

Socially Responsible Investment Committee



About SRIC

The Socially Responsible Investment Committee (SRIC) is a Bard student-led committee under Bard Student Government. The mission of the committee is to leverage power over corporations through shareholder engagement. We hope to break the stigma surrounding Economics and Finance by emphasizing potential positive social changes through the creation of intellectual accessibility. Our goal is to use investments as a tool to incentivize social responsibility within corporations. We bridge the gap between Bard's administrative actions and student input. The committee is made up of a small group of student representatives and the college's Chief Financial Officer, Taun Toay.

Past Successes

SRIC at Bard introduced a resolution for McDonald's that asked the company to stop its use of harmful pesticides on its potatoes. McDonald's now monitors all of its potato pesticide use, which is over 25 percent of potatoes in North America, alongside phasing out the most harmful pesticides and meeting with Bard SRIC on an annual basis.

Current Engagement

Nestlé owns water bottle brands like Perrier, S. Pellegrino & Acqua Panna. On their website, they said most of their bottles are made from non-recycled PET #1 plastic or non-recycled HYDE #2 plastics. While it may sound substandard that they are using non-recycled materials to produce their bottles, we should keep in mind that only 5% of plastics are recycled in the US due to most other plastics not meeting the threshold to be considered "recyclable". Current recycling processes have limitations that makes it difficult to obtain new products from 100% recycled PET. Good news is that Perrier developed an innovative enzymatic recycling technology that now allows their bottles made from colored PET materials to be 100% recyclable and reusable. However, such progress has only been seen in Nestlé's Perrier brand, we hope to push Nestlé to implement this technology to all of its water bottle brands.

WHAT IS SHAREHOLDER ACTIVISM?

Shareholder activism is a way in which shareholders can influence a corporation's behavior by exercising their rights as owners of shares. Even though shareholders don't run the company, there are still many ways for them to influence the company's business practices and management. Shareholders can engage with the company to change their ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) or DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) policies to best align with their ideologies.

If you are interested to join:
Email: SRIC@bard.edu
Instagram: [@bardsric](https://www.instagram.com/bardsric)

Shareholder resolution: a resolution that is put forward by a single shareholder or group of shareholders, to a company board, asking for a matter to be voted on at the company's Annual General Meeting (AGM). It is an important stewardship tool that focuses efforts on a concrete call to action. It is also important to note that in order to submit a resolution, a shareholder has to meet the ownership threshold set by the SEC.

Proxy Voting: A proxy is a sort of absentee ballot that enables shareholders to vote without physically attending the in-person shareholder meeting.

Divestment: This term refers to the process of selling a company's investments, divisions, or assets. These can be sold off for numerous reasons, which include failure to meet shareholder demands and/or underperformance.

We joined SSEN

Student Shareholder Engagement Network is a student shareholder activist network with Intentional Endowment Network and As You Sow on the advisory board. Being a member of this network has many benefits: we get support from industry experts and we can also collaborate with other colleges who have much larger endowment funds than we do. This will help with our issue of ownership requirement as we can express support to another institution as shareholders even if we ourselves can't submit shareholder resolutions yet. SRIC has represented Bard College as one of the most active inaugural schools since the founding of SSEN, hence we have earned Bard a guaranteed spot on the SSEN advisory board.

