4 ways to invest in the low-carbon economy

Citigroup recently pledged \$100 billion for lending, investing and facilitating deals related to sustainability, renewable energy and climate change mitigation.

• • • •

Indices are often the basis of mutual funds and exchangetraded funds (ETFs). These index funds enable investors who want to get behind an industry, but lack confidence in their abilities to identify specific winning companies, to bet on the industry at large.

Clean energy index funds might include a broad spectrum of technologies and/or geographies, or they might focus on one technology and/or geography. Below are some examples of clean energy index funds:

PowerShares Global Clean Energy Portfolio: This ETF is based on the Wilder Hill New Energy Global Innovation Index (^NEX), which comprises 107 companies around the world for a broad spectrum of clean technologies.

This index fund "seeks to deliver capital appreciation and is composed of companies that focus on greener and generally renewable sources of energy and technologies facilitating cleaner energy." The fund, as well as the group of companies included in the index, are rebalanced and reconstituted on a quarterly basis.

. . . .