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Invesco Launches Green Real Estate ETF

A police lineup of climate change offenders would likely contain the usual suspects of automobile tailpipes, smokestacks, manure pits and the like. But buildings are egregious offenders, too, and that's prompted a new kind of exchange-traded fund.

The Invesco MSCI Green Building ETF (GBLD), which launches today, is billed as the first ETF focused on the so-called green building ecosystem. The fund tracks the MSCI Global Environment Index, made up of companies that design, build, redevelop or retrofit green-certified buildings. The index also includes third-party entities that bestow green-certified status on properties.

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Its net expense ratio of 0.39% is much less than the fees charged by two other successful Invesco products with an environmental bent: The \$3.1 billion Invesco Solar ETF (TAN) charges a 0.69% fee while the \$2.1 billion Invesco WilderHill Clean Energy ETF (PBW) charges 0.70%.

Climate change is probably the defining issue of our time and, as such, is likely a winning investment theme over the long haul. But these two existing Invesco products show that funds focused on this concept will have their mood swings. The solar ETF gained a whopping 234% last year but it's down 17% year to date, while the clean energy product leaped 204% last year but has dropped 15.5% this year.