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<http://community.investopedia.com/news/IA/2009/A-Victory-For-Clean-Energy-GEX-USO-PBW0427.aspx>

A Victory For Clean Energy ...

Substantive change may still be years away, but the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's acknowledgment on April 17 that CO2 emissions are harmful to the planet marked a small win for clean energy [investors](#).

The Verdict

The EPA issued findings that list carbon dioxide and five other greenhouse gases as potential threats to air pollution and, in turn, to public health. EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson noted that a solution to the problem will "create millions of green jobs" and end U.S. dependence on oil.

The findings are likely to spur some legislative activity in Congress in the coming months. President Obama plans to cap greenhouse gas emissions and impose hefty fees on polluters through the requirement of emission permits. Absent such legislation, the EPA could still act to curb greenhouse gas emissions under its powers vested from the Clean Air Act.

This turn of events could have a wide range of implications for investors as the new administration grapples to implement a comprehensive energy policy in the coming years. Change is not likely to come over night, but if the EPA findings are able to stimulate legislation, investment opportunities will result.

The Winners

If you are of the opinion that change will ultimately result from these developments, a few [ETFs](#) could come in handy. The PowerShares WilderHill Clean Energy Fund (NYSE:[PBW](#)) and ... both provide broad exposure to green energy.

These ETFs are in need of some love, though. In 2008, PBW and ... experienced respective losses of 69.1% and 61.0%.

Final Thoughts Whether or not you are a proponent of a shift to clean energy, it clearly appears that the EPA findings on CO2 emissions last week will add a sense of urgency to the cause. If you are bullish on this theme, there are several ways to play it. Clean energy ETFs such as PBW and ... are readily available options for the individual investor.

