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Clean And Green ETFs Gain Favor As Oil Soars

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Reps from a dozen U.S. companies this week are on a trade mission to India and China in hopes of winning new customers for the clean-energy industry. Demand in Asia presents huge business opportunities, as do high energy prices, a growing belief in global warming and government initiatives.

Alternative energy has become the hot industry on Wall Street. Venture capitalists invested \$3.6 billion in North American and European clean energy companies in 2006, according to the Cleantech Venture Network. That's 45% more than in 2005 and double the amount invested in 2004.

Overview

Here's an overview of green energy ETF plays. PowerShares offers three.

- **PowerShares WilderHill Clean Energy Index** ([PBW](#)) : The oldest and largest one holds 41 companies engaged in making renewable sources of energy and technologies that facilitate cleaner energy.

It's collected the most assets, \$734 million. It boasts the highest returns year to date, 15%, as of Tuesday. But it trails all others in one-year returns because of a deep correction last year. Its 2.7 up-down volume ratio and B Acc-Dis Rating suggest it has the most investor interest.

- **PowerShares WilderHill Progressive Energy Portfolio**• ([PUW](#)) : This equal-weighted ETF holds 47 U.S. stocks that are "significantly involved in transitional energy bridge technologies with an emphasis on improving the use of fossil fuels." PUW sports the strongest combination of Acc-Dis and RS Ratings of B+ and 62.

- **PowerShares Cleantech Portfolio**• ([PZD](#)) Its 46 firms produce "any knowledge-based product or service that improves operation, performance, productivity or efficiency, while reducing costs, inputs, energy consumption, waste or pollution." It recently bounced off the 10-week line on heavy volume.

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PowerShares WilderHill Progressive Energy

PUW 28.37 -0.01 as of 4/18/07

