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Clean, Green Energy Gets Investors' Interest

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When it comes to energy, the power right now is behind the green. Socially conscious investors whose holdings include **PowerShares WilderHill Clean Energy Fund (PBW)** have been reaping the benefits of the recent interest in alternative energies.

The small-cap growth exchange traded fund tracks the performance of the WilderHill Clean Energy Index, which focuses on clean and renewable energy providers. Founded by former environmental technology researcher Robert Wilder, the two-year-old fund comprises 43 stocks with a total average market cap of \$1.2 billion. It's the largest of its kind.

Because the fund's focus is so tight, it's been a volatile performer. Over the last 12 months, this ETF has lost more than 10%.

Solar Energy

But it's up 8% already this year, and currently riding a surge of interest in solar and wind energy. Although it has an IBD Relative Strength Rating of only 55, the fund's Earnings Per Share jumped 74% last year from \$12.86 in 2005 to \$22.38 in 2006.

One of its largest holdings, **American Superconductor, (AMSC)** has helped bolster that rise. The company develops and manufactures products that improve the cost, efficiency and reliability of electric power systems. It has a gleaming RS of 95, although it's posted negative earnings for years.

That could change soon. Its stock has been finding support at its 10-week moving average line and climbing upward over the past two weeks.

Last week the Westborough, Mass., company announced that its Windtec subsidiary won a multimillion-dollar deal to design and build a wind energy system for Dongfang Steam Turbine Works, one of the largest steam turbine manufacturers in China.

Top Holdings

SunPower (SPWR) is another of the fund's top holdings and a consistently strong performer. On Monday, the company announced it will form the first nationwide network of solar power system dealers that sell, install and service SunPower products.

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PowerShares WilderHill Clean Energy

PBW 20.03 -0.02 as of 4/17/07

