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## Fossil Fuels Still King, But Winds Changing; New energy choices a bigger part of mix for power providers

By: J. BONASIA

Concerns about foreign energy dependence and global warming have sparked interest in renewable forms of energy such as wind, solar and geothermal power.

Now, more investors are betting that clean energy will crank out the profits along with the electricity.

Fossil fuels such as coal, oil and natural gas are finite resources that emit harmful pollution when burned. Nuclear reactors don't pollute the air, but they do create radioactive waste that remains toxic for hundreds of years.

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Investors can follow this sector through the WilderHill Energy Index at [wildershares.com](http://wildershares.com). The index is tracked by the Powershares Clean Energy Portfolio. Rob Wilder launched the index in 2003 to track clean energy firms. It went public in March 2005.

From a \$10 million seed investment, the fund has grown to \$650 million, Wilder says. The stocks in the basket include SunPower, SunTech Power and Energy Conversion Devices.

The stocks of small renewable energy firms can be highly volatile, Wilder warns. For this reason, investors should do their homework. Wilder adds that he tries to downplay "the do-gooder aspect" of clean energy investing to convince the skeptics.

"I'm not here to be Robin Hood or even some socially responsible investor," he said. "I just think solar power makes great sense."

More clean energy sources will be adopted as the technologies improve and become cost-effective for utilities, says Tom Amis, co-chair of the renewable energy group at law firm Alston & Bird in Washington, D.C.

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