

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

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[CSR]² Review's Commentary

For those paying attention to corporate responsibility, there are lots of companies about which to be concerned. The Securities and Exchange Commission website lists more than 9,600 publicly traded companies for which it requires public financial reporting and disclosure. Finding comprehensive corporate responsibility information on all of these companies, however, is nearly impossible.

Professional money management firms sometimes have access to research services that have some of this additional information, but individuals have a harder time gaining access to this information.

Often, it is possible to find enough information to make a cursory evaluation of potential problem areas. This month's *Review* feature story is one example. For some investors, companies with operations in the Maquila industry along the U.S.-Mexican border may be reason to question company policies in relation to labor and human rights issues. By contrast, other investors may look at Maquila industry involvement as a positive sign that management is proactively managing costs and working within the parameters of the global economy.

An initial list of companies operating in the Maquila industry provides a starting point for a more thorough evaluation of specific companies. While top level screening and looking for "red flags" is a good starting point. Evaluations of corporate responsibility and values-based investing should take place on a company-by-company basis.

Express Your Values through Action

1. **Review your portfolio.** Review the article on Maquiladoras (p. 2) and consider whether this raises red flags about companies in your investment portfolio.
2. **Review congregation or business policies.** After reviewing the articles on social funds in 401(k) plans (p. 6) and energy efficiency in office buildings (p. 7), consider whether new policies for your congregation or business could benefit from new approaches to these issues.
3. **Discuss Corporate Social Responsibility.** Review the article on the mining industry (p. 4) and chemicals in products (p. 5) and discuss what it means to be a responsible company. How are companies doing? What can they do better?