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<http://www.climatespectator.com.au/commentary/squeezed-clean-energy-policy-pressure>

## Squeezed by clean energy policy pressure

The pressures that supporting renewable energy can put on energy bills have started to take their toll in Europe.

Spain, Bulgaria and even Germany are among the countries that have announced sudden cuts to support schemes or retroactive changes – words that strike fear in the hardiest of investors – to lower the impact on consumers. Bulgaria's government fell last month following anti-austerity protests in part related to high power prices.

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The WilderHill New Energy Global Innovation Index, or NEX, lost 1.1 per cent last week, largely on declines in solar company stocks. First Solar slumped 25 per cent, the biggest NEX loss, after posting quarterly sales results that were worse than market expectations. ... followed, down 21.3 per cent, on investor concern about the company's exposure to European markets including Italy.