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<http://slant.investorplace.com/2013/03/china-is-ground-zero-for-a-green-energy-revolution/>

CHINA IS GROUND ZERO FOR A GREEN ENERGY REVOLUTION

Yes, solar stocks are volatile... but long-term investments in Chinese picks may pay off

Alternative energy isn't on a lot of people's minds right now.

The first hurdle is a practical one: Energy remains cheap. Crude oil has swung between \$80 and \$110 a barrel for the last few years, but there seems to be underlying stability despite the short-term volatility. Also, natural gas remains extremely cheap thanks to the fracking boom.

It's not a surprise, then, that *Bloomberg New Energy Finance* reports that clean energy investment dropped 11% in 2012.

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And if you still want China alternative energy plays but don't like the risk of individual stocks, there also are exchange-traded funds that provide exposure.

The Powershares WilderHill Clean Energy Portfolio has SunPower as a top holding, though it also has Western companies including Tesla Motors ...

... final note: This story about a pot of gold at the end of the alternative energy rainbow has been tossed around for years, with little long-term gains made for the players so far. SunPower is indeed up 60% in the last several months ... but remains more than 85% below its 2008 peak.

There's no sure thing in any sector, including alternative energy.

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