

### **NEXTX**

# **Shelton Sustainable Equity Fund**

Quarterly
Commentary
As of March 31, 2024

## Market Review

#### **Contributors to Return**

During the first quarter of 2024, the Shelton Sustainable Equity Fund resulted in a 2.51% return relative to the MSCI ACWI of 7.72%. The fund trailed the S&P MidCap 400 Index by 7.43%. The Fund's greatest contributors to return were H&E Equipment Services Inc., Schneider Electric SE, and Clean Harbors Inc. The greatest detractors from returns for the quarter were Brookfield Renewable Corp., Ormat Technologies Inc., and Shoals Technologies Group Inc. Overall, the allocation across sectors was significant in terms of increases in the Industrials, Materials, and Health Care sectors, whereas we saw the greatest detractors to return coming from the Information Technology, Utilities, and Energy sectors.

#### **Risk Assessment**

Finally, the overall active risk, the risk above the benchmark risk, associated with the stock-specific attributes, accounted for about 49.19 % of the risk. This is a decrease in market risk over last quarter and was largely influenced by overweight in the Industrial sector and an underweight in the Financials, Consumer Discretionary, Real Estate, and Energy Sectors. We maintain our commitment to reduce overall portfolio risk and emphasize our bottom-up approach to stock selection and portfolio construction.

## The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA): Regulation clarity provides growth opportunity for 2024.

Several guidance components of the IRA were released last year and are going into effect now. In addition to last year's guidance on the Advanced Manufacturing Credit (45X) and the Hydrogen Product Tax Credit (45V), several other Tax credits are now driving corporate investment across the economy:

- the Clean Fuel Production tax credit (45Z)
- the Carbon Capture Tax credit (45Q)
- the Sustainable Aviation Fuel Credit (SAF) (40B) and,
- the Renewable Diesel Credit (40A).

Our portfolio has exposure to the following sectors which are supported by the IRA:

- Air Pollution, Hazardous Materials, Transportation, and Infrastructure (5%)
- Building Efficiency (13%)
- Clean Electricity (18%)
- Clean Fuel & Vehicle (13%)
- Clean Manufacturing (21%)
- Conservation, Rural Development Forestry (13%)
- Other Non-IRA Allocations: (18%)

We believe this allocation to the variety of sectors across the IRA provisions, provides the fund excellent growth prospects and a diverse exposure to the transforming economy.

# Fund Performance

# **Average Annual Total Returns**

	1Q24	YTD	1YR	3YR	5YR	10YR
NEXTX	2.51%	2.51%	-1.63%	-8.57%	14.76%	8.64%
NEXIX	2.57%	2.57%	-1.37%	N/A	N/A	N/A
MSCI ACWI IMI (net)*	7.72%	7.72%	22.45%	6.31%	10.56%	8.42%
S&P 500 Composite Stock Index*	10.55%	10.55%	29.86%	11.46%	15.01%	12.93%
S&P MidCap 400 Index*	9.94%	9.94%	23.29%	6.92%	11.66%	9.95%

<sup>\*</sup>It is not possible for individuals to invest directly in an index. Performance figures for an index do not reflect deductions for sales charges, commissions, expenses or taxes.

Total returns include changes in share price and the reinvestment of income dividends and all capital gains distributions. Performance figures represent past performance and are not a guarantee of future results. The investment return and the principal value of an investment will fluctuate so that an investor's shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost; current performance may be lower or higher than the performance data quoted. For more current month-end Fund performance information, please call our office at (800) 955-9988.

# **Fund Management**



Bruce Kahn, Ph.D. Lead Portfolio Manager

Dr. Kahn has been the lead portfolio manager of the Fund since October 10, 2022. He has 18 years of experience in

portfolio management and other responsibilities at Citibank, Deutsche Bank, Macquarie Global Inc., and Sustainable Insight Capital Management. Dr. Kahn earned a Ph.D. in Land Resources from University of Wisconsin, Madison, an MS in Fisheries and Allied Aquacultures from Auburn University, and a BA in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from the University of Connecticut.



**Derek Izuel, CFA**Co-Portfolio Manager

Derek Izuel joined Shelton Capital Management in January 2022 and serves as the Chief Investment Officer

and Portfolio Manager for the Firm. He has over 24 years of portfolio management experience at Invesco, HighMark Capital and Vitruvian Capital.



Justin Sheetz, CFA Co-Portfolio Manager

Justin Sheetz, CFA is a Portfolio Manager of the Shelton Sustainable Equity Fund. His experience includes 12 years

as an Investment Strategist at BlackRock/BGI's Scientific Active Equity Group, 3 years as VP and Equity Analyst at HighMark Capital and 3 years as partner at Vitruvian Capital.



**Elena Chavez**Portfolio Analyst

Elena Chavez is a research analyst on the Shelton Sustainable Equity Fund. Previously, she was an

associate on the corporate credit team at Putnam Investments covering energy, chemicals, and media. She was also part of the ESG team within fixed income at Putnam. Elena holds a B.A. in International Relations and Economics from Tufts University.



**Nicolette DiMaggio** Portfolio Analyst

Nicolette DiMaggio is an analyst of the Shelton Sustainable Equity Fund and has over six years of investment experience.

Previously, she was the co-director of investment research at WTW, working on their equity and index investment research teams for four years. She is also a published author of the financial literacy book series Stock Explore. In September of 2023, Nicolette was named one of the most "Influential Women in Institutional Investing" by Pensions & Investments.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>These estimates are based on our risk model



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