

Excerpt from Toronto Star, March 26, 2008

<http://www.thestar.com/Business/article/350807>

In honour of Earth Hour this weekend, I'm going to tell you how to invest in companies that are trying to clean up the world.

This sector is still sparsely populated. But with a growing interest worldwide in green technology, you can expect to see more investment choices before long.

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If you want to buy green exchange-traded funds – a low-cost alternative to mutual funds since they're not actively managed – you have to look south.

PowerShares Capital Management offers the Cleantech Portfolio (PZD), WilderHill Clean Energy Portfolio (PBW) and Global Clean Energy Portfolio (PBD), all traded on the American Stock Exchange.

The WilderHill Clean Energy Portfolio has a compound annual return of 21.43 per cent since it started in March 2005. And in 2007, it gained 58.35 per cent.

Finally, you can consult a new book, *Green Investing: A Guide to Making Money Through Environmentally-Friendly Stocks* by Jack Uldrich (Adams Media, \$16.50).

I like the author's balanced tone, giving the reasons to be both bullish and bearish about the 100 or so companies he profiles.

Invest 5 per cent to 10 per cent of your portfolio in the various clean-tech sectors – biofuels, wind, solar, energy efficiency and smaller niches such as geothermal, fuel cells and wave power – he advises.

And keep cash on hand in case a promising company files an initial public offering – which could happen a lot in the next few years.

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