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Clean Energy Suffers Severe 1Q Loss, But Is the Sector Now Poised to Rally?

Keywords: [PBW](#) [ESLR](#) [SPWR](#) [JASO](#)

I've started crunching the numbers for the various sectors to get a feel for how bad the first quarter actually was. One group that fell on hard times was actually the clean energy group. The PowerShares Wilderhill Clean Energy Portfolio (PBW) was one of the hottest sectors in 2007, skyrocketing nearly 60%. The exchange-traded fund has since given back much of those gains, falling 28.86% (as of 3:22 p.m. Eastern time) since the start of 2008.

The ETF peaked on December 27, 2007 at \$28.84 and has steadily drifted lower since that high. It appears that the security has put in a double bottom at the 18.50 level – an area that marked lows for PBW in late January and again in mid-March.

Looking around at some of the components of the PBW, we find that some of the losses since the start of 2008 haven't been very pretty. SunPower (SPWR) has dropped 43% in the first quarter, Evergreen Solar (ESLR) is down 46%, and JA Solar (JASO) has shed nearly 21%. However, in most cases, these stocks have potentially put in bottoms and are clawing their way higher. This could definitely be a group worth watching for bullish opportunities as we start a new quarter.

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