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The Best And Worst Alternative Energy ETFs Of 2012

Alternative energy had another poor year, as these investments seem to fall by the wayside compared to fossil fuels. Though many agree that we need to shift our current energy consumption, it looks like new technologies are giving way to a natural gas revolution rather than an alternative energy revolution. Luckily for proponents of green technology, Barack Obama secured another four years in the White House, and he has been generally outspoken on his approval of these energy sources ….

As the year comes to a close, we look back at the best and worst performing alt energy ETFs to help investors find which areas have outperformed, or lagged behind, the rest.

The Best: Broad is Better

Though not many alt energy funds had positive years, the broad technologies clearly had a leg up on the competition.

1. **WilderHill Progressive Energy Portfolio (PUW):** This fund invests in an index of U.S. firms that are heavily involved in transitional energy bridge technologies. Top holdings include names like Hexcel Corporation, Methanex and Chesapeake Energy. The fund's broad exposure was able to gain nearly 14% this year.
2. **….**
3.

The Worst: Diversity Disaster

The worst performers on the year tended to be those that focused on a single alt energy type, such as solar or wind.

1. **Market ….**
2. **Global ….**
3. **WilderHill Clean Energy Portfolio (PBW):** PBW is by far the most popular alt energy product in the space, with more than $120 million in assets. The fund does have a broad exposure, but it was unable to keep pace with its broader counterparts, losing more than 15% this year.