

Excerpt from Red Herring, August 11, 2006

<http://www.redherring.com/Article.aspx?a=17924&hed=Cleantech+Funding+Soars&sector=Industries&subsector=Energy>

## **Cleantech Funding Soars**

### ***Two research firms track record funding in clean energy.***

*August 11, 2006*

Private equity and venture capital investments in clean energy grew sharply in the second quarter, according to two studies.

Global private equity and venture capital surged to more than \$2 billion, tripling from the first quarter and more than doubling from the second quarter of 2005, said a study released Thursday by New Energy Finance.

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Interest in energy is at a record high, even as stock prices decline, said Robert Wilder, chief executive of WilderShares, which manages two clean energy indices (see Clean Energy Stocks Decline).

People call him weekly with new energy ideas and places to invest, he said. Inflows into his ECO fund, which mirrors one of the indices, haven't slowed.

"A few years ago, you had to scout around a little to find reasons to follow energy, and now, even on days when I try to get away from energy and take a break, I'll drive by a gasoline station and it's hard not to be confronted with energy," he said.

"In the news, you're just hit over the head with reasons to look at clean energy," added Mr. Wilder. "I've been in this area for many years, and I've never seen it like this before."

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