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## Not All Is Green In ETF Land

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No matter what you call it—clean technologies or alternative energy—ETFs are flocking to the market. Apparently, so are venture capitalists.

In a new report released by Dow Jones VentureSource, VC capitalists last year plowed a record \$3 billion into alternative energy businesses. The number of deals shot up to 221 in 2007.

And most of those are with companies in the product development stage. While the vast majority were in the U.S., Europe saw a fair amount of activity. China's VC-reach actually fell, though.

What's this mean to investors? Probably nothing right now. Green is everywhere and it's not surprising the venture vultures are circling. But how much should it make up of your portfolio? Perhaps a better question is whether so-called green ETFs even need to be in your allocation.

They're certainly not for those with weak stomachs. Look at PowerShares WilderHill Clean Energy (AMEX: PBW). After gaining nearly 60% last year, it's down more than 23% in 2008. But energy as a whole is down pretty significantly this year.

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