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How to Profit From Japanese Protests Against Nuclear Power

As thousands of Japanese protest against the nuclear power industry in Tokyo, it may be time to consider investing in the alternative energy sector.

Thousands of Japanese citizens took to the streets on Monday in Tokyo, calling on the government to reduce the country's use of nuclear power. The protests are the latest reaction to the nuclear disaster at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant, which happened after much of northeast coastal [Japan](#) was devastated by an earthquake and tsunami earlier this year on March 11.

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After the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant radiation levels in the surrounding area spiked and many countries banned imports of Japanese food and dairy products from the Japanese prefectures near the disaster.

Japan was also hit with power shortages for months following the disaster because much of the country's oil refining capacity was taken offline by the initial damage caused by the earthquake and tsunami, while many of the country's nuclear plants were shut down as they underwent safety reviews. The Fukushima Daiichi nuclear crisis is the worst nuclear accident since Chernobyl and has led many governments around the world to review the safety of their nuclear industries.

Germany made a drastic change in energy policy when [German Chancellor Angela Merkel](#) announced that Germany would close all of its nuclear power plants by 2022. German industrial and engineering company Siemens also recently announced that it was exiting the nuclear power industry in response to the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster.

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Investors who don't want to guess which alternative energy companies will prevail and who would prefer the risk reduction offered by buying an assortment of alternative energy stocks might want to consider the PowerShares WilderHill Clean Energy ... and ... ETFs. If Japan and Germany plan to use alternative energy sources for more of their energy needs, these ETFs could see their [share prices](#) climb higher.