
10 Year Turnover







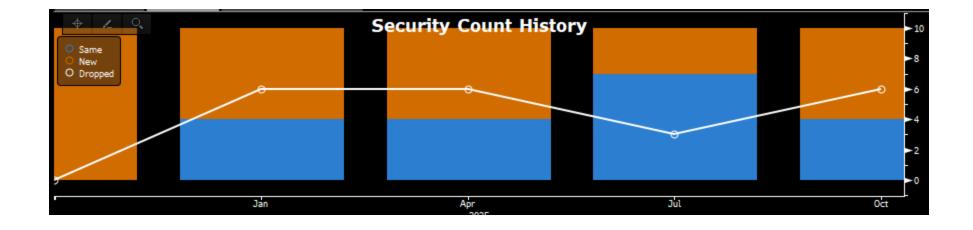
3 Year Turnover







1 Year Turnover







Returns over the Housing Crisis (2006-2009)







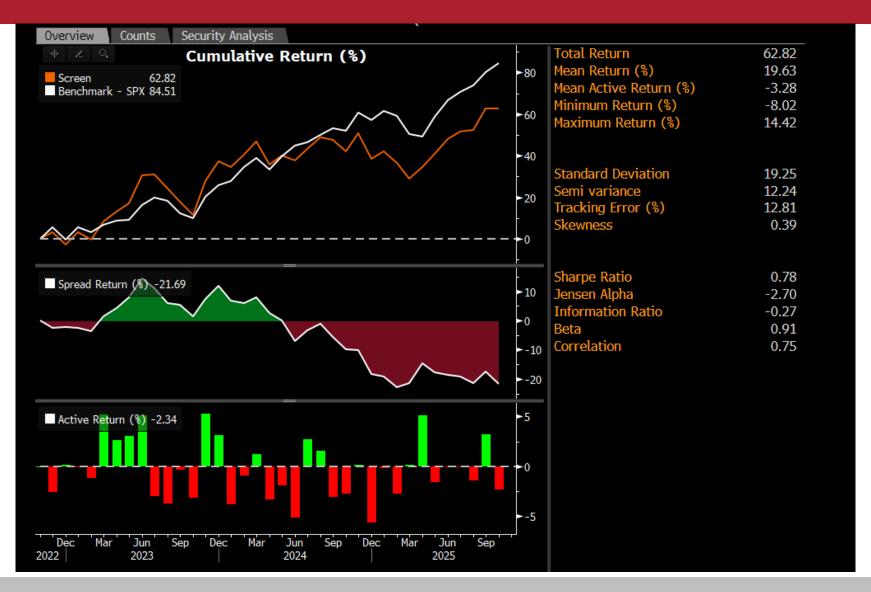
COVID Recession (Nov 2019-Jan 2022)







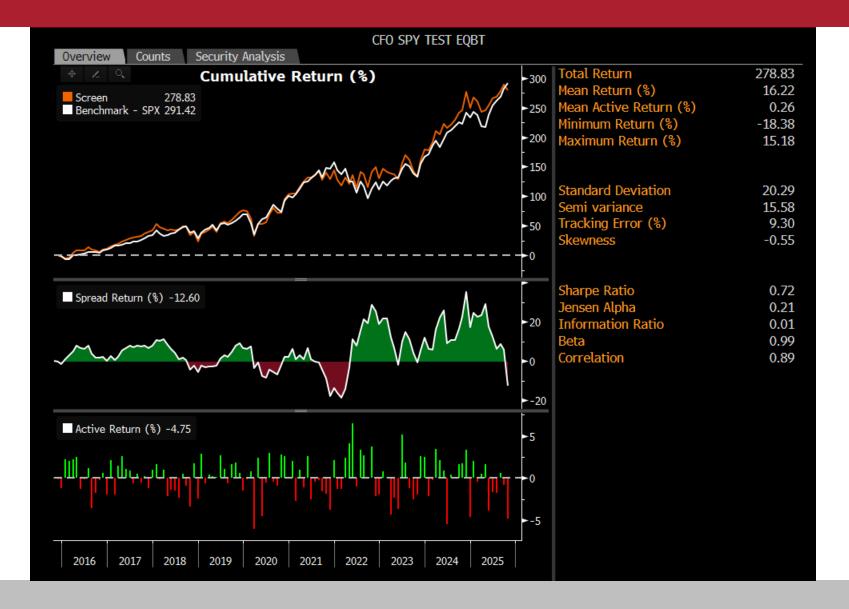
Reverse Backtest







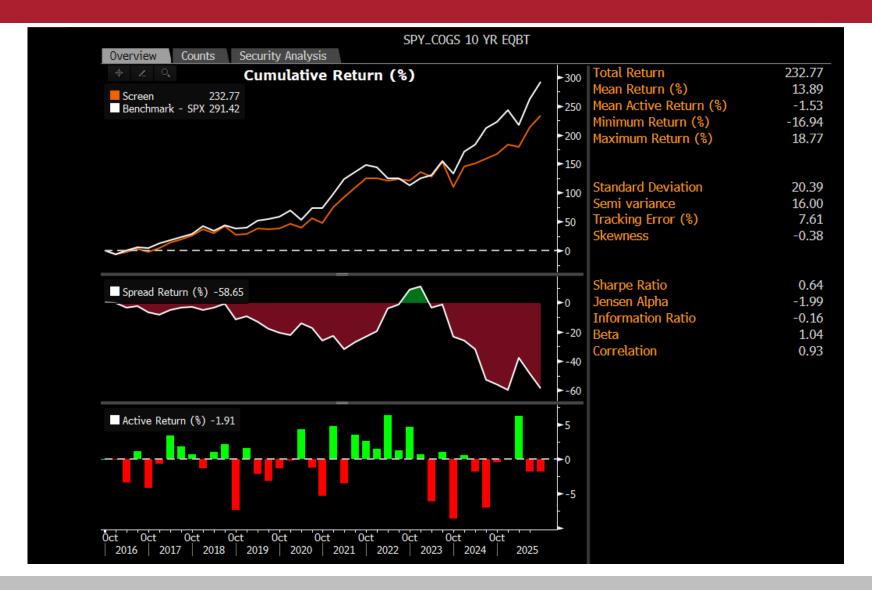
Cash Flow Operations Spy Backtest (10yr)







Lower COGS 10 yr Backtest SPY







All criteria on SPY (10yr)

